

## NIH Public Access Policy Becomes Mandatory

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed appropriations legislation which contained language requiring that compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy, which has been voluntary for the past few years, be made mandatory. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, NIH published the revised policy, which will go into effect on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Policy requires that all NIH-funded researchers do the following:

- (1) Negotiate with publishers to allow them to deposit their final peer-reviewed manuscripts in PMC (see information about SPARC Author Addendum below)
- (2) Deposit copies of their articles in the PubMed Central (PMC) repository at the National Library of Medicine within a year of publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- (3) Include the PMC reference number (PMCID) when citing the articles in their NIH proposals, progress reports, etc.

Listed below are some NIH resources which help explain the details of the policy:

Full-text of the law – <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>

The Policy – <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>

How to comply - <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>

Demo of how to deposit articles in PubMed Central – [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/education/pmc](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/education/pmc)

Frequently asked questions - <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm>

NIH provides further information about what the policy means for NIH-funded researchers at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/partners/0108Nexus.htm#investigator>.

Some publishers already have arrangements with the National Library of Medicine to automatically deposit all articles in their journals within a year of publication, which takes the burden of deposition away from the individual authors. The journals whose articles are automatically deposited are listed at [http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process\\_journals.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm).

The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), an international group of libraries working to improve the current scholarly publishing system, provides numerous additional resources on the Policy at <http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/nih/index.html>. One of the most important resources is the SPARC Author Addendum (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/author>) which provides information to help authors retain the right to deposit their articles in PMC.

Implementation of the NIH policy will greatly enhance the ability of researchers to share and access information, as about 70,000 articles are published each year as a result of NIH funding. Also, MEDLINE citations link directly to the full-text articles in PMC. The Policy will also enhance the ability of NIH to track the results of the funding it provides for research.

Other changes are taking place in the scholarly publishing system to take better advantage of the Internet and social networking software to share information more effectively and efficiently. More information about scholarly publishing can be found in the scholarly resources/scholarly publishing section of the Library's website at [www.library.uams.edu](http://www.library.uams.edu).