



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

29-10-2015

## NEWS

### Linguists take open access into their own hands

*Koen Becking (Tilburg University), Gerard Meijer (Radboud University Nijmegen), Jaap Winter (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and the directors of the Dutch university libraries are holding negotiations with publishers on subscription fees for academic journals. The universities are only prepared to renew current subscription agreements if the publishers take steps towards open access.*

At the current stage of negotiations with the publishers Wiley, Elsevier and OUP, no formal progress can be reported. The universities have repeated their position that they are only prepared to renew current subscription agreements if the publishers take steps towards open access. An agreement with Springer was reached almost a year ago, and since then Austria and the UK have also signed a similar deal with [Springer](#).

### Open Access Week

19-25 October was the global [Open Access Week](#). During this week, meetings on open access were held throughout the world, including at Dutch universities.

**Debate at Radboud University Nijmegen: 'Who takes the plunge?.'** Over 100 visitors listened to speeches from four different perspectives: that of researchers, editors, PhD candidates and executive board presidents. Gerard Meijer, president of the Executive Board of the Radboud University, referred to the unsettled relationship between researchers and publishers. He made a plea for an affordable publication market in which peer reviews in particular are organised by publishers. The debate helped to broaden the discussion about the road to open access. [Click here for further information](#).

**During Open Access Week, Utrecht University organised short workshops** that addressed questions such as 'Who pays for open access and where can I get financial support if I wish to make use of open access publishing?', 'How will I know which open access journals are good quality?', 'How does the Taverne amendment to the Copyright Act mean affect me as a researcher?', 'I want to set up an open access journal: what business models are available to do this?', and 'In what eight dimensions do peer review models differ from each other and how are they changing?' These workshops helped researchers in Utrecht to take yet another step towards open access and open science.

## Open access in the media

In the 18 October edition of the Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*, State Secretary Sander Dekker said that major publishers will have to brace themselves for more countries to enter open access negotiations in the way that the collective of Dutch universities is currently doing. Dekker emphasised the importance of an international approach to make open access a reality. 'We have to be willing to say no to the publishers when making deals with them. More and more alternative publishing channels are opening up: online platforms on which cutting-edge science is published, assessed and edited in a way that's accessible to all, not just to people who happen to have an expensive subscription to a particular magazine.'

Following Prof. Gerard Meijer's speech, leading academics Prof. Marcel Levi (president of the Board and professor of Internal Medicine at the AMC-UvA) and Prof. Patti Valkenburg (professor of Media, Youth and Society at the UvA) appealed to their colleagues to publish their work via open access channels. [Marcel Levi](#) put the supposed high costs of open access into perspective and [Patti Valkenburg](#) dispelled the preconception that open access publications are for scientists only.

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

## Quote

'I am [...] very sympathetic to the Dutch government's position and goals [with regard to open access] and the EUA will seek to provide EUA universities with more and better assistance in this matter. We need political support to move faster towards open access. Open access will of course come in any case, but it remains to be

**Seminar at Maastricht University: 'What journal to publish in: increasing your academic and societal impact'.** The seminar focused on criteria and tools that can help you choose the right journal to publish in, such as to increase visibility, findability and impact. It offered new ways to increase the impact (societal or otherwise) of papers and authors.

**Symposium at the University of Groningen: 'Research without paywalls: chances and challenges of open access for the humanities and social sciences.'** Hans van Ees opened the symposium. He said that we are currently in a transitional period with regard to publishing. Martin Paul Eve, founder of the Open Library of the Humanities, stated his belief that free publication is not feasible. His solution to this is the Open Library of the Humanities: libraries pay a modest fee and, in return, the OLH makes articles available to them and libraries can determine for themselves which journals to subscribe to the next year. Subsequently, Andrej Zwitter of the University of Groningen's Faculty of Law shared his experiences of setting up two open access journals. [Click here for further information.](#)

**Seminar 'How to publish a world class paper', VU University Amsterdam.** The scope of the meeting was "finding your way in the world of scientific publishing". Rector magnificus Vinod Subramaniam opened the seminar with a videomessage, after which several speakers gave advice on the different aspects of open access publishing. [Click here for further information.](#)

#### **LingOA for affordable open access**

A group of leading international linguists are aiming to make accessibility to academic research results less dependent on expensive commercial publishers. The editorial boards of various academic journals on linguistics have left their publishers and will soon be publishing their articles on a universal free access basis at extremely low costs. Supported by universities, this unique initiative will be launched under the name of LingOA. This initiative will promote the publication of articles in accordance with 'fair' open access. This means that the authors retain their copyrights, editorial boards remain the owners of their journals and journal titles, and the publication platform charges considerably less for its services than commercial publishers. Scholarly articles will be published on the online platform 'Ubiquity Press'. The first journals to be published as part of this initiative will be *LabPhon* and the *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*, which will be available from Ubiquity Press as from January 2016. [FAQs about LingOA.](#)

#### **European developments**

In a [collective statement](#), State Secretary Sander Dekker and European Commissioner of Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas called on scientific journals to adjust their business models to the new reality. According to Moedas, the new digital technology will inevitably have the same ground-breaking effect on scientific publications as they have had on media, music, film and telecommunications. Together, Dekker and Moedas appealed to publishers to follow the lead of new publishers that have developed business models for open access, as well as existing publishers who have committed to open access and adjusted their organisations to facilitate it.

seen in what ways, at what costs and when.'

Rolf Tarrach, chair of the European University Association (EUA) in an interview published on the [Netherlands website.](#)

#### **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.

The League of European Research Universities (LERU) has started a [petition](#) that appeals to all academics to publish their work via open access channels. In the petition, LERU also calls on the Netherlands to work on open access in the first half of 2016, when the country assumes the EU Presidency.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the open access debate in Nijmegen entitled 'Who takes the plunge? The perspective of researchers, editors, PhD candidates and board presidents', [this introductory video](#) was shown. The video clearly and thoroughly displays the efforts being made by Dutch negotiators with regard to open access.

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

### Relevant events:

**2 November** [Open Access Day](#) – Chemnitz, Germany

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

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

**1 December 2015:** [Vitae Connections](#): Supporting Open Researchers – London, UK

**17-18 February 2016:** [Open Science Days](#) (MPDL) – Berlin, Germany

**June 2016:** [Liber 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) – Helsinki, Finland

<http://www.vsnu.nl/openaccess>  
[www.openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl)

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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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