

## Progress of open access in the Netherlands

### Favourable academic policy

The Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) has drafted an economic policy analysis regarding [favourable academic policy](#). The policy analysis specifically addresses the topic of open access publishing. The analysis also presents a clear argument for the societal benefit of open access publishing: *"From a societal standpoint, open access can be desirable as it removes obstacles to the recombination of existing stores of knowledge. This recombination may take place within sciences themselves (i.e. researchers standing on the shoulders of their predecessors), but also outside this context, such as in the example of an entrepreneur who applies scientific knowledge in the development of innovative products."*

The analysis shows that 9% of all articles are currently being published open access through the 'gold route'. A potential risk of open access publishing is also indicated in the analysis: if scientists must pay for each article published, then publishers will have a financial incentive to publish more articles. This might cause publishers to become less critical of what they publish, allowing the standard of quality for published articles to diminish.

### What is your open access score?

[Impactscore](#) has developed a tool that will show researchers what percentage of their work is freely accessible. In order to use the tool, you must have at least one academic research project listed in an open access database, as well as a Twitter account. The tool is available free of charge and is aimed at generating additional publicity for research published open access using the social media hashtag #OAScore. In 2016 to date, some 2,500 articles have been published open access throughout the Netherlands.

### Overview of open access publishing

University of Groningen Library has launched a [webpage](#) listing all deals between the University and publishers that include a section on open access. Academics can refer to this site directly to find out where they can publish their work open access for a discounted rate, or even free of charge.

### Open-access books on the rise

Simba publications has conducted a [study](#) of sales of open access books and the expected developments in that area in the period from 2016 to 2020. Whereas sales of regular books are decreasing by around 1% each year, the proceeds from books published via open access are expected to increase by some 30% annually. This is a big difference. In the humanities and social sciences, a book is considered more influential than an academic article. Books, however, are becoming increasingly difficult to sell and are being printed in ever-smaller editions. In addition, libraries tend to apply their limited budgets towards purchasing mostly medical and technical publications. According to Simba's study, this effectively edges a humanities or social science book out of the market, forcing academics in those disciplines to go in search of alternatives. To that end, open access publishing of books is an excellent and successful new option.

### Election platforms

In the last month, the *Partij voor de Dieren*, SGP, DENK and *Voor Nederland* parties have presented their election platforms. Unfortunately, these platforms make no mention of open access.

## International developments

### United Kingdom

Jisc Collections, the British organisation that conducts negotiations regarding digital content and licences on behalf of research institutions in the UK, has updated its [agreement](#) with Elsevier. This new agreement specifies that readers' access to the 1,850 articles on Elsevier's ScienceDirect e-platform will be preserved. In addition, Jisc Collections and Elsevier have stated their intent to expand their cooperation in connection with various open science projects in the future. The kind of projects this will involve is so far unclear.

### United States

[The New York Times](#) made all its analyses, commentary and reporting available to the public through open access for a period of 72 hours during the U.S. presidential election. The publisher of the New York Times, Arthur Sulzberger, stated that the election was an important moment for the country as a whole, and that there could be no better occasion for making independent journalism freely available to all.

### South Africa

The [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (ASSAf) is undertaking pro-active steps to ensure that scientific articles in South Africa are published open access whenever possible. The ASSAf recognises that open access to publicly funded research is vital to the interests of the entire South African community. In order to achieve its aim, the ASSAf has established an open digital scientific library, its own scientific journal and a number of platforms for action in connection with open access, in addition to organising various training courses relating to open access.

## Open access in the media

### "How to be an academic in the twenty-first century?"

Bianca Elena Ivanof and Caspar Addyman, both affiliated with the London School of Economics and Political Science, have organised a hackathon centred on how to succeed as an academic in the 21st century. In the [article](#) that appeared about the event, Ivanof and Addyman indicate there are plenty of things academics can do to ensure that a wider audience will be able to read their articles. The authors also state that clear language is an important starting point for these efforts. Academics will then, with a minimum of added effort, be able to publish their work in open databases and generate attention for the articles using social media. These media are an easy, accessible channel for establishing contact with fellow researchers all around the world, while also providing immediate insight into the impact of a study.

### 100 open access success stories

At the end of Open Access Week in October, an [article](#) was published containing 100 stories that illustrate the relevance of open access. For instance: an oncologist in Moscow was able to design a successful treatment plan for a patient based on research published open access. A student at Claremont-McKenna topped Google search results after her article was downloaded some 148,000 times. And a family member of a soldier who died in the American Civil War was able to locate the final resting place of a long-dead relative thanks to publicly accessible articles about the battle of Gettysburg.

## 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 also made a presentation about this [available online](#).

### Relevant upcoming events

**1 December 2016:** [Open Data Science Symposium](#)

– North Bethesda, United States

**1 – 2 December 2016:** [Seminar: "The transition to open access: strategies and impacts"](#) - Lausanne, Switzerland

**2 December 2016:** [Open knowledge awards](#) – Stockholm, Sweden

**4 - 5 December 2016:** [Open access symposium 2016](#) – Cape Town, South Africa

**5 – 9 December 2016:** [International Forum 2016: "Knowledge, information and data in open access society"](#) – Tsukuba, Japan

**6 December 2016:** [An academic library and open science](#) – Vilnius, Lithuania

**19 December 2016:** [Workshop: "Ten reasons to make your research data open"](#) - Utrecht, the Netherlands

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## 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](#).



## 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?

Email [openaccess@vsnu.nl](mailto:openaccess@vsnu.nl).

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