

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

May 18, 2010

2010 Open Access Symposium
The University of North Texas

Dear Friends:

I recently learned that the University of North Texas will be hosting an Open Access Symposium in Denton, Texas. I regret that I could not be with you today to welcome the participants to North Texas.

To put things in perspective, the Federal Government spends upwards of \$55 billion on investments for basic and applied research every year. While this research is undoubtedly necessary and is beneficial to America, it remains the case that not all Americans are capable of experiencing these benefits firsthand. Despite the fact that the research was paid for by Americans' tax dollars, most citizens are unable to attain timely access to the wealth of information that this research provides.

As a result, Senator Joe Lieberman and I have introduced S. 1373, The Federal Research Public Access Act, which will would require that 11 U.S. government agencies with annual extramural research expenditures over \$100 million make manuscripts of journal articles stemming from research funded by that agency publicly available via the Internet.

Open government is one of the most basic requirements of any healthy democracy. It allows for taxpayers to see where their money is going; permits the honest exchange of information that ensures government accountability; and upholds the ideal that government never rules without the consent of the people. Our government is based not on the need to know, but upon the fundamental right to know

I applaud the efforts of the University of North Texas' to make open access a priority for institutions of higher learning in Texas. It is a pleasure to represent you in the United States Senate and I offer my best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senate