Talking Points:
Office of Science and Technology Policy Public Access Memo

- The White House Memorandum on “Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research” will enhance public access to federally funded research results and therefore is integrally tied to and supports the mission of higher education and scholarship. Such policies drive scientific discovery and innovation, and support education and learning.

- Federal agencies with annual research and development budgets of $100 million or more are to provide the public with the ability to freely access, search, retrieve, and analyze peer-reviewed publications and digital data, when appropriate, resulting from federally funded research. Some agencies that do not meet this threshold have contacted the White House about also implementing such plans.

- Each agency is required to develop draft plans for public access to digital data and scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research and submit the draft plans to Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) by late August 2013. OSTP, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will review the plans and provide guidance to the agencies in the development of final plans.

- The Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), and the Association of American Universities (AAU) submitted joint statements on expanded public access to federal research resources to the National Research Council. ARL, APLU, and AAU convened a meeting of key campus constituencies to provide the perspective of higher education to agencies as they develop draft plans for digital data and scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research.

- ARL, APLU, and AAU are meeting with agency officials to discuss the opportunities for partnering with agencies in implementing this White House memorandum to ensure that the needs of higher education are reflected in agency draft plans.

- Research institutions have invested deeply in all facets of cyberinfrastructure including networking capabilities, institutional repositories and more. Institutional repositories ensure that the intellectual assets of an institution are publicly accessible and preserved.
Talking to Principal Investigators

- Increased public access to research will improve the public’s support for funded research and improve science literacy.

- Enhanced public access to peer-reviewed scholarly articles and digital data increases citation and impact.

- Research institutions have a strong interest in working with agencies to coordinate federal policies, and deposit and compliance systems in order to minimize PI administrative workload.

- Research libraries and research institutions are encouraging publishers to streamline the process of deposit on authors’ behalf.

- Higher-education managed repositories already have or may want to develop scholar-centric reporting.

- Infrastructure built and managed on campus to assure compliance with the mandate will serve researchers who want to share publications and digital data with remote collaborators during the research process, not just for public deposit.

- Agency plans for article deposit will move faster than for digital data, which all parties acknowledge is far more complex and less mature.

- ARL is working with a copyright attorney to produce a white paper about the intellectual property issues concerning data, which are complex.

- Research libraries have been working with researchers on the NIH Public Access Policy—doing outreach, providing education, and direct assistance—for well over five years. As public deposit mandates expand to 23+ agencies, research libraries will continue to do this work with other campus partners.

Talking to Sponsored Research Administrators

- Before and during implementation of the new White House directive, research libraries will continue to work with researchers and other campus partners—doing outreach, and providing educational resources and direct assistance.

- The OSTP policy presents an opportunity for higher education to marshal its resources to improve interoperability of research support systems.
• ARL, AAU, and APLU working together will give needed attention to campus cost and staffing implications of this policy.