

Public Access Requirements for Publications

In 2013, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a [memo](#) requiring all Federal funding agencies involved in research to develop plans to increase public access to research publications and data. This page provides information on publication requirements only. The data requirements (which do differ from the publication requirements) are still in development mode by many agencies, and will be addressed when they are more developed.

As a project investigator/publication author, you are responsible for knowing the agencies specific requirements for making your Federal government funded publication(s) accessible to the public. The following are some conditions/actions generally shared by the agencies:

- A 12 month embargo period is allowed from publication to public access
- In the event the full article text is embargoed, the article metadata, such as citation information, etc., is required upon publication
- There is a specific method to submit your evidence-based request for an embargo extension

A difference among agency plans is, some plans are broad referring to peer-reviewed articles (which vary as to whether peer-reviewed conference papers are included) while other plans are narrow referring to only peer-reviewed journal articles.

Make sure you are well versed with the agency requirements. Please be sure to read your publishing agreements and negotiate changes as required so that you can meet agency compliance requirements.

The table below provides some information regarding agency public access requirements for publications.

Agency	Awards on/after:	Initial Embargo Period	Required Portal/Repository
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Oct. 2015	12 months	PubMed
National Science Foundation (NSF)	Jan. 2016	12 months	NSF-Public Access Repository
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Jan. 2016	12 months	PubAg
U. S. Department of Commerce-National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	Oct. 2015	12 months	PubMed
U.S. Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Jan. 2016	12 months	NOAA Institutional Repository
U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)	Oct. 2015	12 months	Defense Technical Information Center

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U.S. Department of Education	Oct. 2012	12 months	ERIC
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)	Oct. 2014	12 months	Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-National Institutes of Health (NIH)	2008	12 months	PubMed
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	July 2013	12 months	CDC Stacks and PubMed
U.S. Department of Interior-US Geological Survey (USGS)	Oct. 2016	12 months	USGS
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	Dec. 2015	12 months	National Transportation Library