

Demystifying NIH Public Access Policy: Oceans of Opportunity for the Library

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As of April 7, 2008, compliance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) public access policy is mandatory. The policy requires that researchers receiving NIH grant money submit copies of their resulting research papers to PubMed Central (PMC) when those papers are accepted for publication in a journal. PMC, NIH's free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature, will then make the papers freely available to the public no later than twelve months after publication.

How to Comply

- 1. Address copyright.** Before you sign an author agreement or copyright transfer agreement, make sure that it allows the paper to be submitted to PubMed Central (PMC) in accordance with the public access policy.
- 2. Submit the article to PubMed Central.** Some publishers have agreed to submit all published articles to PMC; others will do so upon request from the author. Otherwise, it is the author's responsibility to ensure that the article is submitted in a timely manner. For information about whether a journal submits to PMC, see the SHERPA/RoMEO list.
- 3. Cite the article correctly.** In all NIH applications, proposals, and progress reports as of May 25, 2008, when you cite an article you authored or co-authored that falls under this policy, you must include the PMC reference number.

Resources for You and Your Patrons

NIH Public Access Policy: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>

UCLA's NIH Public Access Policy Subject Guide

<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/nih>

Public Access Frequently Asked Questions: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm>

Answers to questions related to copyright, submission, citing and more

Journals That Submit All NIH-Funded Final Published Articles to PubMed Central:

http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm

SHERPA/RoMEO: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>

Useful tool to find out in a journal or publisher complies with the policy; also provides such information about publishers and journals as their self-archiving policies and links to publisher copyright agreement policies

NIH Manuscript Submission System: <http://www.nihms.nih.gov>

NIH Submission Tutorials: <http://www.nihms.nih.gov/web-help/index.html>

PMCID/PMID/NIHMSID Converter: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pmctopmid/>

NIH Public Access Compliance Monitor (PACM): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-020.html>