
Public Access to Research Articles and Datasets

August 2025

Background

In 2022, the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) directed federal agencies with R&D expenditures to develop public access plans (Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research). These plans require peer-reviewed articles and datasets that result from federally-funded research to be publicly available at the time of publication, without cost or embargo.

Several agency policies are now in effect, including those of NIH, CDC, the Dept. of Energy, and the EPA. We may see additional policies take effect between now and December 31, 2025.

The following information summarizes high-level directives that are similar across agency plans now in effect, with some examples drawn from the NIH's plan, which took effect on July 1, 2025.

Expectations for Publications

Upon acceptance for publication in a journal, an author must submit their Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) to an agency-designated repository (e.g., for NIH, authors must ensure submission to PubMed Central).

Expectations for Data

Agencies will typically ask researchers to submit plans (DMPs or DMSPs) for managing and sharing their research data when they apply for funding (e.g., NIH DMSP).

Typical Compliance Pathways for Publications

1. Green model: Author submits the AAM to an agency-designated repository upon acceptance.
2. Gold model: Author publishes open access (OA) in a journal, either via an institutional OA agreement or by paying an APC (article processing charge) directly.

Cost Implications for Open Access

- Agency plans generally support the green model and do not require authors to pay fees to deposit AAMs into repositories. Many journals also support the green model, allowing authors to share AAMs immediately, without cost.
- Some journals do not support the green model. Instead, they require payment of APCs to support the gold model. APCs are typically allowable as direct costs but some agencies may introduce limits on the amount of funding that can be applied to publishing costs.
- Penn-affiliated authors can publish OA without encountering fees, by publishing via the OA agreements the Libraries have negotiated. The Libraries are expanding these agreements to include more publishers and journal titles.

Questions and Further Information

- **Penn Libraries:** contact your liaison librarian directly or submit a question through the online form or via chat or text.
- Liaison librarians are available to visit faculty and departmental meetings to discuss and answer questions.
- Explore the Libraries' Open Access publishing agreements available to Penn-affiliated researchers and authors.
- Consult the Libraries' online guide to Federal Public Access policies for in-depth guidance and information.