



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

19-05-2016

## NEWS

### Open access agreements with smaller publishers

*Koen Becking (Tilburg University), Gerard Meijer (Radboud University Nijmegen), Jaap Winter (Vrije Universiteit 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 the publishers take steps towards open access.*

### Karger concludes open access agreement

Alongside the negotiations between the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the eight largest publishing houses, UKB and SURF also conducted negotiations with other publishers. These efforts have recently resulted in positive outcomes of negotiations with three publishing houses. Negotiations with Karger, a Swiss medical publishing house, led to an agreement regarding open access. The agreement means that 250 articles per year can be published as open access at no extra cost. This figure corresponds to the average number of publications in recent years. One particular aspect of the agreement is that it is not limited to hybrid journals – complete open access journals are also covered by the terms of the arrangement. The universities which are able to benefit from this agreement are those institutes with a university medical centre (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, University of Groningen, Maastricht University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Utrecht University) as well as Tilburg and Wageningen. Radboud University has indicated that it wishes to continue its own licence. However, there is a provision in the agreement that allows for Radboud University to take part in the arrangement at a later date if desired.

### Successful negotiations with Emerald and Walter de Gruyter as well

An agreement has also been concluded with the publishing houses Emerald and Walter de Gruyter. In the case of Emerald, vouchers will be distributed that enable authors to publish as open access. This will amount to 15 vouchers in 2016, 30 in 2017 and 45 in 2018. These vouchers can be used for all periodicals issued by Emerald and can be requested via the open access contact person at the library of the respective institute. The contact person will then submit a request to Emerald. The agreement with Walter de Gruyter is as follows. Authors

### Open access in the media: challenging the utility and necessity of open access

Critical voices are increasingly coming to the fore in the discussion about open access. UNESCO-COAR, for example, released a joint [statement](#) pleading for institutes with a lower budget to be taken into consideration (such as in developing countries). They also warn against too much focus being placed on the international publishing industry and encourage people to focus on ways to keep article processing charges to a minimum.

Another critical view was voiced by opinion leader Leonid Schneider. In his [blog](#), Schneider criticises proponents of the gold route to open access. Publishers have indicated that this route will be more expensive than the current system, and Schneider criticises 'rich Western institutions' such as VSNU and the German Max Planck Society for ignoring this fact. In response, Jeffrey Mackie-Mason published a [blog post](#) on the website of the University of Berkeley that attempts to refute the critical points set out by Schneider.

### Quote

*'Future economic value and future solutions to global challenges will not come from keeping data locked away. They will come from opening up data to the people who can turn it from a raw material into a distilled resource; they will come from [...] investing in open data infrastructure that will place us at the forefront of the 4th industrial revolution.'*

European Commissioner Carlos Moedas during the 'Digitising European Industry' conference in Hannover (April

can publish as open access at a 90% discount in the journals for which the institute at which the author works has a subscription. The 10% fee is paid at the start of the following calendar year. This bill is sent via SURFmarket to the library of the institution. The library then charges this amount to the relevant faculty or researcher.

### SCOAP3 celebrates 10,000<sup>th</sup> publication

The Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics (SCOAP3), a worldwide partnership of 3,000 libraries and research institutions from 47 countries, recently celebrated its 10,000<sup>th</sup> [publication](#). More than 18,000 authors from around 90 countries have been able to utilise the option to publish as open access. These articles can all be viewed via the SCOAP3 [repository](#). Thanks to the success of the SCOAP3 initiative, it has been extended for a further [three years](#).

### International developments

At the annual Consortium Day organised by the Finnish [FinELib](#), the VSNU gave a presentation about how Dutch universities negotiated with publishing houses to conclude several far-reaching open access deals. Institutions in [Finland](#) are also aiming to promote open access, with negotiations taking place with publishers to that effect. In this context, the Dutch process is being put forward as a possible example for other universities to follow.

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### Scientists, speak out!

Discussions about open access are taking place at universities and publishers, on Twitter, in various discussion forums and during symposiums. We would like to welcome researchers in particular to have their say about open access. [Professor Levi](#), [Professor Meijer](#) and [Professor Valkenburg](#) have already paved the way for you.

#openaccess



### E-zine about open access

The e-zine describes how the Netherlands has consolidated its position as a model country in the field of open access and sets out the unique aspects of the Dutch approach to the issue. The e-zine is also available in [English](#).



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## OPEN ACCESS CALENDAR

The Pasteur4OA conference took place in Amsterdam on 17 May. During this conference, attendees discussed how to implement open access more effectively at universities in a European context. An in-depth report of the conference is available to view [here](#).

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## Colophon

The open access newsletter is a publication of VSNU, in collaboration with the various 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,

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**Events of interest:**

**19-20 May 2016:** [Open access at the tipping point](#) – Denton, United States

**7-9 June 2016:** [International Conference on Electronic Publishing](#) – Göttingen, Germany

**14-16 June 2016:** [WissKom 2016](#) – Jülich, Germany

**3-7 September 2016:** [45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Beth](#) – Helsinki, Finland

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

**28-30 September 2016:** [D14R 2016](#) – Krakow, Poland

**MORE INFORMATION**

- [Frequently Asked Questions on open access](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)

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knowledge partners, politicians and the media.

**Tips or suggestions?**

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