



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

26-11-2015

## NEWS

### NWO makes open access mandatory

*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.*

Negotiations with Elsevier are in full swing. Earlier this year, we reported that the negotiations were proving difficult. They have now taken a constructive turn.

### NWO makes open access mandatory

Today the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) unveiled its new tightened policy on open access. All results from NWO-funded research for which the calls for proposals were issued after 1 December 2015 must be published via open access. The two options are the gold route (where the publisher publishes the article open access on its website) and the green route (where the researcher places a version of their article in a repository). More information can be found on the NWO [website](#), which also includes a [Q&A](#) section on the tightened policy.

### Open access survey among researchers

During Open Access Week, doctoral student Machteld van Egmond gave a presentation that provided interesting insight into the attitudes of fellow doctoral researchers when it comes to open access. Three conclusions from the survey, in brief:

- 96% feel that publicly-funded research should be freely accessible to the public;
- Nearly half of respondents do not know if their faculty has the means needed for open access publishing. 35% think the means are available, 22% think they are not;
- 80% of the doctoral students surveyed said that if made to choose, they would rather publish in a prominent journal than open access.

### European developments

The European Commission has announced plans to launch a European Cloud with a view to maximising the growth potential of the digital economy and achieving the EC's

## Open access in the media

### LingOA in the international press

The founding of the open access journal *LingOA* has been picked up by the international media. In the US, publications including *Inside Higher Ed* featured a [number of articles](#); the initiative was widely [endorsed](#). The news was also reported in the UK paper the *Independent*. The French *Le Monde* picked up the story, as did *Der Spiegel* in Germany. The journal even made headlines as far away as [China](#) and [Australia](#).

### NWO chair: 'Dethrone *Nature*'

Jos Engelen, chair of the NWO, has written an [editorial](#) for *de Volkskrant* in which he argues the necessity of removing the journal *Nature* from its throne. 'Neither science nor society benefits in the least when knowledge disappears behind a paywall, even if that wall is temporary', Engelen explained.

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

## Quote

*'Important step by @NWO Nieuws: as of 1/12 publicly financed publications must be publicly accessible #openaccess'*

State Secretary Sander Dekker on twitter in response to NWO News.

## Scientists, speak out!

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

stated objectives. LIBER, the Association of European Research Libraries, has issued a [joint statement](#) with EUDAT, OpenAire, EGI and Géant in support of this initiative.

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 will assume the EU Presidency. You can sign the petition [here](#).

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Meeting reports

On 19 October the international 'Connecting Data for Research' conference was held at VU Amsterdam. Participants discussed all aspects of working with open data. An overview of the conference presentations can be found [here](#).

A conference on 'Scholarly communication: the journey towards openness' was held in Bristol in July 2014. A conference report was recently published and is available [here](#).

### Events of interest:

#### 30 November - 1 December 2015:

Knowledge exchange: [Pathways to Open Scholarship](#) – Helsinki, Finland

#### 1 December 2015: [Vitae Connections](#):

Supporting Open Researchers – London, UK

#### 8-9 December 2015: Max Planck Gesellschaft:

[Staging the Open Access Transformation of Subscription Journals](#) – Berlin, Germany

09 January 2016: [How libraries can make it all work](#) – Boston, USA

#### 17-18 February 2016: [Open Science Days](#)

(MPDL) – Berlin, Germany

#### 07 March 2016: [Sparc: Meeting on Openness in Research and Education](#)

– San Antonio, USA

#### 16-17 May 2016: [18th International Conference on Open Access](#)

– Montreal, Canada

## MORE INFORMATION

- [Frequently Asked Questions on open access](#)
- [Open access factsheet](#)
- [www.vsnunl/openaccess](http://www.vsnunl/openaccess)
- [www.openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl)

We would like to invite the academic community, in particular, to make its voice heard. [Prof. Levi](#), [Prof. Meijer](#) and [Prof. Valkenburg](#) have already shared their views.



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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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