



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

16-06-2016

NEWS

Europe also chooses for open access

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.

ACS and VSNU opt for 100% open access

The American Chemical Society's Publications Division (ACS) and the Dutch universities, united in the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU), have reached an agreement on open access. From 2017, all new articles submitted by an author affiliated with a Dutch university or participating research institution can be published under open access without extra costs for the author.

'It's the first time that an American publisher is switching to 100% open access with Dutch universities,' says Gerard Meijer, chief negotiator on behalf of VSNU. 'Both in terms of quality and quantity, ACS is a giant in the field of chemistry. For their part, Dutch universities are leaders in the chemical sciences. With this agreement we and ACS are continuing our relationship by assuming a leadership role in the area of open access.' You can find further details about the deal [here](#).

European science ministers: 100% open access from 2020

After 2020 all scientific articles must be published under open access. This decision was made by the science ministers of the EU during the European Council, which took place in late May under the presidency of the Netherlands. Open access has been a policy spearhead during the Dutch presidency of the EU. The Netherlands hands over the presidency to Slovakia at the end of this month. The VSNU is also enthusiastic about the [conclusions](#). 'This is a great moment. Not only are the ministers saying that open access is unavoidable, but that there is no reason to delay it any longer,' according to Gerard Meijer, chief negotiator with the publishers on behalf of the VSNU. In order to accelerate the process, VSNU employees involved in the negotiations are currently giving presentations throughout Europe to share knowledge with negotiation teams in other countries

Disagreement between LERU and STM on EU's open access plans

The International Association for Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), the umbrella organisation of scientific publishers, voiced criticism of the EU agreement on their website one day after it was announced. [According to the STM](#), the intention to enable 100% open access from 2020 is full of snags. The STM claims there is no clarity regarding the system (green or gold), the deadline (2020) is too tight and the agreement is unenforceable.

This criticism was the subject of a [robust rebuttal](#) by the League of European Research Universities (LERU), which referred to the STM criticism as '2,5 pages of nonsense'. The STM came back with a [more detailed document](#) in which they further elaborate their position regarding the agreement.

Quote

'A system where publishers earn money with publicly funded research through expensive journals is not sustainable. The Dutch universities have shown the results of a firm and joint advocacy for changing the system. Under pressure from the universities publishers have made a historic step toward open access'.

Prof. dr. Bert van der Zwaan, rector magnificus Utrecht University

Their aim is to establish 100% open access as quickly as possible.

International developments

Following the 'Cancer MoonShot 2020' initiative that President Obama referred to in his most recent State of the Union address, his vice-president Joe Biden launched an open access [database](#) this month that facilitates the sharing of genomic and clinical data between researchers, thereby aiding them to fight cancer more effectively. 'This is great news in the fight against cancer,' said [Biden](#). 'With the launch of this database, everyone now has free access to the raw data of 12,000 patients – with more to follow. Since more researchers will have quick and direct access to these data, we will be able to discover patterns faster and thus accelerate the development of life-saving treatments for patients'.

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.



OPEN ACCESS CALENDAR

Check out this [video impression](#) of the Pasteur40A conference held in Amsterdam last month.

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, knowledge partners, politicians and the media.

Tips or suggestions?

GREEN LIGHT FOR OPEN ACCES: Aligning Europe's OA Policies

17-18 May 2016, Amsterdam

Email openaccess@vsnu.nl.

Registration and cancellation

To register for this newsletter please use this [online form](#).

To cancel your subscription, send an email to openaccess@vsnu.nl or use the 'unsubscribe' link in the footer.

Relevant upcoming events

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

3 – 7 September 2016: [45th 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](#)
-

