



Open access publication opportunities: extended & consolidated

In recent months new open access deals between major publishers and VSNU (Association of Universities in the Netherlands) have been closed, and existing deals renewed. This brings the total number of peer-reviewed scholarly journals in which Groningen researchers can publish cost-free to 7,800, with another 700 journals offering significant cost discounts – amazing numbers indeed. However, sometimes negotiations fail, too, as in the case of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

As we discussed in our previous newsletter, these many open access publication opportunities are not automatically taken. The manuscript submission workflow can be confusing with regard to APC discounts, and publishers are not always willing to ‘repair’ missed opportunities. But things are improving: publisher Wiley has become much more ‘clement’, and ever more researchers find their way to OPENACCESS@RUG.NL for advice and support in dealing with publishers.

In December, Web of Science added an indication of the open access status (gold or green) of all articles to the database. As an analysis in this newsletter shows, our University’s proportion of peer-reviewed articles is now at some 50%, with peaks in the life sciences, and much lower numbers in the humanities. So there is some work to be done to reach the 100% target set nationally for 2020.

The newly launched University of Groningen Press is set up to make modest contribution to open access publishing, especially in the humanities and social sciences. The press already hosts some 15 journals, with more under consideration, and book publishing is started up in the wings.

A new facility in the University’s research database Pure is the addition of research datasets. Pure stores the metadata of the dataset (the data are hosted elsewhere), with links to publications based on the dataset, and vice versa. Some 175 datasets have already been added, including the famous Maddison Project Database providing information on comparative economic growth and income levels since 1800.

Finally, in our series of interviews about the ‘open’ practices of Groningen researchers, we spoke to psychometrician Casper Albers about open peer review. He is much in favour of this practice, which he chose for in a PeerJ article. It makes the process of peer review more transparent and accountable, but he also realizes that for both the reviewing and reviewed researcher risks may be involved.

Make your research data findable

Data can play an essential role to increase the visibility of researchers and their work. The University of Groningen (UG) research database Pure helps to improve the findability of research data. The Research Data Office provides support with registering the data and making them accessible. [MORE INFO](#)

INTERVIEW



Open peer review. An interview with Casper Albers

[PEER REVIEW](#) plays an important role in academic publishing. A particular type of peer review is emerging: open peer review. This reflects a growing trend towards more transparent scholarship. Here everyone knows the identity of the author and the reviewers. Some journals also publish reviews together with the final accepted article, so readers see both the identity of the reviewers and their comments. PeerJ is a journal that offers this possibility.

[CASPER ALBERS](#), Associate Professor of Statistics at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, published an [ARTICLE IN PEERJ](#) and chose to make the accompanying review history public. We asked him some questions about peer review. [READ MORE](#)

University of Groningen Press

The University of Groningen (UG) has a new publishing platform: the [UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN PRESS](#) (UGP) launched by the UG Library at the end of 2017. UGP currently hosts and supports 15 academic journals; the publishing of books is being prepared. It provides expert advice and supports researchers working at or collaborating with the University of Groningen. The preferred publishing model is open access. [READ MORE](#)



Update: open access agreements

Elsevier open access journals increase from 266 to 396

The number of Elsevier journals in which corresponding authors of Dutch universities can publish their articles without costs **INCREASED FROM 266 TO 396**. Since 8 December 2016, all accepted articles are eligible for this scheme, which is part of the Elsevier-VSNU agreement 2016–2018. The agreement enables Dutch universities to make 30% of their researchers' publications gold open access by 2018.



Open access agreement with Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press and the Dutch universities have agreed on a new three-year deal which also includes open access publishing. The agreement goes into effect immediately (reading rights) and ends on 31 December 2020. As for publishing open access articles, there is an agreement for all articles from Dutch authors that appear in the approximately 750 journals in 2019 and 2020. They will be accessible to everyone worldwide, at no extra cost for the authors. More news on the [WEBSITE](#) of the VSNU.



New deal with Springer

The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and Springer have reached an agreement on a new deal on open access publishing by corresponding authors of Dutch universities. They are allowed to publish 2,080 articles in Springer journals with no extra costs per year for the duration of the deal (2018–2021). This amount is the result of the experiences from the former deal.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DEAL](#)



No new deal with Royal Society of Chemistry

The negotiations between the Dutch universities and the Royal Society of Chemistry on online access to their journals, including publishing open access, did not succeed. This means that the latest articles are not accessible for staff of Dutch universities from **1 April 2018 onwards**.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

Search by subject: new feature for the national journal browser

The previous open access newsletter introduced the [NATIONAL JOURNAL BROWSER](#). The University of Groningen version of this browser provides information about the open access options for journals, whether they are part of a national or local agreement and what the APC discount is. The journal browser just got even better thanks to the addition of a new feature: you can now search by subject to find relevant journals to publish in. [MORE INFO](#)

Quantitative study on open access publications worldwide

A broader analysis based on the Web of Science (WoS) data is presented by librarians from Utrecht University: "Open access levels: a quantitative exploration using Web of Science and oaDOI data" covers the period 2010–2017 examining open access publications worldwide and comparing Dutch universities. The [PEERJ-PUBLICATION](#) finds that almost 30% of journal articles and reviews worldwide were published open access in 2016 (42% in the Netherlands), with notable deviations concerning the region, language and discipline. However, the authors warn about biased figures as not all journals, regions and disciplines are equally covered by the WoS. *Bosman J, Kramer B. (2018): [OPEN ACCESS LEVELS: A QUANTITATIVE EXPLORATION USING WEB OF SCIENCE AND OADOI DATA](#). PeerJ Preprints 6:e3520v1*

Open access in numbers

100% open access in 2020 for publicly funded research is the ambition of the Netherlands. With only two years to go, it is time for some number crunching. How far are the University of Groningen and UMCG on the way to openness? How many of our research articles are published open access? Which open access numbers are available and what are they based on?

[MORE INFO](#)