

Open access developments in the Netherlands

New government: open access and open science will be the standard!

The new [coalition agreement](#) confirms that the Netherlands will continue to pursue the open access route. The chapter on education and research describes open access as a separate item. In the agreement, the VVD, CDA, D66 and ChristenUnie parties wrote: *"Open science" and "open access" will be the standard in scientific research*'. The VSNU is curious about the new government member's efforts regarding this portfolio and will be following it closely.

10,000th open access article in accordance with the VSNU agreements

On 2 October, the [10,000th open access article](#) was published in accordance with the agreements that the VSNU made with publishers. Over the past two-and-a-half years, more and more publishers have agreed to sign open access agreements. This development has accelerated the growth in the number of open access articles published.

The very first 100% open access deal, between the publisher Springer and the Dutch universities, was signed at the end of 2014. Since then, the VSNU has struck deals about subscription fees for open access publications with various individual academic publishers. Increasing numbers of open access articles are being published in hybrid journals. These journals combine exclusive access for subscribers with the additional option of making specific articles in the journal in question accessible to non-subscribers too.

More effective utilisation of open access contracts

UKB works with Elsevier to utilise the open access contract more effectively. Elsevier sends UKB a monthly summary of publication details that shed insight into how Dutch researchers publish. The summary is used to create a targeted email campaign for each university to make articles that have been published available via open access. Evidently, authors have not always chosen this option and they are able to go ahead and give their permission. In addition, Elsevier offers workshops to interested Dutch universities to encourage researchers to publish via open access in journals included in the VSNU contract.

News from the negotiations

The negotiations with Oxford University Press that stalled earlier remain at an impasse. Although the parties are still in contact, a starting point to reconvene at the bargaining table has yet to be found. Further negotiations will be held this autumn with Wolters Kluwer, Springer, Taylor & Francis and Royal Society of Chemistry Publishing.

Wilma van Wezenbeek named open access project leader

Wilma van Wezenbeek, director of the TU Delft Library, will succeed Robert van der Vooren as Open Access [Project Leader](#) at the VSNU with effect from 1 January 2018. In recent years Van Wezenbeek has spearheaded national and international efforts to promote open access and open science. Robert van der Vooren, who was appointed Open Access Project Leader in 2014, will stay connected to the project in 2018 as an adviser.

Universities' open access policy successful

Research by the European Commission shows that open access policy actively leads to more scientific publications that are [freely accessible](#). According to the European Commission's recent report *'Data mining on key innovation policy issues for the private sector'*, researchers at universities where a special open access policy is in force make more publications freely accessible than researchers at universities without this type of policy.

Open access campaign follow-up

During the Open Access Week, a follow-up to the 'Open up to open access' campaign was launched at Dutch universities to draw more attention to open access amongst researchers. Would you like to call attention to open access? The posters and digital materials for this campaign are [freely accessible](#), of course.

International developments

Germany

Five prominent German researchers have [withdrawn](#) from performing their editorial duties for journals published by Elsevier. The researchers want Elsevier to publish all studies by German authors via open access. Additional researchers are expected to withdraw in the weeks and months ahead. This is a new step in the negotiations by Projekt DEAL. Projekt DEAL wants agreements to be made Germany-wide regarding open access publishing and access to publications.

India

In [India](#), the government has launched an open data portal to provide open access to data and research data generated by the government and government-funded entities. The Indian government believes it is important to make more data publicly accessible in cases where individuals or social institutions potentially stand to gain from it.

United Kingdom

Universities in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands want to [continue to work closely](#) after the Brexit. To this end, the Universities UK and VSNU umbrella organisations have signed a joint statement issuing an appeal to the governments to continue to facilitate this cooperation. The umbrella organisations want to maintain a high level of exchange with respect to both scientists and students. Dutch and British knowledge organisations work together in more than 1,000 projects within the European Horizon 2020 programme. Horizon 2020 is striving to achieve an open access publishing rate of 100% for all scientific articles by 2020.

Open access in the media

In an [article on the company's website](#), Elsevier presents a vision on the future of open access and possible models. The European Commission has expressed the wish to achieve 100% open access publication of articles by 2020. However, according to Elsevier there is no worldwide consensus on the best model for open access publishing. In Europe, the switch to 100% open access via the gold route is the most obvious choice based on the contracts with publishers and prioritisation in policy. In countries such as Japan, the United States and China, the green open access route is preferred. Elsevier indicates that a regional approach has the highest chance of success because this allows different parts of the world to make the transition to open access at their own pace. For example, one method to achieve this is to make European articles public within Europe via the golden route and via the green route outside the region. This article garnered many responses from the scientific community. The responses confirmed that a global consensus on the best open access model is lacking. The proposed regional approach lacks ambitions, according to opponents.

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

2 November 2017: [This is What Open Access Looks Like!](#) – Santa Barbara, US

6 November 2017: [Collection Development and Open Access Preconference](#) – Charleston, US

8 November 2017: [The Open Researcher: Increasing the Impact and Visibility of Your Work](#) – Indiana, US

11 – 13 November 2017: [OpenCon 2017](#) – Berlin, Germany

21 November 2017: [CPD Workshop: Open Access, Open Monographs, Open Data, Open Peer Review: Overview of a Disruptive Technology](#) – London, UK

25 November 2017: [OpenCon 2017 Santiago](#) – Santiago, Chile

30 November - 1 December 2017: [DI4R 2017](#) – Brussels, Belgium

MORE INFORMATION

- [Open access FAQs](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- www.vsnunl.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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