

September 18, 2017

Representative Trey Gowdy
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings,

On behalf of these 14 national and regional library, publishing, funding, research and advocacy organizations, we are writing in support of H.R. 3427, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act. This bill provides an important mechanism to ensure that manuscripts of peer-reviewed scientific articles reporting on research funded by the federal government can be freely accessed and fully used by all American taxpayers – including researchers, teachers, students, entrepreneurs, businesses and the public at-large.

Timely, barrier-free access to the results of taxpayer funded research is an essential component of our collective investment in research, innovation and discovery. The increased sharing and use of this information will help to advance the pace of discovery and to speed the translation of these discoveries into innovative new services and products – fueling economic growth and helping to create jobs.

This bill builds on the progress made by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the first U.S. agency to require public access to articles reporting on taxpayer-funded research. Since its implementation in 2008, the NIH policy has resulted in 4.4 million articles being made publicly available. Demand for this information is extremely high, with more than *one million* unique users accessing material from the NIH repository each day, and using the information to better understand complex diseases, paving the way for new treatments and cures, and building new businesses. Under FASTR, research results related to a broader range of equally important issues will be just as readily accessible to the public.

In your positions as Chairman and Ranking Members on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has jurisdiction over this bill, we call on you to hold the necessary hearings and business meetings required for this bill to progress through Congress. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor, and appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
<http://www.aallnet.org>
Contact: Emily Feltren

American Library Association (ALA)
www.ala.org
Contact: Adam Eisgrau

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)
www.aahsl.org
Contact: Daniel Burgard

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
www.acrl.org
Contact: Kara Malenfant

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
www.arl.org
Contact: Prudence Adler

Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)
www.aserl.org
Contact: John Burger

Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI), Steering Committee
www.sparcopen.org/COAPI
Contact: Laura Bowering Mullen, Chair

Creative Commons
<https://creativecommons.org>
Contact: Tim Vollmer

Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
<https://eff.org>
Contact: Corynne McSherry

Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)
www.gwla.org
Contact: Joni Blake

PeerJ
<https://peerj.com>
Contact: Peter Binfield

Public Library of Science
www.plos.org
Contact: Donna Okubo

Right to Research Coalition (R2RC)
www.righttoresearch.org
Contact: Nick Shockey

Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
www.sparcopen.org
Contact: Heather Joseph

cc: Majority and Minority Members of the House Committee Oversight and Government Reform
via email