

*Statement
Of
Chairman Wm. Lacy Clay, Chairman
Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Thursday, July 29, 2010
2154 Rayburn HOB
2:00 p.m.*

“Public Access to Federally-Funded Research”

The purpose of today’s hearing is to examine the current state of public access to federally-funded research and to discuss the potential implications of increased access.

Every year, the federal government – using taxpayer dollars – funds tens of billions of dollars in basic and applied research. Most of the funding is concentrated within 11 federal departments and/or agencies.

So while this is not a legislative hearing, attached to any particular bill, there has been much interest, deservedly so, surrounding this topic, on both sides of the issue.

How much access should the public have to federally-funded research? How would increased access affect grantees, researchers, and scholars? To that end, I determined that the Subcommittee should allow an atmosphere for dialogue and discussion of public access to federally-funded research. It is relevant, current and within the purview of this Subcommittee.

Today we will hear testimony from stakeholders in the areas of publishing, science, research, education and patient advocacy. This hearing will also examine the operational processes utilized by the National Institutes of Health in its open access program, including but not limited to the submission process, data usage, embargo time period and compliance information.

We will examine how the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been affected by the congressional mandate to ensure that the public has access to the published results of NIH funded research, no later 12 months after publication. What have been the results and ramifications, positive and negative, of that policy to the stakeholders?

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing today and look forward to their testimonies.