

[This is the text of the letter that was sent out to California representatives.]

April 19, 2012

Re: Support for Federal Research Public Access Act of 2012 (HR. 4004)

Dear Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the University of California Council of University Librarians to encourage you to support the Federal Research Public Access Act (HR.4004), introduced by Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA), Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Kevin Yoder (R-KS) and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. If passed, this legislation would ensure timely online access to the published results of research funded by eleven U.S. federal agencies, following the precedent established by the NIH Public Access Policy (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>). It reflects the growing trend by funding agencies and higher-education institutions worldwide to maximize broad public access to and expanded sharing of research results, thereby increasing usage by millions of scientists, professionals, and individuals and delivering an expedited return on the government's investment in research. Equally important, it acknowledges the fact that public agency research is funded by federal tax dollars, and taxpayers should be able to access the results of research their tax dollars support without paying for it a second time through a journal subscription or other access charge. Open access to publicly-funded research helps to ensure that scholars can contribute as effectively as possible to local information economies, as well as to national innovation and competitiveness efforts. It accelerates the advancement of knowledge and maximizes the related public good.

The University of California libraries support open access to publicly funded information to ensure maximum discovery, use and re-use of available research that makes possible an unlimited variety of potential connections and discoveries. The Federal Research Public Access Act clearly supports the University of California Libraries' mission to provide information resources and services to UC faculty, students, and staff to support teaching, learning, research, public service, and patient care. We join with other library and higher-education organizations in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Virginia Steel
Chair, UC Council of University Librarians