



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

29-01-2015

## NEWS

### **Negotiations: no breakthrough with Elsevier, details Springer contract.**

*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 breakthrough**

A meeting took place this week between the negotiators acting for Elsevier and those negotiating on behalf of the universities. The parties did not come any closer to agreement at that meeting. The universities are considering what steps to take next. The existing contract with Elsevier has been extended for one year, which means that nothing will change for researchers for the time being.

#### **Springer: APCs bought off**

The agreement concluded with Springer means that researchers no longer have to pay APCs (author processing charges) to publish in the majority of Springer journals. This agreement serves to collectively buy off the APCs for individual articles by all corresponding authors at institutions currently entering into the new agreement with Springer. As a result, new articles will immediately become available on an open access basis upon publication. You can find more information about the Springer deal [here](#).

#### **Wiley, Sage and Oxford University Press: talks to be resumed**

Negotiations with these publishers are not yet in the phase of a contract proposal reflecting VSNU's negotiating position. Talks with Wiley will resume in late January.

## Open access in the media

It is clear from the growing number of tweets, blogs, letters to the editor etc. that the subject of open access is increasingly becoming a hot topic in the Dutch academic community. What these reactions also show is that not everyone is clear about all of the facts. If you have any questions, please contact [openaccess@vsnu.nl](mailto:openaccess@vsnu.nl).

While negotiations on open access are currently ongoing with publishers in the Netherlands, on 15 January the European Commission agreed to launch the following project: [Engaging the Research Community towards an Open Science Commons](#). This is a step on the road towards open science in Europe.

#### **Over 1 million preprints in arXiv!**

arXiv was set up in 1991 as a preprint archive, especially for physics, and by the end of 2014 contained over 1 million articles. This open access archive, the oldest of its kind, has seen an enormous rise in the number of publications in recent years.

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

## Open Access is the future!

'The VSNU's preference for open access publication is crucial support for the transition to this publication model of the future.'

*Jos Engelen, Chairman of the NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research)*

## **International developments**

Dutch universities are receiving enquiries about the negotiations from all quarters. Many countries and many universities are following the negotiations closely. We have had contact with the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg. The nine universities there are conducting Big Deal negotiations collectively and also have high ambitions in relation to open access. Talks between the VSNU and the German negotiators are planned soon. Finally, State Secretary Dekker is co-authoring a paper for the European Commission on progress on open access with his British counterpart. As soon as we know more about this, you will be able to read about it in this newsletter.

## **Scientists: speak out**

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

We would like to invite the research community to make its voice heard.

You can make use of the background information featured below.

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Great strides made towards open access**

State Secretary Dekker sent a [letter](#) to the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament on 23 January to inform MPs about the progress made with open access. Mr Dekker believes that great strides have been made, at both the international and national levels. The State Secretary particularly appreciates the efforts of the universities to facilitate the transition to open access. In the lead-up to the General Consultation on Academic Policy on 11 February, the VSNU also informed the House about the progress towards – and importance of – free access to scientific publications.

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

### **Relevant events:**

**29 - 30 January 2015:** Consultative Forum on Open Access (OA): Towards high level interventions for research and development in Africa – [Nairobi, Kenya](#)

**10 March 2015:** Symposium on Open Access & Open Science – [TUe Eindhoven](#)

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

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

[www.vsnu.nl/openaccess](http://www.vsnu.nl/openaccess)  
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## **Publisher's details**

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?**

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