

NIH-Funded Research Reporting Requirements

Introduction

On January 11, 2008, in response to federal legislation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a revision of its Public Access Policy. Beginning **April 7, 2008**, principal investigators must ensure that electronic versions of any peer-reviewed manuscripts arising from NIH funding and accepted for publication after that date be deposited in [PubMed Central \(PMC\)](#), the National Library of Medicine's freely accessible digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. These articles will be made freely available to the public no later than 12 months after publication. This policy applies to all manuscripts resulting from research supported in whole, or in part, by direct funds from NIH. In addition, beginning May 25, 2008, each application, proposal, or progress report submitted to NIH must include the PMC or NIH Manuscript Submission Reference Number when citing applicable articles that arise from the submitting party's NIH-funded research.

Who is affected by the new policy?

The new [Public Access Policy](#) applies to you if your peer-reviewed article is:

1. Directly funded by NIH grant or cooperative agreement active (i.e., funded) in the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008) or later;
2. Directly funded by a contract signed on or after April 7, 2008;
3. Directly funded by the NIH Intramural Program;
4. or, If NIH pays your salary.

What KEY RIGHTS do authors need to retain?

The NIH emphasizes that it is the author's responsibility to ensure that they retain the right to deposit their manuscript with PubMed Central. For instance, some publishers require authors to transfer copyright to the publisher prior to acceptance of an article for publication. NIH warns that authors should avoid such journals if their publication agreement does not allow the author to deposit articles in PubMed Central. Other publishers use agreements that require the author to warrant that there are no prior agreements concerning the publication and that the publisher will own all rights. If an author submits a manuscript to PMC and later signs this kind of agreement, the author will be in breach of the publisher agreement and in violation of NIH policy. If a journal publisher does not participate in PMC, there are three approaches that an author can take to comply with the policy's deposit requirement:

Approach 1	Read the publisher's proposed publication agreement carefully. Make sure that you have the right to deposit your article with PMC. The SHERPA/RoMEO site (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php) has information on the policy of many journals regarding PMC deposit.
Approach 2	If there is any question about your rights, add the following language to the publication agreement: " <i>Journal acknowledges that Author retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to the NIH upon acceptance for Journal publication, for public archiving in PubMed Central as soon as possible but no later than 12 months after publication by Journal.</i> " This language, which is an example provided by the NIH, only reserves your right to deposit your article in PMC. It does <u>not</u> retain your right to copy your article for use in teaching or research, to use it as a basis for derivative works, or to make your article available on a personal web site or other digital archive.
Approach 3	Alternatively, attach the Scholar's Copyright Delayed Access Addendum to the publisher's form contract. The Addendum is a legal instrument that acknowledges any prior grant of legal rights (including those required by funding agencies such as NIH). The access-reuse portion provides you with other important rights, including the right to use your article in your own teaching and research, the right to build on the article in future publications, and the right to deposit the PDF version from the publisher with PubMed Central and other repositories, such as the GT institutional repository, SMARTech. The online engine currently creates an agreement with a six month delay; this can be changed manually if the journal insists on PMC delaying access for the full 12 months allowed by the new Public Access Policy. An online engine that generates the Addendum is found at http://scholars.sciencecommons.org/ .

Complying with the new requirement to deposit articles with PubMed Central

Publish in a participating journal	The easiest way to deposit an article is to publish in a journal that automatically transfers a copy of published articles to PubMed Central. Journals that participate in PMC are identified online on the NIH web site at http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm
Publish with a journal that will deposit manuscripts for you, upon request	Some publishers that currently will deposit author's manuscripts are Elsevier , Blackwell Publishing's Online Open , Oxford Journals' Oxford Open , and Springer's Open Choice . GT Library staff can help you determine if a particular journal will deposit articles in PMC on your behalf. Note that if a publisher deposits only an author's manuscript as opposed to the final published version of the article, the author will still have to sign onto the NIH Manuscript Submission System (http://www.nihms.nih.gov/) to review and approve release of the article to PMC.
Submit the manuscript yourself	<p>If the publisher of the journal does not deposit articles on its author's behalf, the author must use the NIH Manuscript Submission System. Depositing a manuscript through this system takes only a few minutes and can be done by the principal investigator or a third party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What to submit: An electronic version of the final, peer-reviewed manuscript, including all graphics and supplemental material associated with the article. Note that you will need permission from the publisher to submit a PDF provided by it.• When to submit: Upon acceptance for publication.• How to submit: go to the NIH Manuscript Submission System page, label the manuscript with the correct author names, grant #, etc., and then submit.

Citations to articles as of May 25, 2008

As of May 25, 2008, when citing an article in NIH applications, proposals and progress reports that fall under the new Public Access Policy, the submitting party must include the PubMed Central or NIH Manuscript Submission Reference Number when citing applicable articles that arise from the submitting party's NIH-funded research.

Benefits of the new reporting requirement

The new NIH mandatory public access requirement should work to the benefit of GT authors. Deposit in PMC ensures that the research results will be preserved in a state-of-the art digital repository. Free access no later than 12 months after the original publication date will maximize the visibility of your research and ensure that researchers and students around the world will be able to read and build on your work, regardless of their (or their library's) ability to subscribe to the journal in which the research is published. Preliminary research suggests that articles that are freely available are cited more often and have a greater impact rating than articles that are locked away behind subscription walls.

Need Help?

- NIH has created online tutorials (<http://nihms.nih.gov/web-help/index.html>) to assist with the process, and an FAQ at <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>.
- For more information : <http://www.library.gatech.edu/scholarlycommunication/nihpolicy.html>
- Contact us at nihpolicy@library.gatech.edu if you have any questions or need assistance with the PubMed Central submission process.

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