



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

12-03-2015

## NEWS

### Negotiations: small steps are taken but there is still a long road ahead

*Koen Becking (Tilburg University) and Gerard Meijer (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen) 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:*

#### **Elsevier: no negotiations**

Negotiations with Elsevier have stalled. Elsevier is only willing to move towards open access if the universities pay for both the right to read and publish articles. This would not be feasible in budgetary terms.

#### **Springer: an international example**

The Dutch universities' agreements with Springer seem to offer a source of inspiration for other countries, as we are receiving a great many questions about the details of these agreements.

#### **Wiley: a cautious first step**

Wiley recently sent a new proposal to the negotiating team. Wiley supports the idea of eschewing additional payments for open access publication in subscription-based journals. Although this would appear to be a first, cautious step towards open access, it remains to be seen whether such measures will suffice. The proposal is currently being assessed in-depth.

#### **Oxford University Press: new proposal**

OUP also sent a new proposal to the negotiators. However, the proposal hardly contains any steps towards open access. The negotiating team is currently assessing its contents.

#### **Sage: a small step**

Sage has also submitted a proposal. However, this plan is not yet far-reaching enough, and negotiations are still ongoing.

## Open access in the media

Noteworthy media items over the past period included the [four videos](#) on open access published by Norway's **University of Tromsø**. In the short films, researchers and students call for the open access publication of their work.

The Lower House of Dutch Parliament has adopted an [amendment](#) by Joost Taverne (VVD). The amendment to existing Dutch copyright law enshrines authors' right to publish their work in open access format. While the amendment makes mention of a 'reasonable period', it remains to be seen how this wording is interpreted in practice. The VSNU is negotiating to ensure that works become immediately accessible upon publication wherever possible.

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

## Open access restores former rights

Open access should help us reclaim the rights we formerly enjoyed in the paper era. Paradoxically enough, digital developments have reduced the accessibility of scientific publications. This trend must be reversed, in the interests of both the academic community and broader society.

*Sijbolt Noorda, open access pioneer*

The various publishers are all in different phases of negotiation. The achieved results will be submitted to the VSNU General Board on 20 March, after which a further strategic direction will be determined.

#### **400,000 open access publications in NARCIS**

[NARCIS](#), the leading national platform for scientific Open Access publications, has achieved a new milestone: a total of 400,000 open access publications are now accessible, consisting of 66,000 doctoral theses and 165,000 articles. Click [here](#) for the full article.

#### **International developments**

The Swedish Research Council has issued a report outlining guidelines for freely accessible scientific publications at the behest of the Swedish government. Click [here](#) to read the Research Council's recommendations.

In 2010, the University of Southampton published a study on the impact of open access in terms of the number of citations per publication. [SPARC Europe](#) has updated this review study.

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*Eindhoven University of Technology organised a conference on open access on 10 March entitled: 'opening up your research & results'. Attending researchers asked a great many questions on the agreements with Springer. Thankfully, Springer itself was also present to address these questions. NWO held a presentation on the open access guidelines it is currently developing. These funding guidelines also prompted a great deal of questions from the attending researchers. This aspect will be explored in greater depth in our upcoming newsletters.*

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

#### **Relevant events:**

**20-21 April 2015:** annual CRIStin spring conference – [Oslo, Norway](#)

**11-12 May 2015:** [ICOA 2015](#): XIII International Conference on Open Access – Montreal, Canada

**18-22 May 2015:** EGI Conference – [Lisbon](#), Portugal

**17-19 June 2015:** CERN workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication (OAI9), [Geneva](#), Switzerland

**24-26 June 2015:** LIBER Conference, 'Towards Open Science', [London, United Kingdom](#).

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## **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.

You can make use of the background information featured below if you wish.

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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).

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**15-21 August 2015:** IFLA World Library and Information Conference – [Cape Town, South Africa](#)

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