

The NIH Public Access Policy



The Policy

The NIH Public Access Policy implements Division G, Title II, Section 218 of PL 110-161 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008) which states:

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.

NIH Guide Notice for Public Access (January 2008):

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-033.html>

New Guide Notice for Grantee Compliance (September 2008):

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-119.html>

The NIH Public Access Policy applies to any paper that...

- Is peer-reviewed;
- And, is accepted for publication in a journal on or after April 7, 2008;
- And, arises from:
 - Any direct funding from an NIH grant or cooperative agreement active in Fiscal Year 2008, or;
 - Any direct funding from an NIH contract signed on or after April 7, 2008, or;
 - Any direct funding from the NIH Intramural Program, or;
 - An NIH employee.

For More Information, Visit

Public Access web site:
<http://publicaccess.nih.gov>

Public Access FAQs:
<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm>

PubMed Central:
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>

For Additional Guidance Contact:
publicaccess@nih.gov

How to Comply

1. Address Copyright

Before you sign a publication agreement or similar copyright transfer agreement, make sure that the agreement allows the paper to be submitted to NIH in accordance with the Public Access Policy

2. Submit Article

Authors may submit a paper to the journal of their choice for publication. There are four methods to ensure that a manuscript is submitted to PubMed Central in compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy:

Method A: Publish in a journal that deposits all NIH-funded final published articles in PubMed Central (PMC) without author involvement.

Method B: Make arrangements to have a publisher deposit a specific final published article in PubMed Central (PMC).

Method C: Deposit the final peer-reviewed manuscript in PMC yourself via the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS).

Method D: Complete the submission process for a final peer-reviewed manuscript that the publisher has deposited in the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS).

3. Cite

When citing their NIH-funded papers in NIH applications, proposals or progress reports, authors must include the PubMed Central reference number for each paper.