

NEWS

Negotiations: Elsevier stagnates, Springer moves forward

Koen Becking (Tilburg University) and Gerard Meijer (Radboud University Nijmegen) are currently negotiating subscription fees for scientific journals with Elsevier, Springer (Science and Business Media) and Wiley publishing houses.

Various publishers have adopted a reticent attitude in these Big Deal negotiations, given the drastic changes to their revenue model this transition would cause. The universities are only prepared to renew current subscription agreements if the publishers take steps towards open access. An overview of the latest negotiation developments per publisher:

Elsevier: negotiations resumed

Following the breakdown of negotiations in early November, Elsevier submitted a new proposal to the VSNU negotiation team. This proposal is currently being assessed, and the negotiation teams are arranging new talks. The existing contract with Elsevier was extended by a period of one year. As a result, researchers will not experience any changes for the duration of the negotiations.

Springer: deal reached

Negotiations with Springer have yielded an agreement in principle for 2015 and 2016. Instead of a paid subscription model, the publisher will now charge for the open access publication of articles in almost all Springer journals (1,500 titles). This concerns all articles by corresponding authors from institutions currently entering into the new agreement with Springer. Researchers will not have to pay APC's for these articles. All journals previously featured in the portfolio will remain accessible to Dutch researchers, who will continue to enjoy current user rights. This agreement will result in a minimal rise in costs, reflecting a win-win situation for the Dutch scientific community: no APC's will apply for the 1,500 journals in question.

Wiley, Sage and Oxford University Press

Negotiations with these publishers have commenced recently; as of yet, no contract proposal reflecting the outcome of the negotiations as desired by VSNU has been formulated. Access to the journals offered by these publishers will remain the same as in 2014 for the duration of the negotiations.

Open access in the media

In early December, **Nature** announced that it will be allowing subscribers to share articles with non-subscribers. Although this measure does not represent genuine open access to *Nature* articles, it is a step in the right direction.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** will require all research conducted with foundation funding to be published in open access format as of 1 January 2015.

European Commissioner **Günther H. Oettinger** (digital economy and society) emphasised the importance of open access in a recent speech: 'to allow true innovation you need open access: sharing knowledge and reaping the benefits of big data'.

The KNAW's 'Wetenschapsvisie' [platform site](#) is currently hosting an online debate on open access.

Familiar with Twitter? Follow and engage in the debate on #openaccess

'I want to see 60% of all Dutch scientific publications made available in open access format within five years, and reach the 100% mark within ten years.'

We need to make publishers understand that open access is the future of scientific publication.

Knowledge sharing is crucial to the Netherlands' innovative capacity. It can help doctors gain access to the very latest medical research results, and offer teachers access to new pedagogical insights'.

Sander Dekker, State Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Scientists: speak out

The issue of open access is currently being debated by universities, publishers, on Twitter, and at various debate forums and symposia.

We would like to invite the research community to make its voice heard.

You can make use of the background information featured below.

SPOTTED ONLINE

[Open access explained – Nils Shockey, Jonathan Eisen \(2012\)](#)



[Sharing data – Dans \(2013\)](#)



[What is open access and why should you care – Alma Swan \(2013\)](#)

Publisher's details

The Open Access Newsletter is a publication of VSNU, in collaboration with the various Dutch university libraries and the National Library of the Netherlands. This newsletter is intended for everyone with an interest in open access, including researchers, university administrators, library staff, knowledge partners, politicians and the media.

Tips or suggestions?

Email openaccess@vsnu.nl.

Registration and cancellation

To register for this newsletter or cancel your subscription, send an email to openaccess@vsnu.nl.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Frequently asked questions open access](#)
[Fact sheet open access](#)

Press releases:

[Springer and universities take key step towards open access](#) (2014-11-20)
[Negotiations between Elsevier and universities failed](#) (2014-11-04)

www.vsnu.nl/openaccess_English.html
www.openaccess.nl

