

Everything you need to know about open access and the 'big deal' negotiations with the major publishers 07-04-2016

NEWS

Open Science Conference Amsterdam a huge success

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 publishers take steps towards facilitating open access.

Sander Dekker: 'Science is like a big, shiny magnet'

This week, the Open Science Conference was held in Amsterdam in connection with the Dutch presidency of the European Union. Several VSNU board members were in attendance at the event as well. State Secretary Dekker kicked off the conference with a [speech](#) in which he called on publishers, research funding bodies and international colleagues to expend maximum efforts to make scientific data and articles accessible to all. Dekker gave an example, citing the way in which scientists and patients have made all of their expertise and information public in order to combat diseases such as AIDS. 'This example shows how much can be achieved through an open approach to science. It helps researchers to look beyond their own discipline, and to combine their strengths with those of others, even if those individuals are outsiders to the scientific community. And it has saved lives,' according to Dekker.

EU Commissioner Moedas: 'Europe will have the very best Science Cloud'

Commissioner Moedas (EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation) was also among the speakers at the conference. Moedas [spoke](#) about the potential economic impact of open science, which it owes to the enormous increase in value demonstrated by shared, public information. In that vein, he argued for the adoption of a new business model. Moedas is of the opinion that each and every European scientific article should be published using open access since 'if we are to have open science, we will need open access. This is the first precondition.' Moedas wants to see Europe become the global leader in data-driven science. The European Cloud the Commission is setting up will have an important role to play with regard to the scientific infrastructure.

KNAW publishes *Opening the book on open access*

While at the Open Science Conference, José van Dijck, president of the KNAW, presented the very first copy of *Opening the book on open access* to European Commissioner Moedas and State Secretary Dekker. The book contains 21 interviews in which various scientists discuss open access. According to Van Dijck, the debate on open access is typically conducted by administrators, librarians, civil servants and publishers. That is why it seemed like a good idea to let scientists have their say for a change. The book can be downloaded [here](#).

VSNU welcomes the 'Amsterdam call for action'

On the second day, as part of the Open Science Conference theme, the 'Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science' was presented. VSNU is thrilled that such an important step has been taken in Amsterdam, in order to accelerate the transition to open science. VSNU President Karl Dittrich: 'You can tell that support for open access is growing on all fronts, both nationally and internationally. In the years ahead, VSNU intends to continue the concerted European push to translate this "call for action" into real "action".' The Call for Action contains five concrete points of action for cooperating at the European level in order to realise open science and open access. They are as follows:

- removing those obstacles that are currently limiting open science
- establishing research infrastructures
- creating incentives for participation in open science
- promoting open science as a mainstream concept
- embedding open science within the scientific community and society as a whole.

For the next period this 'call for action' will be further elaborated upon.

Open access in the media

Various media outlets are reporting on the legal proceedings initiated by Elsevier against Sci-Hub. Sci-Hub is an online repository with over 48 million scientific articles, and is sometimes called the 'Robin Hood of science'. The NY Times published an article entitled '[Should all Research Papers be Free](#)', in which the arguments bandied by both Sci-Hub opponents and supporters were mentioned. To give one example, Peter Suber of Harvard University asserts that unlawful access gives open access a bad name. An [article](#) published on Times High Education, however, claims that research piracy actually serves the public interest.

Quote

'Instead of asking ourselves how to stop the unstoppable, let's ask ourselves how we're going to make openness work for us.'

EU Commissioner Moedas, during the Open Science Conference

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, in particular, to make its voice heard. [Prof. Levi](#), [Prof. Meijer](#) and [Prof. Valkenburg](#) have already taken part.

#openaccess



OPEN ACCESS AGENDA

Last month, VSNU published the [E-zine](#), in which it described how the Netherlands acquired its position as a model country in the transition to open access and what makes the Netherlands' approach so different. The E-zine is also available in [English](#).



Events of interest

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

17 May 2016: [Green Light for Open Access](#) – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

19-20 May 2016: [Open access at the tipping point](#) – Denton, TX, USA

7-9 June 2016: [International Conference on Electronic Publishing](#) – Göttingen, Germany

14-16 June 2016: [WissKom 2016](#) – Jülich, Germany

21-22 September 2016: [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#) – Arlington, VA, USA

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Publication details

The Open Access Newsletter is a publication of VSNU, in collaboration with the 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.

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