

NIH Public Access Guidelines

Policy for All Publications
Developed from NIH-Funded
Projects

Overview of NIH Public Access

- Effective April 7, 2008
- Applies to all NIH-funded projects and the publications resulting from them
- Compliance a necessary term and condition for all active grants and contracts through NIH

Overview of NIH Public Access

- <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm> (text of the policy)

“The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: Provided, That the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law.”

Copyright Transfer

- Inform the journal to which the paper is to be submitted that the manuscript is subject to the Public Access Policy
- Please be sure that all copyright transfer or other publication agreements allow your paper to be submitted to NIH
- See <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/faq.htm#c2> (“Whose approval do I need to submit my article to PubMed Central?”)

Submission Process

- Some journals will submit your final manuscript independently, but many will not
- http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm features a listing of independent submission journals
- When in doubt, communicate with the publisher about this process and who is responsible for it.

Submission Process

- Ultimate responsibility for submission and compliance is in the hands of the authors, NOT the publisher
- You will pay the price for non-compliance, so be sure that someone on the team of authors is handling this process
- Submission location is <http://www.nihms.nih.gov> (once it is peer-reviewed and accepted)

Citations

- NIH will monitor Public Access Policy compliance through citations, effective May 25, 2008
- All NIH-funded papers used on subsequent NIH applications, proposals, or progress reports MUST include a PMCID (PubMed Central Reference Number) in the citation

Citations

- A unique PMCID is assigned to each publication that completes the submission process in PubMed Central
- Until the publication has successfully completed the submission process, it will receive a submission system reference number (NIHMSID) which should be cited instead
- For journals that submit automatically, please cite with “PCM Journal – In Process” instead

For More Information

- <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/faq.htm> (FAQ)
- <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-033.html> (official policy notice)