

Open access developments in the Netherlands

100% Open Access agreement with Cambridge University Press

The universities in the Netherlands and Cambridge University Press (CUP) have recently concluded a three-year agreement guaranteeing 100% open access to academic journals. As of June 1, researchers at Dutch universities will be able to publish articles in CUP's full open access journals via the so-called 'gold route'. This marks a significant step for the Dutch academic community, as it is the first time a publisher has opted to go down the gold route from the outset.

The agreements between CUP and the universities in the Netherlands are unique, with researchers now being able to publish in the hybrid journals as well as in the full open access journals. The agreement is the first of its kind, as never before have universities been able to negotiate an agreement with a publisher guaranteeing researchers the right to publish their articles open access directly via the gold route. Jaap Winter, President of the Executive Board of VU Amsterdam and the chief negotiator on behalf of the VSNU, commented as follows: 'It is unique that, as of June 1, all researchers at Dutch universities will have unlimited open access publication rights in the 339 CUP hybrid journals and 17 CUP full open access journals, without any additional costs for the researchers.'

No open access deal with Oxford University Press

The Dutch universities and Oxford University Press (OUP) have been unable to reach a new agreement on access to scientific journals. The VSNU's aim in the negotiations was to secure a transition to open access without Dutch academics having to pay double to access articles. However, OUP's proposal to the Dutch universities did not include provisions for affordable open access and as such was unacceptable to the Dutch universities. Compared to agreements which the VSNU has already made with other publishers, OUP's offer represented a step away from rather than closer to the goal of 100% open access in 2020. The VSNU would be happy to reopen negotiations with OUP if and when the publisher is willing to make comprehensive and fair agreements on open access. According to Jaap Winter 'Publishers can decide for themselves whether they want to go along with this development, but open access is going to become the new standard, regardless of whether or not publishers are on board.'

Launch of open access campaign

On 15 May, Dutch universities launched a campaign to draw the attention of academics to the opportunities offered by open access publishing. As well as urging academics to make greater use of the opportunities offered by open access in general, the campaign gives universities the chance to focus specifically on facilities and training courses that have been developed in the context of open access. The basic materials developed for the campaign are [freely available](#) for use.

A special [open access journal browser](#) that allows academics to see which journals offer open access publication, and which arrangements (such as discounts) are in effect has also been developed.

All Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences' research results are open access

The Executive Board of [Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences \(AUAS\)](#) has decided to implement a new open access plan in accordance with the Horizon2020 guidelines. For AUAS this is an important step in its efforts to make research more accessible and user friendly. AUAS has launched a [website](#) that explains the potential of open access to researchers and offers guidance on how to publish open access articles.

International developments

United States

The American Physical Society (APS) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) have signed an agreement with the SCOAP community, the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics. Under this [agreement](#), as of 2018, authors of articles on high-energy physics will no longer have to pay for open access publishing in three leading journals of the APS. As a result, almost 90% of publications in the field of high-energy physics will be open access.

[Louisiana State University](#) (LSU) has sued Elsevier for breach of contract. Under the contract signed between LSU and Elsevier, all researchers, students and staff at LSU have access to Elsevier articles. However, since January researchers associated with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine have not had access to Elsevier articles. LSU asked Elsevier to reinstate their access but Elsevier refused. Elsevier wants LSU to pay more for its access and LSU does not want to increase the amounts that it pays.

Germany

The [negotiations](#) over open access between the German universities and Elsevier are becoming increasingly difficult. Both parties say that the other is unwilling to compromise. In the meantime, the previously restored access to Elsevier's articles has been suspended once again. The view of the German Rectors' Conference, which represents 296 higher education institutions in Germany, is clear: the agreement must stipulate that its institutions will continue to have free access to the academic work for which they have subscribed. In Elsevier's opinion, this goes too far.

Open access in the media

In a blog on the website 'In The Open', Kevin Smith says of Elsevier, '[enough is enough](#)', a statement that was prompted by the lawsuit between Louisiana State University and Elsevier. Elsevier, says Smith, assumes that every university library sets aside a large chunk of its budget for Elsevier. In Smith's opinion, universities should do the opposite and stop entering into paid agreements with Elsevier. In his blog he also refers to the decision by the VSNU Association of Universities in the Netherlands to suspend negotiations with Oxford University Press. Universities must make decisions like this more often. He also likes the fact that the VSNU points out the options available to researchers if certain agreements are not signed.

OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Presentation available on open access

The European Union has announced its ambition to achieve 100% open access to all academic publications by 2020. To support the drive towards open access, the VSNU Association of Universities in the Netherlands is giving presentations across the EU on Dutch open access policy, which is considered to be an international leader in this field. The VSNU has made a presentation about this available [online](#).

Relevant events

1 June 2017: [Open Access: Publisering og arkivering av forskning \(Publication and archiving of research\)](#) – Bergen, Norway

8-9 June 2017: [Great Lakes Resource Sharing Conference 2017](#) – Oakbrook, USA

12-16 June 2017: [Open Science in Research Libraries](#) – Rotterdam, Netherlands

12-16 June 2017: [Knowledge Exchange Week 2017](#) – Edinburgh, Scotland

14-16 June 2017: [Dataverse Community Meeting 2017](#) – Cambridge, UK

26-30 June 2017: [Open Repositories 2017 Conference](#) – Brisbane, Australia

MORE INFORMATION

- [Open access FAQs](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- www.vsnu.nl/openaccess
- www.openaccess.nl

Upgraded E-zine on open access

The upgraded E-zine describes the impact of open access publishing and the results of Dutch efforts in this area. The e-zine is also available in [English](#).



Publication details

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 anyone interested in open access, including academics, university administrators, library staff, knowledge partners, politicians and media representatives.

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