



**Action of the 2007-2008 American Sociological Association Council
By Unanimous Vote of those Responding
June 5, 2008**

Present by Vote: Margaret Andersen, Judith D. Auerbach, Patricia Hill Collins, Dalton Conley, Marjorie DeVault, Bonnie Thornton Dill, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Arne L. Kalleberg, Michele Lamont, Douglas McAdam, Mary E. Pattillo, Frances Fox Piven, Clara Rodriguez, Mary Romero, Rubén Rumbaut, Marc Schneiberg, Robin Stryker, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey,

Absent from Vote: Gay W. Seidman

ASA Director of Publications and Membership Karen Gray Edwards provided the background information by email.

Background

The Joint Committee on Electronic Publishing met on May 6, 2008. The key issue for discussion at this meeting was modifying ASA's copyright policy and transfer of copyright form to comply with the mandatory NIH Public Access Policy signed into law late last year. The key element to this policy is that research funded by NIH should be freely accessible.

It calls for investigators funded by the NIH to submit (or have submitted on their behalf) to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscript upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. The policy applies to all manuscripts accepted for publication after April 7, 2008.

This requires ASA, other associations, and publishers to modify their copyright and authors' rights policies and forms to comply. Most have yet to finalize their position, which made it difficult for ASA to have a context within which to make a final policy decision for our journals. At issue in particular is *what* the ASA will allow to be deposited into PubMed and what length embargo to set.

In addition to revising ASA's copyright policy to be in compliance with the new NIH guidelines, we are also proposing extending this new policy beyond NIH-funded research to all authors and their institutional repositories. Because faculty are under increasing pressure to post their accepted manuscripts in university repositories, it seems reasonable to extend these new policies more broadly.

The proposed new policy and form was approved, in succession, by the Joint Committee on Electronic Publishing, ASA editors, and the Committee on Publications.

Council was provided, via e-mail, the proposed new transfer of copyright form and asked to formally approve the change in policy and the new transfer of copyright form, which it did unanimously.