

Everything you need to know about open access and the 'big deal' negotiations with the major

NEWS

List of Elsevier journals announced

Koen Becking (Tilburg University), Gerard Meijer (Radboud University Nijmegen), Jaap Winter (VU Amsterdam) and the directors of the Dutch university libraries are holding negotiations with publishers on subscription fees for academic journals. The universities are only prepared to renew current subscription agreements if publishers take steps towards facilitating open access.

Agreement with Elsevier about list of open access journals

The Dutch universities and Elsevier have reached an agreement about the package of journals in which open access publication is possible with no additional fee. The selection was based on in-depth analysis. Subject domains with a relatively mature open access culture were examined and the distribution was geared to a limited number of different domains in order to avoid fragmentation and reduce the administrative burden. The advice was therefore to focus on the Nature and Health domains, and Elsevier put forward a proposal which matched the intended Dutch publication volume. This proposal was checked for optimum distribution across the universities and its quality and impact.

Click [here](#) to find out which titles are covered by the agreement. Click [here](#) for more information about this list.

Open access publishing launched at Wiley

Thanks to the [agreement](#) between the Dutch universities and Wiley, open access publishing will be possible starting 4 March 2016. This means that, as from this date, authors with a Dutch affiliation can opt to have their articles published open access at no additional cost. The authors will themselves have to specifically request open access publishing during the publishing process. Open access publishing will be possible in 1,400 hybrid journals (see the link on [openaccess.nl](#)) which come under the 'big deal contract' (covering 1,500 journals) agreed between the Dutch universities and Wiley, and is in line with the grant conditions imposed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

Nearly 2,000 open access articles published at Springer in 2015

When the open access agreement between Springer and the Dutch universities took effect in January 2015, researchers with a Dutch affiliation could publish their articles open access at no additional cost. In the first year, almost 2,000 articles written by Dutch researchers were published open access. They are available to the public, without the need for subscriptions or special privileges. Springer also increased the number of journals offering open access publishing to 1,684.

Sign the Max Planck petition to support open access!

The Berlin-based Max Planck Gesellschaft has started a worldwide [petition](#) calling for widespread implementation of open access. In the Netherlands, VSNU, the Dutch consortium of thirteen university libraries and the National Library of the Netherlands (UKB) and NWO have already signed this petition. You too can sign it, by clicking [here](#).

Europe divided over green and gold routes

In a recent [report](#) of the European Commission, an overview was published of the open access policies pursued by the various European countries. Notably, the Member States are divided as to whether the approach route to open access should be green or gold. The following countries prefer the green route: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. While these countries are in favour of the gold route: Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Germany, France, Croatia, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and Finland support both.

Open access in the media

Last month, VSNU published the [E-zine](#), in which it described how the Netherlands acquired its position as a model country in the transition to open access and what makes the Netherlands' approach so different. The E-zine is also available in [English](#).



Quote

"I got email from high school teacher (unfamiliar with academia) begging me for a PDF for her class, embarrassed she couldn't afford \$40."

Tweet by academic Kathy Newman ([@cenewman0](#)), implicitly condemning the monetary barriers to accessing academic articles.

Scientists, speak out!

The issue of open access is currently being debated by universities, publishers, on Twitter, in various discussion forums and at symposiums. We would like to invite the academic community, in particular, to make its voice heard. [Prof. Levi](#), [Prof. Meijer](#) and [Prof. Valkenburg](#) have already done so.

#openaccess



OPEN ACCESS CALENDAR

Recap and events

On 21 and 22 March the workshop 'Removing Barriers: A Global Implementation Plan for Open Access Scholarly Publishing' was held. State Secretary Dekker kicked off the event. Over 50 chairs and experts of research funding bodies, universities and publishers shared their experiences and ideas about worldwide implementation of open access policies during the workshop, which was organised by NWO in cooperation with the Global Research Council.

Events of interest:

4-5 April 2016: [Open Science Conference](#) – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

5 April 2016: [Designing and shaping open science](#) – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

16-17 May 2016: [18th International Conference on Open Access](#) – Montreal, Canada

17 May 2016: [Green Light for Open Access](#) – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

19-20 May: [Open access at the tipping point](#) – Denton, TX

21-22 September 2016: [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#) – Arlington, VA

MORE INFORMATION

- [Frequently Asked Questions on open access](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- www.vsnu.nl/openaccess
- www.openaccess.nl

Publication details

The Open Access Newsletter is a publication of the VSNU, in collaboration with the 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?

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