



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

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NEWS

Last open access newsletter in this academic year

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.

Open access agreement between Taylor & Francis and VSNU

The VSNU and Taylor & Francis Group, one of the eight largest academic publishers in the Netherlands, have reached an agreement on open access. The new licence package for 2016 and 2017 means that researchers connected with a Dutch institution will be able to publish OA in all Taylor & Francis and Routledge hybrid journals at no cost to themselves.

Last month, under the Dutch presidency of the EU, the European Research Ministers expressed the ambition to publish all academic articles open access starting in 2020. 'This deal, which includes concrete agreements on universal open access, brings us a step closer to the goal of 100%,' according to Jaap Winter, principal negotiator on behalf of the VSNU. 'More and more publishers are now choosing for open access. That Taylor & Francis have entered into this agreement with us is proof that the trend is irrevocably the way forward. It is a big step in the right direction.' More information on the agreement can be found on the [website](#) of the VSNU.

Putting the European ambitions into practice

During the Dutch presidency, the European research ministers formulated the ambition that all scientific publications should be 100% open access by 2020. In order to translate this ambition into practice, the VSNU, Neth-ER and the European University Association (EUA) organised the seminar 'Open Access, What's Next?'. The speakers were [Robert van der Vooren](#) (VSNU) and Johannes Vogel ([Open Science Policy Platform](#)). There was also an international panel that outlined the perspective of publishers, universities and the government. The four main conclusions:

1. We should not be asking ourselves 'why do we want open access', but 'how do we make open access a reality'.
2. The transition to open access should take place both from the base (bottom-up) and from the top (top-down).
3. There should be a good dialogue between the various stakeholders in order to get things going. This dialogue

Publishers benefit from open access?

In the critical article '[Open access: All human knowledge is there – why can't everybody access it](#)' by Ars Technica, Glyn Moody gives a detailed historical overview of the struggle for open access. According to Moody, publishers are tightening their grip on all fronts. With the gold, green and hybrid models publishers are able to keep their large profit margins, leading to high costs for scientific articles. Moody says the EU's goal to make open access a reality by 2020 can lead to the costly hybrid open access system. He believes the Dutch 'big deals' have the same problem. According to Moody, the solution lies in the progress of digital technology. Digital technology will eventually make it impossible for large publishers to resist the open access revolution. The question remains whether publishers will collaborate on the digital version of open access or whether they will continue to resist.

Prof. Martin Eve also discusses this problem. In his [blog](#) he makes the case for 'consortial funding' as an alternative to the article processing charges, but he argues that this will not cause prices to go down.

Quote

'The accessibility of science is important for everyone: for students and for society. In this way, scientific information will become available to all.'

Jan Sinnige, chair of the Dutch National Students' Association (*Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg*, ISO)

'Open Access to scientific publications is a good step towards increasing the availability of knowledge. In the 21st-century knowledge landscape it makes

should not just be about the results, but also about the system as a whole.

4. Sitting back now will lead to uncertainty. This is why politics and science should become active now. You will find a report [here](#).

International: open access for the rest of Europe

The Netherlands is at the forefront of open access and is eager to share its knowledge in the field with other countries. In the past months, the members of the negotiating teams of the VSNU and UKB have travelled through Europe to share knowledge about open access. The map below shows where they have done so.



Last open access newsletter in this academic year

The coming weeks no negotiations take place between the VSNU and publishers about open access agreements. Therefore, we won't publish an open access newsletter next month. In September we will continue with the newsletter. We wish you a pleasant summer.

sense to make socially relevant research available in a different way than it used to be, when publishers played a greater role. It is satisfying that Dutch universities have taken the lead in this development.'

Jarmo Berkhout, chair of the Dutch Student Union (*Landelijke Studentenvakbond, LSVb*)

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.

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

Presentation about open access available

Open access is an international movement. Although contracts with publishers are signed at the national level, scientific knowledge knows no geographic boundaries. This is why the VSNU is also working for open access internationally. Robert van der Vooren, open access project leader at the VSNU, on open access and contracts: 'The EU has formulated the ambition that all scientific publications should be 100%

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?

Email openaccess@vsnu.nl.

open access by 2020. Partly in view of this, we are giving presentations in the EU about Dutch open access policy, which is internationally seen as being ahead of that of other countries'. The VSNU has made a [presentation](#) about this available online.

Relevant upcoming events

15 July 2016: Open Access Good Practice Summer Series: [Cost Management](#) – Bath, UK

15 – 17 July 2016: [Open Knowledge Leaders Program](#) – Berlin, Germany

3 – 7 September 2016: [45th General Assembly of Beth](#) – Helsinki, Finland

9 September 2016: [Reproducible Open Science](#) – Hannover, Germany

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

28 – 30 September 2016: [D14R 2016](#) – Kraków, Poland

7 – 8 October 2016: [Copyright and the circulation of knowledge](#) – Paris, France

10 – 11 October 2016: [Open Access to Scientific Information](#) – Munich, Germany

13 – 14 October 2016: [Open access and evaluation of research](#) – Toulouse, France

26 October 2016: [Open access, open data, open science](#) – London, UK

MORE INFORMATION

- [FAQs about open access](#)
- [Open access fact sheet](#)
- www.vsnu.nl/openaccess
- www.openaccess.nl

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