





Meeting New Federal Requirements for Research Access: Opportunities for Leadership Action



The academy finds itself at a critical moment as major funding agencies increasingly value and incentivize the open public sharing of research outputs. Most notably, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) recently issued a memorandum on [Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#) that significantly advances previous federal policy in a number of impactful ways (see "What's New" at the end of this document). On January 11th, the White House also [declared 2023 the federal Year of Open Science](#), announcing new actions to advance open and equitable research, including new grant funding, improvements in research infrastructure, broadened research participation for emerging scholars, and expanded opportunities for public engagement. These actions from federal agencies, combined with the growing adoption of open scholarship policies among [private philanthropies](#) and [professional societies](#), create both a challenge and an opportunity for colleges and universities. Higher education leaders can productively use this inflection point to update campus strategies pertaining to incentives, compliance, data management and security, copyright retention, and a number of other related issues.



As a member of the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship ([HELIOS Open](#)), a coalition of nearly 100 schools collaborating to develop practical solutions for aligning higher education practices with open scholarship values, your institution can inform actions moving forward through HELIOS Open' collaboration with the federal government, and engage with HELIOS Open peers to coordinate your policies and practices. As a first step, you might also consider the measures currently being taken by a number of HELIOS Open member institutions to proactively meet this moment (see next page).

The Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS Open) is a cohort of 80+ colleges and universities committed to collective action to advance open scholarship. HELIOS Open emerges from the work of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Scholarship. This brief is a work product of the HELIOS Open Shared Infrastructure Working Group.



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Key Actions You Can Take to Capitalize on Recent Developments

- Review incentive structures such as hiring, tenure, and promotion to ensure alignment with the open scholarship requirements of major research funders and emerging disciplinary norms. There are a range of approaches to engage department chairs and other key campus voices in a dialog to advance hiring, promotion, and tenure language to better reflect open scholarship activities. Your HELIOS Open representative can share guidance from the HELIOS Open Institutional & Departmental Policy Working Group, provide language and frameworks that can be adapted across disciplines, and arrange for discussions with administrators overseeing reform at other institutions, among other activities.
- Proactively engage federal agencies to optimize open scholarship policy compliance requirements. While each of the 400+ US federal agencies and departments are tasked with developing open scholarship plans in the coming months, specific routes to individual and institutional compliance are as yet undefined. [HELIOS Open is collaborating with a number of federal agencies \(e.g., NASA\)](#), to act as a conduit between agency policy development and university implementation. The HELIOS Open Cross-Sector Alignment Working Group confers regularly with agency representatives to share higher ed perspectives on infrastructure, data security, reporting requirements, and a range of related issues. Your HELIOS Open representative can contribute to this dialog by sharing your institutional priorities and concerns.

It is clear that policy momentum is driving toward a more open research ecosystem. By engaging proactively, you can help shape this future in a way that lightens administrative burden, balances collaboration with security, aligns incentives, and advances your institutional mission.

What's New in the Nelson Memo?

- Removes the previous 12-month embargo, now requiring immediate free and public access to articles.
- Directs federal agencies to update policies to enable immediate free and public access to the data underlying published studies.
- Emphasizes the need for publications to be shared in both human- and machine-readable formats and under terms that allow for "use and re-use rights."
- Asks agencies to develop strategies to ensure data, and other such research outputs and their metadata are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (i.e., FAIR).
- Applies to all U.S. federal agencies and departments – a jump to over 400 entities.