



All the latest on open access negotiations with the major publishing houses

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NEWS

Open access deal between universities and Elsevier takes shape

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.

Elsevier contract in the works

After concluding an agreement in principle with Elsevier last month, the VSNU has been meeting with the publisher to work out the contract provisions. Currently under discussion are details of the agreement such as the list of Elsevier journals in which researchers can publish open access at no additional cost. These meetings will be finalised shortly, after which more information will be forthcoming.

Progress on negotiations

Open access negotiations with publishers are continuing apace. With a few, such as Wiley, constructive talks have been underway for some time now regarding next steps on the road to open access. With others, talks about open access are only just beginning. Only in the negotiations with Oxford University Press has it proved impossible to reach agreement, and unfortunately we have had to renew the contract for another year without open access. However, we will continue to hold intensive talks with OUP to make open access possible in due course.

AWTI: making sense of science

In a report issued last week (*Durven delen* – or '[Dare to share](#)'), the Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (AWTI) has recommended developing a master plan that not only ensures knowledge is findable, but also makes it more coherent and comprehensible. According to the AWTI, this is necessary for knowledge to be reinvested in society and industry. 'Genuine transfer hinges on publication in popular scientific magazines, good overviews for non-specialists and platforms that can condense knowledge and put it in context. That broader

Open access in the media

Last Tuesday, Bill Gates was in the Netherlands in connection with the Dutch presidency of the EU. During a speech at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam attended by State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science Sander Dekker and the education ministers of all Member States, Gates expressed his support for open access to scientific articles. His foundation, the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation, only finances research that is published via open access.

Following the announcement of the agreement in principle with Elsevier, [nature.com](#) posted an [article](#) applauding the Netherlands for taking a lead role on open access. The article also outlined parallel developments in the rest of Europe.

Quote

'I am convinced that Open Access to scientific knowledge and Open Education will help the world forward.'

Prof. Karel Luyben, rector of TU Delft, in his speech commemorating the 174th anniversary of the university's establishment.

Scientists, speak out!

The issue of open access is currently

perspective and approach are currently lacking', explained Valerie Frissen, professor of ICT & Social Change and a member of the AWTI Advisory Committee, in an interview with the Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*.

Dutch presidency

In the first half of 2016, the Netherlands will hold the presidency of the European Union. Nether has drawn up an [overview](#) of knowledge priorities on the Dutch policy agenda, with open access taking centre stage. The [Open Science Conference](#) will be held in Amsterdam on 4 and 5 April.

International developments

Building on its 2014 open access [report](#), the International Council for Science (ICSU) has joined forces with the ISSC, IAP and TWAS to sign an [agreement](#) advocating unrestricted access to scientific data worldwide. Focused on achieving open access to research data, the resulting [accord](#) highlights initiatives all over the world and sets out 'open data principles' for scientific research.

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 shared their views.

#openaccess



OPEN ACCESS CALENDAR

Recap and events

Berlin12

[Berlin12](#), an open access conference organised by the Max Planck Gesellschaft, was held on 8 and 9 December 2015. Discussions focused on the reorganisation of the funding model for scientific publications. Public resources that are currently being used to pay subscription fees should instead be invested in funds that support open access publications. Scientific organisations and their sponsors hold the key to making this happen. A summary of new insights arising from this conference, titled *Expression of Interest*, will appear in early 2016.

During Berlin12, the Arctic University of Norway held a [presentation](#) detailing the consequences that switching from a subscription-based model to APC would have in Norway. Such a model would offer financial benefits over both the short and long run, though not for all organisations.

TU Delft opts for open access

In his [speech](#) on the occasion of TU Delft's anniversary celebration Rector Karel Luyben announced the introduction of a [new open access policy](#) as of May 2016. The new policy will make it mandatory (in principle) to add the full text of all scientific publications to the institution's own repository. TU Delft is taking this step to make scientific knowledge widely available to all users at no charge and online.

Events of interest:

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.

Registration and cancellation

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17-18 February 2016: [Open Science Days](#)
(MPDL) – Berlin, Germany

7-8 March 2016: [Sparc: Meeting on Openness in Research and Education](#) – San Antonio, USA

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

