



29-09-2016

Progress of open access in the Netherlands

A look back at the summer

Once again, the opening of the academic year has come and gone. Kristel Baele, President of the Executive Board, opened the academic year at Erasmus University with an address. In her speech, Baele mentioned that Erasmus University plans to introduce a proposal on digital academic policy later this year. Erasmus University wishes to make online education open in order to facilitate the growth of students in the international marketplace and to make science more accessible.

This summer, the Netherlands' term as president of the EU came to an end. During the Dutch presidency, two concrete European objectives were formulated in connection with the Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science.

1. Full open access for all publicly funded scientific publications in 2020;
2. Exchange and reuse of data, open or otherwise, relating to all publicly funded research.

If we are to achieve our aims, it is of the utmost importance that we undertake active efforts in that regard.

Last summer, a so-called WOB request was submitted to the Dutch universities under the Government Information (Public Access) Act. The universities were asked to provide information on money they spend on licensing agreements in exchange for the publication of articles in scientific publications. Once the results of the WOB request are made public, this newsletter will devote attention to them in upcoming issues.

Open Access Week

International Open Access week will be held from 24 through 30 October. The theme for the week is 'Open in Action'. This theme is intended to get various parties involved in open access, encouraging them to take concrete steps towards implementation. Scientists will be called upon to publish their work in open access and to urge their colleagues to do the same. Further information on Open Access Week is available at this [website](#).

Politics takes a turn

As part of the state opening of Parliament on *Prinsjesdag*, the budget for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science was also presented. The document contains references to the Dutch presidency of the EU and the major steps towards realising open access that have been taken in the past six months. In the year to come, the agreements that have been reached must be incorporated

International developments

Europe

In Europe, the Commission High Level Expert Group on the European Open Science Cloud (HLEG EOSC) is focusing on a study of open science. In the fall, the first of their reports on developments relating to open science will be released.

Finland

Finland, like the Netherlands, is a front runner when it comes to open access. In 2014, the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture published a [roadmap](#). The Finnish vision for 2017 is to allow free use of research data by various scientists, businesses and stakeholders from a conviction that doing so will promote unexpected discoveries and creative insights.

United Kingdom

In 2015, the UK Minister for Universities and Science tasked the chair of that country's Open Access Co-ordination Group with drafting a report on the implementation of open access. This [report](#) was made public at the beginning of this year. Their study showed that 19% of all research conducted in the UK in 2015 was published in open access, nearly always through the 'gold route'. In a reaction to the study, the British minister expressed his expectation that virtually all UK research will be published in open access in 2020.

Open access in the media

Green versus gold

In their article '[Substituting article processing charges for subscriptions: The cure is worse than the disease](#)', Shulenburg et al. express criticism of one specific model of open access, in which only the option using APCs (article processing charges) is explored. This is not the open access model the VSNU strives to implement. The negotiations in the Netherlands are viewed by other countries as belonging

into both national and international policy.

In mid-July, the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science, Sander Dekker, issued a response to a report from the Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (AWTI) on open access, which was entitled '[Durven Delen \(Dare to Share\)](#)'. In his reaction, Dekker seconds AWTI's recommendation that the government take a stronger stance in coordinating the transition to open science. The State Secretary has agreed to pen a letter on the topic of open science to the Dutch House of Representatives later this year. The letter will serve to fix a point on the horizon: a goal for open science. Dekker's missive will also address open science-related achievements to date in the Netherlands, as well as which changes will be necessary to enable further achievement in the future.

Election platforms

The first drafts of this year's election platforms have been published. GroenLinks states that scientific publications should be made freely available to all, and that the pressure to publish experienced by researchers should be alleviated. The platform of D66 also includes the notion that publicly funded scientific research should be open access and freely available to all. They therefore argue for the creation of open science platforms. No mention is made of open science or open access in the election platforms of the PVV and 50+ parties. The remaining parties have yet to publish their platforms. These platforms will be explored in greater detail in a subsequent edition of this newsletter.

to the 'pre-paid' model, in which agreements concerning subscription fees for academic journals are made with individual scientific publishers on behalf of all the Dutch universities. In contrast with the situation described in the Shulenburg article, the negotiations in the Netherlands are collective in nature: individual authors are no longer obliged to negotiate on their own behalf. If the transition is to succeed, other countries must take these same steps and the publishers of journals must at some point 'flip the switch' to open access. Various methods for 'flipping' journals to an open access model are described in the article '[Converting scholarly journals to open access: A review of approaches and experiences](#)', written by David Solomon et al., affiliated with Harvard's Digital Access to Scholarship repository.

Patent on 'Online peer review and method' for Elsevier

Elsevier has been issued a patent in the United States for its 'Online peer review and method'. This news met with a great deal of criticism from various scientific media. The Elsevier online peer review process utilises a 'waterfall' approach: when an author is rejected by a journal, he or she immediately has the opportunity to submit the same article to a different journal. The greatest objection to this patent stems from concern among the open access community that the patent will discourage open access journals from developing and applying similar peer review methods of their own.

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 AGENDA

Presentation about open access available

The EU has formulated the ambition that all scientific publications should be 100% open access by 2020. Partly in view of this, the VSNU is 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

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

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

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

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

24 – 25 October 2016: [Open Science on the move](#) – Brussels, Belgium

24 – 30 October 2016: [International Open Access week](#) – Activities held worldwide

27 October 2016: [Workshop Data management plans](#) – Berlin, Germany

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

2 November 2016: [Research Data Alliance workshop](#) – Birmingham, UK

MORE INFORMATION

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

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?

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