Abstract

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Public Access Plan was adopted in November 2015, in response to the February 22, 2013 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies entitled “Ensuring Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research.” The USDOT devised executive department policies with greater than $100 million in yearly research and development expenditures to provide a plan for improving the public’s access to the results of federally funded research. The USDOT plan establishes objectives to ensure public access to publications and digital datasets arising from USDOT research and development (R&D) programs. USDOT already provides access to intramural and extramural research in progress, technical reports, and many final publications. USDOT’s Open Data Plan and Data Governance Policy already require openness for data as well as listing on the Enterprise Data Inventory. Coupled with the implementation of USDOT’s data policies, the intramural and extramural research programs are taking comprehensive steps to increase data sharing and management.

The USDOT plan requires that intramural and extramural awardees submit publications and metadata for datasets resulting from research projects that fall within the scope of public access plan to the National Transportation Library (NTL) digital repository. As USDOT’s solution for public access, NTL’s repository supports research and development, protocols for interoperability, information exchange, federated searching, and metadata sharing—maximizing the potential for creative reuse to enhance value to all stakeholders.

As the lead for implementation, NTL is also the source for guidance, best practices, and training for compliance with the USDOT Public Access Plan.

NTL’s legislative mandate is a primary reason the library serves a central role in public access implementation and requires the inclusion of a requirement to maintain a repository; instruction to be a portal to federal transportation data; and direction to partner with private organizations to facilitate access to and use of transportation information. These activities enable NTL to both maximize the potential of its intramural and extramural datasets to expand the information in transportation and foster private public collaboration. This poster highlights a few tools created by NTL to help intramural and extramural data creators employ best data management practices and come into compliance with the Public Access Plan.