

NIH Public Access Policy

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It's the Law



The NIH Public Access Policy is mandated by federal law

“The Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) shall require in the current fiscal year and thereafter 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.”

- Division F Section 217 of PL 111-8; Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

NIH Guide Notices

- Revised Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research: [NOT-OD-08-033](#)
- The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 Makes the NIH Public Access Policy Permanent: [NOT-OD-09-071](#)

Which Manuscripts?

- The Policy applies to any manuscript 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 beyond, 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.
- Papers that meet the above criteria, include:
 - Research articles
 - Review articles if peer-reviewed and meets criteria
 - Papers based on research only partially funded by NIH
 - Papers that benefitted from direct funds from an NIH-funded center or training program
- Does NOT apply to dissertations or book chapters



What is a Journal?

- A publication listed in the journal section of the NLM catalog
 - Search for the journal by title, title abbreviation, or ISSN
 - Suggestions will display as you type
- If not in the NLM journal list, NIH considers it a journal if the publication meets all of the following criteria:
 - Meets requirements for ISSN assignment
 - Content is issued over time under a common title
 - Is a collection of articles by different authors
 - Is intended to be published indefinitely
- You may also request determination if a publication is a journal by submitting the manuscript to NIHMS upon acceptance for publication

Who is Responsible for Compliance

- Principal Investigators of NIH awards are responsible for papers that arise directly from their awards
 - Even if the PI is not an author or co-author
- The NIH Public Access Policy requirement should be included in sub-recipient agreements
 - Includes trainees on NIH training grants
- When you use a service of a center (e.g., MICHR, M-LEEd, ERC) you should ask if that center should be cited in publications that benefited from the service

Publisher Agreements



- Authors own the original copyrights to materials they write
- Authors often transfer some or all of these copyrights to the publisher when the journal agrees to publish their paper
- Authors should avoid signing agreements with publishers that do not allow compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy
- Authors should work with the publisher before any rights are transferred to ensure that all conditions of the NIH Public Access Policy can be met

PubMed vs PubMed Central



- PubMed Central is *repository* of actual articles
 - Each article has a **PMCID**
- PubMed is *search engine* of published articles
 - Each article has a **PMID**



**PMCID and PMID are not the same
and are not interchangeable!**

Overview of the Four Methods of Submission to PubMed Central

Overview of Submission Methods

Version of Paper Submitted	Final Published Article	Final Peer-Reviewed Manuscript
Submission Process	Publisher posts the paper directly to PMC	Papers are <i>required</i> to be submitted via the NIHMS <i>upon acceptance for publication</i> . Publishers, authors or their designee deposit files and the NIHMS converts them to the PMC native format.
Submission Method to Deposit Files	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method A: Some Journals automatically post NIH supported papers directly to PMC • Method B: Authors must make special arrangements for some journals and publishers to post the paper directly to PMC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method C: Authors or their designee must submit manuscripts to the NIHMS • Method D: Some publishers will submit manuscripts to the NIHMS • Awardees are responsible for ensuring manuscripts are submitted to the NIHMS <i>upon acceptance for publication</i>
Approve Submission	Publisher	Author, via NIHMS
Approve PMC web version	Publisher	Author, via NIHMS
Responsible Party	NIH awardee	NIH awardee
To cite papers, from acceptance for publication to 3 months post publication	PMCID or "PMC Journal- In Process"	PMCID or NIHMSID
To cite papers, 3 months post publication and beyond	PMCID	PMCID

How to Submit a Paper to PubMed Central

- To identify the submission and reporting method for a specific journal, use the submission method [identification wizard](#)
- Watch the NIH videos on YouTube for guidance
 - [The Basics](#)
 - [Awardee Task](#)
 - [Awardee Task an Example](#) (particularly helpful)

NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system

NIHMS supports the deposit of manuscripts into PubMed Central (PMC)

Manuscript Submission Process

