Open access developments in the Netherlands

Rectification: the newsletter of November erroneously stated that Anton Pijpers is the new chief negotiator of the VSNU. However, this is not correct. Koen Becking takes over the role of Jaap Winter as chief negotiator and Anton Pijpers is added to the negotiator team. In this newsletter you will find the correct article.

Anton Pijpers added to VSNU negotiator team

Last May, Jaap Winter announced he is not seeking a second term as president of VU Amsterdam's Executive Board. He clarified that his departure will also mean he is stepping down from his role as chief negotiator for open access on behalf of the VSNU. The VSNU thanks Winter for his tireless efforts for open access and the way he has conducted the negotiations over the past years. His commitment to open access has always been evident, as was again shown last summer in an interview with Ad Valvas: '*There is a lot at stake. If everyone were to make the switch at the same time, things would not be so hard. It is mainly the transition that complicates matters and that creates winners and losers among publishers as well. But we come to the negotiating table fairly relaxed, because we have a clear guiding principle. We want a deal on open access that avoids red tape and a big rise in costs. We do not have the money to pay more, so that is not going to happen.*' Anton Pijpers, president of the Executive Board of Utrecht University, takes the place of Winter in the team of negotiators. Koen Becking, chairman of the Executive Board of Tilburg University is the new chief negotiator on behalf of the VSNU.

Conflict between ResearchGate and the Coalition for Responsible Sharing

ResearchGate and the Coalition for Responsible Sharing (a partnership between Elsevier, Wolters Kluwer, Wiley, Brill and ACS Publications) have diametrically opposed points of view on copyright ownership by academics and publishers. ResearchGate is an online social network where academics can upload articles. Depending on the agreement between a publisher and an academic, it is not always permitted by law to make a publication available via ResearchGate. The Coalition wants to cooperate with ResearchGate on the condition that no agreements between academics and publishers are breached and that academics receive clear information about the implications.
The VSNU deplores this conflict between ResearchGate and the publishers at the expense of authors, as it has a detrimental effect on the accessibility of academic publications. For the VSNU, open access publishing comes first. Accordingly, the VSNU recommends that academics never renounce their rights. Academics who post to ResearchGate first have to sign the terms and conditions. The VSNU calls on authors always to inform themselves carefully about what they are signing; it is up to the authors to make responsible decisions. Providing clear information is essential to help them do so. Authors can always pose any questions to the university library.

Open access scholarly books more closely read and more frequently cited

A study carried out by Springer Nature supports the claim that open access scholarly books are being read more closely as well as being cited and shared more frequently. In the gold model for open access, there is a sevenfold increase in book downloads and books are cited twice as often compared to traditional models. Several funders and academics were involved with the study. They argued that the impact was greater and that open access publication is an ideologically cogent way of making knowledge available to everybody. According to Springer Nature, continued research into open access is desired in order for effects to be measured across longer periods.

First HBOAward for open access awarded

SURF has awarded the first HBOAward for open access to Saxion for the project *Open access mogelijk maken, op weg naar Open Science (Enabling open access: the road to Open Science).* This prize was created to draw more attention to open access in higher professional education (HBO). Saxion's project aims to provide open access in the coming years to all of the research carried out at the institution, except in cases where this is truly impossible. With this Award, Saxion may style itself the 2018 champion of open access in HBO.

International developments

China
ShanghaiTech University Library, a library connected with a research university that was founded in 2013, is the first university library in China to join OA2020. This university was founded in 2013 by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in partnership with the Shanghai local authorities. The director of the library signed the 'expression of interest'.

Slovenia
The Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has issued a proposal for creating optimum conditions for scientific research in Slovenia, including open access as an important factor. With this, the ministry has joined the international effort for open access and aligned itself with the principles of open access. The proposal states that all of the research funded by the Slovenian government should be published via an open access route.

United Kingdom
Cardiff University will become an 'open access university' in its entirety. The university has modified the open access publication policy that had been in force since 2014. From now on, the university requires that the complete text of articles published by Cardiff University be uploaded to the university's online database. The university does not distinguish between articles published via the green or the gold route. The modified policy means open access through the online database will no longer be just a strong recommendation but a requirement.

Open access in the media

In a recently published study scientist Jacintha Ellers, who works at VU Amsterdam, calls for a more critical attitude towards the open access payment model. According to Ellers, publications in profitable mega journals mean developing countries are paying for Western articles in prestigious journals. She identifies the reason for this as the mutual subsidising of journals. The study has some stark things to say about the division: '*The publications in mega journals are far more often from less developed countries, which consequently contribute the funding for Western publications in prestigious journals. This is a form of academic imperialism, which was never the intention of open access.*'

OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Presentation available on open access
The European Union 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 in this field. The VSNU has also made a presentation available online.

Relevant events

4 December 2017: Pubblicare in Open Access: opportunità a regole per la ricerca universitaria – Genoa, Italy

5 December 2017: Open Access Community Workshop – York, United Kingdom

7 December 2017: Open Science In Ecologisch en Evolutionair Onderzoek – Amsterdam, Netherlands

14 – 15 December 2017: Open Education und Qualität - Zur Praxis im Umgang mit OER – Oldenburg, Germany

18 December 2017: Research Data and Open Access reporting workshop – Lancaster, United Kingdom

MORE INFORMATION

- Open access FAQs

- 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 impressive 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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