

Progress of open access in the Netherlands

Higher professional education committed to open access

On 27 September, several universities of applied sciences joined forces to draw up an agenda for action which is to result in higher professional education (HBO) tackling open access. State Secretary Sander Dekker is a keen proponent of this development. The agenda items include the inventorying of frequently used professional journals, getting an overview of who is actively working on publications, research and open access, and promoting knowledge and information about open access. During the meeting of universities of applied sciences, Dekker again emphasised the importance of open access: *'Open access helps make the results of research more visible and fosters cooperation between institutions, businesses, authorities and research institutes. It also enhances the impact of research, both socially and economically.'*

Dies Natalis of Open University dedicated to open science

At the end of September, the Open University of the Netherlands celebrated its Dies Natalis. This year, the Dies Natalis was dedicated entirely to the topics of open data and open science. Rector Prof. Oskam LLM held that we should take a different, creative view of the evaluation and appreciation of research.

Evening of Science & Society

At the annual Evening of Science & Society (*Avond van Wetenschap & Maatschappij*) held in the Ridderzaal in The Hague, State Secretary Dekker discussed the social and economic impact of science. He called on scientists to go public more often and to share research results so that teachers, general practitioners and small businesses can also benefit from new knowledge. He went on to express his appreciation of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for their commitment to open access and their pioneering role in Europe.

Election programmes

In its election programme, the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) holds that free access to scientific publications leads to more innovation. Accordingly, the VVD wants the results of publicly funded research to be made available to the outside world so as to pioneer open knowledge sharing. The Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), the Socialist Party (SP) and the Christian Union (ChristenUnie) have not included open access in their election programmes.

Contract negotiations with Wolters Kluwer

The Dutch universities have been in talks with publishing house Wolters Kluwer for some time now to secure open access to academic publications by law scholars affiliated with universities in the Netherlands. Regrettably, no deal could be reached for the coming period. The contract that has now been concluded secures reader rights for already published articles over the 2016-2017 period. The renewal of the existing contract will give both sides a chance to hammer out a deal in the years ahead.

International developments

Germany

Research funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany [has to be published in open access in future](#). Open access champions believe the strategy does not go far enough. Researchers still have the option to publish research under embargo in a scientific journal first before it eventually also becomes available in open access. This provision makes it a valuable step towards an international open access policy, though not an innovative development.

CERN

The European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN, has [decided](#) to extend its project on making scientific studies available in open access by three years. The project involves 3,000 libraries and research organisations from 44 countries. According to Director-General of CERN Fabiola Gianotti, the project wants to give everyone in the world free access to high-quality scientific research in peer-reviewed journals.

Open access in the media

In the article [What it means to be green](#), researchers Gadd and Covey of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) identify a major problem of open access via the green route. The [research](#) conducted by the authors has shown that the number of 'green' publishers (according to RoMEO colour coding) has increased, but the number of restrictions around self-archiving has increased faster. The authors posit that the green access policy has become so complicated that authors are being forced to pay for open access via the golden route.

Lara Speicher, publishing manager at University College London Press (UCL Press), has carried out [a study](#) into whether publishing open-access books has an effect on physical book sales. Her research showed that books published in open access do not sell in lesser numbers, while they do have a greater reach as the downloaded copies have a larger readership. Additionally, publishing books in open access provides a platform to scientific books that would not have made it to the printing press because of their highly specific subject matter or because interest in the book is mainly found in social circles with limited financial means.

OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Open Access Week

Across the world, numerous meetings took place during Open Access Week under this year's theme 'Open in Action'. In the United States, the Electrochemical Society (ECS) made its digital library fully and freely accessible during Open Access Week. In this way the ECS wanted to offer the world a preview of how complete open access works.

On 27 October, the seminar 'Publish for Impact' took place in Delft, organised by the universities in Delft, Leiden and Rotterdam and OpenAIRE. The main subjects at this seminar were the importance of open access and the use of additional resources to have an impact and measure it.

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

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

2 November 2016: [Predators, "pirates" and privacy: educating researchers on new challenges in publishing](#) – Charleston, US

4 November 2016: [Workshop Increasing openness and reproducibility in quantitative research](#) – Ghent, Belgium

10 November 2016: [Where Next for Repositories?](#) – Ottawa, Canada

12 - 14 November 2016: [OpenCon 2016](#) – Washington, US

14-15 November 2016: [Asia open access summit](#) – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

16 - 17 November 2016: [Paris open source summit](#) – Paris, France

22 - 23 November 2016: [Nordic Open Science and Research Forum](#) – Helsinki, Finland

25 November 2016: [Open access et stratégie de publication](#) – Limoges, France

Deals with publishers and an insight into the results of open access

A new feature has been launched on the website www.openaccess.nl. The section 'Deals with publishers and results' on this website provides an overview of agreements that Dutch universities and university libraries have reached with publishers on the subject of open access and the number of publications that have become available as a consequence.

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](#).



MORE INFORMATION

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

Colophon

The open access newsletter is a publication of the VSNU in collaboration with the Dutch university libraries and the National Library of the Netherlands. This newsletter is intended for all people interested in open access, including researchers, university administrators, library staff, knowledge partners, politicians and media representatives.

Tips or suggestions?

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