

[LibraryLink](#)

A weblog prepared by the staff of the Moody Medical Library about trends in scholarly publication, information technology and library service. New items appear on the left. The Pages section at the right contains “backgrounders” to provide context.

« [Mission Creep for the IRB](#)
[Lost in a Sea of Science Data.](#) »

[Publishers Reply to FRPPA](#)

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has issued a statement detailing the objections it has to Senate Bill 2695, also known as the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) of 2006. AAP’s objections were pretty much those that have been aired before in this context: Federal intrusion in an area which is doing very nicely, thank you, and don’t need no gummint intervention; costs to the taxpayers will be high, the burden on publishers crushing, and the End of Civilization As We Know It is right around the next corner. No librarian will take seriously the breezy assurances about how nicely everything is running. Publishers are anxious to protect toll access, which is the basis of their very, very handsome profit statements. Anything like FRPAA is obviously a threat. In the past, I would have shoved all the chips onto whatever square the AAP was betting on, but now I’m not so sure. This time around, AAP and associated interests are facing a new dealer and a new hand. It’s interesting to note that FRPAA arose in the Senate, where the compromises (or sell-outs, depending on your perspective) with a much tougher House bill were made last year. Voluntarism has not worked well enough, and everybody on the Hill sees this as either real trouble or an opportunity. Who in Congress wants to be seen as opposing public access to research that might eventually result in cures for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson, Cystic fibrosis, solutions the energy crisis, global warming and on and on? Nobody. Publishers will also have to face the “equity/justice” argument that many people find persuasive: we, citizens, paid for this once already. Why should we pay again?” We can expect AAP and friends to do their utmost, but it may not work. A compromise was fielded last year, and it pleased nobody. This year the stakes have gone up and the wiggle room has disappeared, very largely. For what it’s worth, I think FRPAA is pretty weak in the details and vulnerable on a number of practical issues. But the question of principle has already been decided. Publishers better get their ox ready for a major goring.

[AAP](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, July 12th, 2006 at 10:19 am and is filed under [Scholarly Publishing](#), [Law and Public Policy](#), [Research](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website