

Open access developments in the Netherlands

Elsevier and Springer must disclose open access paragraph in contract

The judge has issued a verdict in the [lawsuit](#) brought by Elsevier and Springer against the Dutch universities about disclosing the open access paragraph in their contracts. The judge has ruled that the objection of Elsevier and Springer is unfounded and that the requested information may be disclosed. The lawsuit was prompted by a joint Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the Dutch universities to find out how much they are paying publishers for open access publication of articles authored by university-affiliated researchers. Elsevier and Springer had lodged an objection against the release of this information. According to Elsevier and Springer, the request exposes sensitive business information and disproportionate advantages when the contracts are disclosed. The judge ruled that both objections are out of the question.

Elsevier [has decided to accept](#) the decision of the objections committee and will no longer be appealing it. The time limit for raising objections has expired, so we can expect that the contracts in question will be made public soon. As soon as this is the case, VSNU will publish them on the website.

List of ways to access articles

Guus van den Berkel, who works at the medical library at the University Medical Center Groningen, compiled a [list](#) of the legal ways to access full-text articles in e-journals. These are e-journals with which the library does or does not have an agreement.

NWO to end incentive funding for open access publications

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) will end its incentive funding for open access publications and conferences (*Stimuleringsfondsen Open Access Publicaties en Conferenties*) effective 1 January 2018. The incentive funding was made available in early 2010 to fund open access publications. NWO indicated that, as a result of the contracts that VSNU has concluded, there are many more opportunities for authors to publish open access without having to pay a publishing fee. NWO will be meeting existing financial commitments related to the fund. NWO will continue to work on realising the ambitions of the National Open Science Plan, which aims to have all publications follow an open access route by 2020.

New scientific journal on full open access superheroes

Barry Fitzgerald, a post-doc researcher at Delft University of Technology, is launching the scientific journal [Superhero Science and Technology](#). Fitzgerald feels it is important for the public at large to come in contact with science and technology, too. He is therefore publishing the articles open access on TU Delft Open Journal Systems.

First national open science event for researchers

On 29 May, scientists and State Secretary Dekker from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science discussed the ambitions set out in the [National Plan Open Science](#). Addressing the audience of scientists, Dekker's message was *'you must walk the path of openness'*. Rector Magnificus of Delft University of Technology Karel Luyben emphasised that open science encompasses much more than striving for open access. It is about a fundamentally different approach to science. It also involves handling and managing data properly, which is commonly referred to as 'data stewardship'. According to Aske Plaat, professor of Data Science at Leiden University, publishers are redundant because many scientists can make the necessary arrangements themselves.

International developments

China

During the third EU-China Innovation Co-operation Dialogue on 2 June, the Chinese minister of Science and Technology and European Commissioner Moedas [discussed](#) further cooperation regarding open access. Both parties will share experiences related to open access publishing and data management. In addition, they claim to respect the principle of mutual reciprocity in accessing scientific results.

India

In India, Notion Press launched [Scholarink.com](#). Notion Press says that Scholarink.com is India's first academic open access platform for authors who wish to publish open access in order to make their articles freely accessible to scholars throughout the entire world.

Germany

During the Competitiveness Council on 30 May, Germany and the Netherlands presented a [position paper](#) on the rapid realisation of the Open Science Cloud. In the paper, German Secretary of State Schutte and Dutch State Secretary Dekker argue that research data should be made available to the fullest for advancing scientific progress. They said: *'Making research data available to a wide audience such as citizens and entrepreneurs increases the impact and application of scientific knowledge. The sooner we can realise this, the better.'*

Open access in the media

Daan Rutten, who is affiliated with Tilburg University, interviewed PhD candidate Chris Hartgerink for the [online journal Univers](#) about open access. In the article, Rutten recounts Hartgerink's refusal to use the Elsevier database. According to Hartgerink, Elsevier's conditions restrict academic freedom. In his view, science should be freely available and may not be guarded by for-profit parties. Hartgerink also wants his colleagues to be given leave to inspect the process preceding publication of an article. According to Rutten, Hartgerink wants articles to be posted in sections and ultimately form a complete article as opposed to only start publishing once research has been completed. *'Criticism is possible at a much earlier stage. This allows you to make optimum use of others' knowledge. And you run less risk of your article being torn apart after the fact, which is often the case now.'*

OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Presentation available on open access

The European Union (EU) 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

12 - 15 July 2017: [The International Symposium on Open Data and Innovation: Vision and Practice](#). - Beijing, China

17 - 21 July 2017: [2017 Africa Open Data Conference](#) - Accra, Ghana

18 July 2017: [Open access community workshop](#) - Birmingham, UK

7 - 11 August 2017: Summer school [Open science and Scholarship: Changing Your Research Workflow](#) - Utrecht

16 - 17 August 2017: [Open Access: Action Required](#) - Gdansk, Poland

23 - 26 August 2017: [Workshop on scholarly collaboration networks: are they \(h\)arming open access?](#) - Southampton, UK

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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