



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

28-05-2015

NEWS

Negotiations: small steps towards open access

Koen Becking (Tilburg University), Gerard Meijer (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen) and Jaap Winter (VU University Amsterdam) 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:

Sage: positive developments

The universities are still in negotiation with Sage. Both parties take a positive view of the likelihood of reaching an agreement.

Oxford University Press, Springer, Elsevier and Wiley : no new developments

With the extension of the contract with OUP until year's end, additional time has been gained for continuing negotiations. The Springer contract is progressing satisfactorily; many articles are being published via open access. There are no new developments to report in the negotiations with Elsevier. The agreement with Wiley is currently undergoing further development.

Open access prioritised on European Commission agenda

The European Commission has given open access a prominent place on its agenda. Commissioner Moedas (research, innovation and science) was in the Netherlands at the end of April to be appraised of the latest developments concerning open access. He spoke with representatives from the scientific, societal and innovative communities.

European Commissioner Ansip presented the 'Digital Single Market Strategy' in mid-May. The European Commission has suggested 16 steps designed to result in a 'single digital market'. An important component of the plan is the modernisation of copyright law. This concerns open access because the accessibility of works of audio and video, but also articles, is explicitly specified as a point deserving copyright attention. New measures have also been suggested as a means to better combat copyright infringement

Open access in the media

The University Library in Delft has reached an institutional agreement with open access publisher PeerJ. Thanks to this agreement it has become very appealing to scientists working in Delft to disseminate their work through this publisher.

The three largest funding organisations in Canada have laid out a set of shared guidelines to ensure open access publication of the research they fund. The '[Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#)' requires that all publicly-funded research be made freely available online within 12 months of its publication.

The European University Association (EUA) has published an open access [checklist](#) for universities. This practical guide will aid universities in developing their policies regarding open access.

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

A quote from the [Annual Address of the departing president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences \(KNAW\)](#), Hans Clevers

'Last week my university inquired as to my willingness to cooperate with sanctions. Would I resign from the editorial staff of a "flagship journal" if my university asked me to? Probably. Would I be prepared to give up publishing in that periodical? That is a difficult question.

I myself would most likely endure, but

Disrupting the subscription journals' business model for the necessary large-scale transformation to open access - Schimmer, R., Geschuhn, K. K., & Vogler, A. (2015).

Ralf Schimmer of the Max Planck Institute has recently published a [paper](#) about the transformative shift towards open access. 'This paper makes the strong, fact-based case for a large-scale transformation of the current corpus of scientific subscription journals to an open access business model. The existing journals, with their well-tested functionalities, should be retained and developed to meet the demands of 21st century research, while the underlying payment streams undergo a major restructuring. There is sufficient momentum for this decisive push towards open access publishing. The diverse existing initiatives must be coordinated so as to converge on this clear goal. The international nature of research implies that this transformation will be achieved on a truly global scale only through a consensus of the world's most eminent research organizations.'

'This is an important paper by an eminent scientist on the transformation to open access that reaffirms our confidence, as Dutch negotiators, in the chosen approach,' according to Gerard Meijer.

the young people in my lab, many of whom come from abroad, would have difficulty with such a drastic measure.

I sincerely applaud the courageous leadership role played by the Netherlands in this discussion, but at the same time I urge the country to prioritise an international, preferably European, strategy wherever possible. With its Horizon 2020 budget of over 70 billion euros, the EU is capable of a much stronger stand than we can take alone. It is also important that not just governments, but the large research organisations as well, make as concerted an effort as possible. Max-Planck-Gesellschaft president Martin Stratmann emphasised the importance of this just last month when presenting an analysis of the transition to open access. As it happens, this analysis from the Max Planck Digital Library also indicates that the transition to a business model based on universal open access can be realised in a cost-neutral fashion.'

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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the Open Access APROVE Science Night in Amsterdam, NWO chair Jos Engelen gave a speech entitled: [Open Access Scientific publishing: the modern approach to scholarly communication.](#)

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

Relevant events:

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.

Registration and cancellation

17-19 June 2015: [CERN workshop](#) on
Innovations in Scholarly Communication (OAI9)
- Geneva, Switzerland

24-26 June 2015: [LIBER Conference](#), 'Towards
Open Science' - London, United Kingdom

15-21 August 2015: [IFLA World Library and
Information Conference](#) - Cape Town, South
Africa

15-17 September 2015: [Conference on Open
Access Scholarly Publishing \(COASP\)](#) -
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

19-25 October 2015: [Open Access Week](#) -
worldwide

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

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

www.vsnu.nl/openaccess
www.openaccess.nl

To register for this newsletter please use this
[online form](#).

To cancel your subscription, send an email to
openaccess@vsnu.nl or use the 'unsubscribe'
link in the footer.

