



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

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## NEWS

### Negotiations starting again

*Koen Becking (Tilburg University), Gerard Meijer (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen) and Jaap Winter (VU University Amsterdam) are currently negotiating with publishers about subscriptions to academic journals. The universities are only prepared to renew current subscription agreements if the publishers take steps towards open access. An overview of the latest negotiation developments per publisher:*

#### Negotiations

Having been suspended for the summer, negotiations on open access have now resumed and the first meetings with Elsevier have taken place. Meetings with several other publishers will follow after the summer. The aim is to take the next step towards open access to enable everyone to make online use of the results of publicly funded research.

#### Academic year opening focuses on innovation and ambition

At the beginning of the week, universities across the Netherlands opened the new academic year. On that occasion, besides the Rectores Magnifici expressing their expectations and aspirations for the coming academic year, several public figures from the government and broader society were also offered a platform. Speakers included State Secretary Dekker in Eindhoven, Minister Bussemaker in Utrecht, Robbert Dijkgraaf in Delft and Daan Roosegaarde in Wageningen. Common themes included ambition and excellence. Many speeches touched on the elements necessary to enable ambition and excellence, in relation to both research and education. In Eindhoven, Dekker emphasised the importance of collaboration and knowledge development within the academic community. He observed that the greatest technical and scientific innovations are founded on collaboration. However, collaboration is only possible if you share your knowledge, not only with fellow scientists but with society at large. That is why the State Secretary is committed to open access, in order to render scientific knowledge accessible to the public.

#### FP7 researchers can publish Gold Open Access after all

The European Commission has launched a pilot enabling researchers whose project funding period has ended to still apply for funding to publish their research results in an Open Access journal. The projects concerned are FP7 research projects, the funding period of which ended less than two years ago. Sixteen NWO projects received FP7 funding. Read the full article [here](#)

## Open access in the media

[Science Guide](#) recently published an article on the sale by Pearson of the *Financial Times* and *The Economist*. Pearson plans to invest the enormous capital receipts from this sale of 'dead trees' entirely in new knowledge products for R&D, Higher Education, Life-Long Learning and scientific disciplines. This has everything to do with ultra-rapid developments in the field of 'big data' and the open access digitisation of sources and research results. The continued existence and relevance of the 'traditional media' for science - the raison d'être of such companies as Pearson and Elsevier - can no longer be taken for granted in this age of the 'Internet of things' and the EU, which principally assumes that all R&D it finances will become available through open science and open access.

The website [www.openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl) has been redesigned! It features all the latest news on open access as well as tips and advice on open access publishing.

By means of a legal trial a Swiss inhabitant succeeded in breaking down the 'non-disclosure barriers' in the contracts with publishers. The [ETH Zurich](#) therefore had to give away the details of the contracts with Elsevier, Wiley and Springer. These details are interesting in light of the negotiations on open access with scientific publishers and the arguments used by publishers in these negotiations.

Familiar with Twitter? Follow and engage in the debate on [#openaccess](#)

## Quote

'And then the articles which you publish must be accessible. To everyone. If teachers, doctors or start-ups want to use scientific knowledge, they come up against paywalls

Knowledge produced with public money is simply not available to that same public. And that is an obstacle to partnerships. To excellence. And ultimately to innovation.

I do everything I can to make sure scientific publications become open access in the future. Because if we want to be excellent as a country and apply new knowledge, we must ensure that such knowledge is freely available.'

State Secretary Sander Dekker during the opening of the academic year at Eindhoven University of Technology.

## Scientists, speak out!

The issue of open access is currently being debated by universities, publishers, on Twitter and at various debate forums and symposiums.

We would like to invite the academic community to make its voice heard.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Scientists, score your journal

Quality Open Access Market – [QOAM](#) – is an academia sourced marketplace for open access publishing. Scientists and libraries assess open access and hybrid journals via Journal Score Cards. These Cards provide insight into the price/quality ratio of open access publications. In the run-up to Open Access Week (22-29 October) authors of open access articles will be asked to fill in a Valuation Score Card for the journal in which their article was published. In this way, QOAM aims to contribute to a well-informed market for open access publishing.

[Open access FAQ](#)  
[Open access fact sheet](#)

### Relevant events:

**15-17 September 2015:** [Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing \(COASP\)](#) – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

**22-23 October 2015:** [Symposium Designing Comprehensive Open Knowledge Policies to Face Climate Change](#) – Vienna, Austria

**19-25 October 2015:** [Open Access Week](#) – worldwide

**14-16 November 2015:** [OpenCon](#) – Brussels,

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## 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](mailto:openaccess@vsnu.nl).

### Registration and cancellation

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Belgium

**18-20 November 2015:** [OpenEd15](#): The impact of Open - Vancouver, Canada

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