

Expanding Public Access to Research Results: Finding a Common Path Forward

The rapid development of digital communications capabilities provides the potential for both beneficial and harmful changes to scholarly publishing. The stakeholders in the scholarly publishing community are differentially affected by these digital capacities. Unfortunately, an internecine ideological battle within that community over the how it should respond to the opportunities and challenges confronting scholarly publishing impedes a collegial effort to chart a balanced course forward through compromise and collaboration, with enhanced support of scholarship as the principal beneficiary. This talk will: 1) review the recommendations of the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, a group of publishers, librarians, academic administrators, and scholars convened by the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Science and Technology Committee to seek a consensus on how to expand access to scholarly publishing while preserving the critical components of the enterprise, and 2) discuss some of the opportunities to advance this objective provided by recent federal legislation and non-governmental initiatives.