

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE RESEARCH WORKS ACT**

WHEREAS, Research sponsored by the United States government is funded by public tax dollars and conducted for the public interest; and

WHEREAS, Free public access to federally funded research is necessary for the advancement of knowledge in the United States and throughout the world and is essential to maintaining an informed public; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association supports equitable public access to and preservation of information collected, compiled, produced, sponsored, archived, and disseminated by the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy ensures the public has access to the published results of NIH-funded research by requiring scientists who receive NIH funds to submit final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts to the digital archive PubMed Central no later than 12 months after publication; and

WHEREAS, Faculty, researchers, students, medical practitioners, and the public now have no-fee access to PubMed Central, which contains more than two million full text articles accessed by nearly half a million users every day; and

WHEREAS, The NIH Public Access Policy serves as a model for public dissemination of federally funded, peer-reviewed journal manuscripts for other U.S. agencies and departments; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Darrell Issa and Representative Carolyn Maloney have introduced H.R. 3699, the Research Works Act; and

WHEREAS, The bill, if enacted, would nullify the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access policy implemented in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The bill, if enacted, would prohibit the NIH Public Access Policy model of no-fee dissemination of federally funded research after an embargo period to be emulated by any other federal agency or department; and

WHEREAS, The bill, if enacted, would result in U.S. taxpayers having to pay twice for access to peer-reviewed research already funded by their tax dollars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Urges the U.S. Congress to reject the Research Works Act, H.R. 3699, because it not only threatens future public access to federally funded research, but also nullifies the public access already provided to NIH peer-reviewed journal manuscripts.
2. Reaffirms its support for the expansion of the NIH public-access policy to other federal agencies and departments.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
In Dallas, Texas



Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council