

Open access developments in the Netherlands

No open access deal with Oxford University Press

The Dutch universities and Oxford University Press (OUP) have been unable to reach a new agreement on access to scientific journals. The VSNU's aim in the negotiations was to secure a transition to open access without Dutch academics having to pay double to access articles. However, OUP's proposal to the Dutch universities did not include provisions for affordable open access and as such was unacceptable to the Dutch universities. Compared to agreements which the VSNU has already made with other publishers, OUP's offer represented a step away from rather than closer to the goal of 100% open access in 2020. The VSNU would be happy to reopen negotiations with OUP if and when the publisher is willing to make comprehensive and fair agreements on open access. According to Jaap Winter, chief negotiator on behalf of the VSNU and president of the Executive Board of VU Amsterdam, 'Publishers can decide for themselves whether they want to go along with this development, but open access is going to become the new standard, regardless of whether or not publishers are on board.'

Universities of applied sciences to go green

The Alliance of [University of Applied Sciences Libraries](#) wants to take the green route to 100% open access publishing in 2020. Following on from the seminar organised last year on 'achieving open access together', the decision has now been taken to opt for the green route. This means that all publications by researchers and students at universities of applied sciences will be published under a creative commons licence, allowing unrestricted reuse of articles.

Gates Foundation and European Commission may become open access publishers

The [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) has announced its intention to launch an independent open access publication platform, aimed at accelerating the publication of articles and data funded by the Gates Foundation. The Foundation is currently hammering out these plans with F1000research. This is an open access platform that rapidly publishes papers and data sets after an initial 'sanity check' by its in-house editorial team, with peer review following post-publication. The [European Commission](#) is discussing a similar initiative. Though there has been no official confirmation from the EC as yet, various sources report that Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, has already given the go-ahead for an open access publication platform.

Open access articles unlocked

A new tool that makes open access publications easier to find has just been launched. Called [Unpaywall](#), the tool is a browser extension for Chrome and Firefox that links to free full-text articles. It works by clicking a separate button whenever an article you want is hidden behind a paywall. Unpaywall then searches for a legally-uploaded open access copy of the same article. Unpaywall is able to locate a full-text open access copy of 53% of articles, and this percentage is expected to increase substantially as the volume of open access publications grows and the software improves. <http://thegovlab.org/unpaywall/>

Clash with Elsevier over publication of open access agreements

Hearings with Elsevier, Springer the Dutch universities were held on 23 March, following submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) joint request by the Dutch universities, which want to know how much they are paying publishers for open access publication of articles authored by university-affiliated researchers.

Elsevier and Springer lodged an objection against release of this information. Shortly after the hearings, ScienceGuide announced that it has obtained a copy of the universities' [agreement with Elsevier](#). According to [ScienceGuide](#) 'It appears the publisher is doing everything in its power to make the road to open access as long and forbidding as possible.'

International developments

Taiwan

More than 75% of [Taiwanese universities](#) are boycotting Elsevier's scientific journals. Unclear is whether this signals Taiwan's disinterested stance towards funding access to prominent research journals or is part of a new strategy to negotiate a higher open access share in subscriptions. This latest development in Taiwan is being followed with keen interest particularly in Germany and Peru, where universities refused to renew contracts with Elsevier after efforts to reach agreement on a significant open access strategy failed.

Sweden

[The Bibsam Consortium](#) in Sweden has closed an open access deal with the Institute of Physics (IOP). The agreement with IOP entails that participating organisations will receive a refund with up to 90% of the open access publishing costs when publishing in any of their 48 hybrid journals. Refunds will be deducted from next year's subscription invoices.

United States

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT) has announced a new open access policy. All MIT students, researchers and other staff can now opt to publish articles under an open access licence. MIT stresses the importance of this step in enabling the wider scientific community to use MIT research.

Open access in the media

In Britain, a [survey study](#) has shed new light on the publishing behaviour of UK academics. The aim of the study was to investigate researchers' attitudes towards open access publishing, and revealed that they are more likely to opt for open access if they are aware of and endorse open access policies. Overall, the largest share of open access articles are published by scientists in medical fields. Of the 1,722 academics surveyed, approximately 40% said they themselves had published under open access. Significantly, there were also 10% who stated they had never published anything under open access and did not expect to do so in future. The study found negligible differences in open access publishing behaviour between the various age groups surveyed. In terms of gender, men were found to opt for open access slightly more than women.

OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Presentation available on open access

The European Union (EU) has announced its ambition to achieve 100% open access to all academic publications by 2020. To support the drive towards open access, the VSNU is giving presentations across the EU on Dutch open access policy, which is considered to be an international leader on this front. The VSNU has also made a [presentation available online](#).

Relevant events

03 May 2017: [Learning the Lessons of Working with the British Library's Digital Content and Data](#) – Milton Keynes, UK

8–10 May 2017: [Confederation of Open Access Repositories \(COAR\) Annual Meeting 2017](#) – Venice, Italy

8–12 May 2017: [Open Access Erasmus Staff Week 2017](#) – Liège, Belgium

9–13 May 2017: [PAGES Open Science Meeting](#) – Zaragoza, Spain

11 May 2017: [Open science ur rektorsperspektiv](#) – Stockholm, Sweden

18–19 May 2017: [UNT Open Access Symposium 2017: Making Use of Public Data](#) – Frisco, USA

24 May 2017: [Training: Open Access, Open Data, Open Science: Anatomy of a disruptive technology](#) – London, UK

25 May 2017: [An Open Digital South: Risks and Rewards](#) – Davis, USA

MORE INFORMATION

- [Frequently asked open access questions](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- www.vsnu.nl/openaccess
- www.openaccess.nl

Upgraded E-zine on open access

The upgraded E-zine describes the impact of open access publishing and the results of Dutch efforts in this area. The E-zine is also available in [Dutch](#).



Publication details

The open access newsletter is a VSNU publication in collaboration with the Dutch university libraries and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands (KB). This newsletter is intended for anyone interested in open access, including academics, university administrators, library staff, knowledge partners, politicians and media representatives.

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