

**STATEMENT FROM SIIA PRESIDENT KEN WASCH, IN SUPPORT OF THE RESEARCH WORKS
ACT (H.R. 3699) January 17, 2012**

"SIIA commends Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) for their bipartisan leadership in protecting the continued investment and innovation by private-sector publishers in scientific, technical, medical and scholarly journal articles, through their introduction of H.R. 3699, the Research Works Act.

SIIA has a long history of supporting open e-government, believing strongly that the Government's information is a national asset, and that the Government must harness new technologies to rapidly disclose information and engage citizens. Further, SIIA strongly supports government policies and initiatives aimed at ensuring broad public access to the results of publicly-funded research.

However, SIIA is concerned that government policies seeking to provide access to publicly-funded research can go too far, extending to mandates for access to value-added information products that result from private sector investments and publishing. The peer reviewed journals and other value added products and services that private-sector publishers, including commercial publishers, professional societies, and university presses publish are not the direct result of the publicly-funded research. Rather, private sector publishers provide considerable value by ensuring the high quality of journal articles, incorporating comments, interpretations and additional expert insights and editing and making them available on multiple platforms to enhance their customers' understanding of the research activities.

SIIA supports the Research Works Act because it would help draw the distinction between Government information and value-added information products that result from private sector investments and publishing--this is a very clear, significant distinction. By requiring federal agencies to gain consent from publishers before adopting policies or engaging in activities that would result in the dissemination of private-sector journal articles, this legislation would preserve publishers' ability to retain subscribers and effectively recoup their peer-review and quality control costs for producing first-rate STM scholarly works, and to continue providing innovative products and services going forward.

About SIIA

SIIA is the principal trade association of the software and digital information industries, representing more than 500 leading companies that develop and market software and electronic content. Our members include leading technology companies that provide the backbone of the Internet, as well as electronic publishers whose investments provide the

public with a wide variety of information products and services covering nearly every subject matter imaginable, including publishers of peer-reviewed scientific literature, books that incorporate findings from government research, as well as databases and graphics that assist researchers in better analyzing, understanding and using research information. For further information, visit: www.siiia.net<<http://www.siiia.net>>.