

ARP Executive Board Supports Increased Access to Research Funded by the United States Federal Government

The Association for Research in Personality is an organization of scholars dedicated to understanding personality structure, processes, and development. Our mission is to promote the scientific study of personality by fostering and helping to disseminate research on these topics. ARP's executive board believes that improving access to the research that our members produce is an important goal of the society.

Today, the executive board of ARP joins with a number of publishers and scientific societies in support of a proposed policy that would mandate immediate open distribution of peer-reviewed journal articles that report results from research funded by the U.S. federal government (you can read the letter [here](#)). Current policy already requires the content from these articles to be made available for free on platforms such as Pubmed after a 12-month embargo period. The ARP executive committee strongly supports an expansion of current policy that would remove this embargo period.

As a society that co-sponsors a major journal in the field ([Social Psychological and Personality Science](#)), we recognize that issues regarding publication policies are complicated. As researchers, publishers, funders, scientific societies, and libraries continue to evaluate the relative merits of traditional subscription journals versus open-access alternatives, potential transformations in the way that research is disseminated will need to be approached with careful consideration. In regard to this specific policy, however, we think the decision is straightforward: Taxpayers should have immediate open access to the research that they helped fund. Moreover, we believe that immediate access to research findings promotes scientific progress and helps colleagues around the world learn about the latest advances upon release. Access facilitates science.

Richard Lucas, ARP President on behalf of the ARP Executive Board