

## Open access developments in the Netherlands

### Costs of an open access publication versus traditional publication

Leo Waaijers, the former university librarian who was able to find out how much Dutch universities pay publishers by submitting a request under the Government Information (Public Access) Act, has analysed the contracts of the four largest publishers. According to an earlier study by the Max Planck Society, the transition from the traditional subscription model to open access through offsetting deals can be realised within the existing library budgets. Waaijers made this calculation for the Netherlands. The current average price per scholarly article, using the old reading model, ranges from €3800 to €5000, according to the Max Planck Society. Based on the contract information, Waaijers arrived at an average price of €4000 per open access article published in Elsevier through the offsetting deals. This is lower than the average amount for scholarly publications. The costs of an open access publication within the offsetting deals are considerably higher at Elsevier than at other publishers. For example, Springer receives an average of €1300 per article. Waaijers [writes about this](#) in Science Guide: *'This supports the Max Planck Society's position that a complete transition to open access can be covered by the existing library budgets.'* According to the VSNU, the average amount of €4000 that Elsevier charges per published article is much too high. Dr Ralf Schimmer, affiliated with the Max Planck Digital Library, [has the following comments](#): *'All the available evidence that has been published or discussed in various reports [points consistently to a predicted APC level of well below €2000 in a purely open access scenario.'](#)*

### OpenUP

The University of Amsterdam's Sociology Department, the Institute for Information Law (iViR) and the UVA Library have been jointly awarded a Horizon 2020 grant for the OpenUP project. [OpenUP](#) stands for *'Opening up new innovative methods, indicators and tools for peer review, dissemination of research results, and impact measurement.'* The project was launched last year and will run for two years. OpenUP involves nine partners from seven countries. In the meantime, an [OpenUP Hub](#) has been added: an open, dynamic and collaborative knowledge environment that systematically categorises research results. The Hub is open to the public.

### Open access and public health

I&O Research and Berenschot have [issued a recommendation](#) on open access in the health sector, which they were commissioned to research by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. According to I&O Research and Berenschot, a great deal of knowledge is currently being circulated in expensive journals where it remains largely inaccessible to many interested parties – including scientists outside universities, end users such as patients and patient associations, health foundations and doctors. Open access must change this in order for the latest scientific knowledge to also benefit society at large. Consequently, their recommendation is for the ministry to join the initiative to achieve 100% open access publication by 2020. Minister Schippers presented the report to the House of Representatives and assumes that it will contribute to achieving the open access ambitions.

### Jaap Winter retires as open access negotiator

Jaap Winter's term as [President of the Executive Board](#) of VU Amsterdam ends 1 December 2017. Winter decided to decline a second term. In retiring from the presidency, he also steps down as negotiator for open access. In an interview with [Advalvas](#), a VU online platform, he shared the following: *'Data and articles must be accessible to everyone. This is important because research is conducted using public funds. That's why it's also important that negotiations with publishers are conducted at the highest level, by university administrators. So having me keep doing it is not the obvious choice.'* Koen Becking, President of the Executive Board of Tilburg University, will take over Winter's role as chief open access negotiator.

## International developments

### Norway

The [Norwegian](#) government has drawn up new guidelines for open access. All publicly funded scholarly articles must be freely accessible by 2024. Institutions, researchers and sponsors are encouraged to contribute to meeting this target.

### Denmark

[Aarhus University](#) has set up an 'open patent-free playground': an open science platform where researchers and companies publish their findings and data, patent-free and accessible to everyone. This should enable companies and universities to benefit more from one another's knowledge and technology.

### Germany

There is still [no agreement](#) between a large number of German universities and Elsevier. Consequently, German researchers have been denied access to articles in Elsevier publications for months. With negotiations still showing no sign of progress, German universities are preparing for life without Elsevier.

### Australia

In [Australia](#), many textbooks have been made available in open access format for the sake of reducing student drop-out rates. Financial pressure is one of the leading causes of dropping out amongst students in Australia. The use of open access textbooks was tested in a number of degree programmes. According to test results, student drop-out rates were lower and average academic performance was better, too.

## Open access in the media

An [advance publication](#) of an international study in *PeerJ* indicates that the share of open access publications continues to grow. This growth is largely due to the gold and green publications. The authors also studied the open access 'citation advantage'. Compared to the world average, 'closed' publications behind a paywall are cited 10% less often on average. Gold open access publications are cited even less often: 12% less than average. Green and hybrid publications are cited 33% and 31% more often than average. The article also describes an additional open access publication strategy referred to as the 'bronze' method: articles listed as free-to-read on the publisher's website without an explicit open access designation. According to the article, this 'bronze' method is the most commonly used route to publishing 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 Association of Universities in the Netherlands 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](#).

### Upcoming events

**2 – 3 October 2017:** [NFAIS Open Access Conference](#) – Alexandria, US

**10 October 2017:** [Getting Published in Open Access Journals - A Panel Discussion](#) – Iowa City, US

**12 - 13 October 2017:** [OpenCon LatAm 2017](#) – New Mexico, Mexico

**16 October 2017:** [Open access: New contents, new relations, new horizons.](#) – Lisbon, Portugal

**23 October 2017:** [SJSU Open Access Conference 2017: \(Re\)Placing Open: Assessing the Current OA Landscape.](#) – San Jose, US

**24 – 30 October 2017:** [International Open Access Week](#) – Activities held worldwide

**24 October 2017:** [Open Access Geospatial Data](#) – New Hampshire, US

**27 October 2017:** [Open Access Symposium 2017](#) – Stony Brook, US

## MORE INFORMATION

- [Open access FAQs](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- [www.vsnu.nl/openaccess](http://www.vsnu.nl/openaccess)
- [www.openaccess.nl](http://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.

### Tips or suggestions?

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