

Make publicly funded research freely accessible

Most research is publicly funded and therefore needs to be freely accessible to the public. The Internet makes 'open access' publishing possible. Universities in the Netherlands are major proponents of open access and are negotiating with publishers on it.



Click on the image for more information about open access

Free access to research results

The results of scientific research are published in scientific journals. These journals charge high subscription fees, which means only institutions such as universities and hospitals have the budget to access them. Other interested parties – teachers, patients, policymakers or SMEs – do not have free access. The Internet has made it possible to share research results with everyone.

Universities in the Netherlands argue that scientific knowledge is not a luxury item, and should be freely available (through open access) to everyone. Most research is, after all, publicly funded. Furthermore, open access is also good for Dutch researchers, as open access publications are easier to find online and are therefore cited more often.¹

Open access publishing benefits researchers and society as a whole



Voor meer informatie:
Bart Pierik, Public Affairs
pierik@vsnu.nl
www.vsnu.nl/factsheets



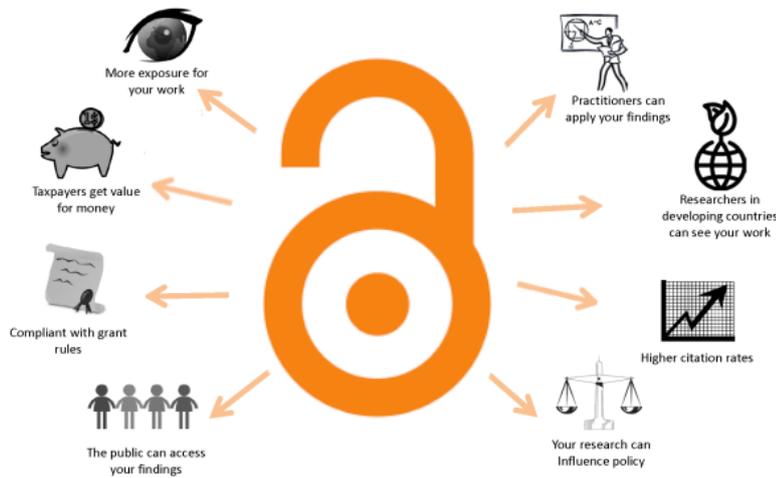


Illustration source: CC-BY (Danny Kingsley & Sarah Brown)

Open access helps...

- ... **researchers** disseminate their research more widely.
- ... **doctors, practitioners and patients** become aware of the latest insights into treatment options.
- ... **companies** develop and apply innovations.
- ... **scientists** in developing countries gain access to scientific knowledge.
- ... **teachers and pupils** with their lessons and assignments.

Green or gold?

There are two routes to open access: the green and the gold route. The green route is based on the idea of authors making their work publicly accessible themselves by depositing the manuscript in a repository, or freely accessible database. That is already possible at all universities in the Netherlands. Under the golden route, publications are made open access through publishers' websites. Many publishers already offer that option and ask the researchers (or their employers) to make a payment upon publication (the Article Processing Charge, or APC). Many publishers also offer another hybrid form of open access, where articles in traditional subscription-based journals are made open access for an additional payment.

Parties involved

The Dutch government has put open science on the political agenda: first in 2013 at the national level and then in 2016 at the European level during the Netherlands' EU Presidency. In February 2017, the National Plan for Open Science – which implemented the European agreements in the Netherlands – was signed by ten parties, including KNAW, NWO/ZonMw and VSNU/UKB. One of the key ambitions of the NPOS is 100% open-access publication by 2020, i.e. all scientific publications



Voor meer informatie:
Bart Pierik Public Affairs
Pierik@vsnu.nl
www.vsnu.nl/factsheets



(articles, books, book excerpts, reports) funded with public money must be freely available for viewing or reuse by anyone in the world as from 2020.

Negotiations

Over the past few years, we already made great strides towards open access here in the Netherlands, thanks in part to negotiations that the VSNU and university libraries (allied in the UKB) conducted with the larger publishing houses.

The aim in the negotiations is to enable corresponding authors affiliated with Dutch universities and medical centers to publish in the journals of that specific publisher at no individual cost. Next to this reading rights to all journals for all Dutch university and medical center staff and students should be included.

Researchers

There is plenty that researchers can do to help achieve open access to publications. For instance, they can deposit their articles in the university repository. They can also ask publishers to switch to open access.

Sources:

- Swan, Alma (2010) The Open Access citation advantage: Studies and results to date
- <https://www.openscience.nl/en/national-plan-open-science/national-plan/index>
- <http://www.vsnu.nl/openaccess>
- <http://www.openaccess.nl>



Voor meer informatie:
Bart Pierik Public Affairs
Pierik@vsnu.nl
www.vsnu.nl/factsheets

