

Q&As regarding the agreement with Wiley

Q: Why has an agreement been reached with Wiley?

A: After a one-year agreement was reached with Wiley last year, containing the first step towards open access, this has now been continued and expanded for the years ahead.

Q: What are the main outlines of the agreement with Wiley?

A: The Dutch universities and Wiley have reached a four-year agreement about 100% open access publication in Wiley's hybrid journals and an increase in the number of available journals. In the case of hybrid journals, all articles are available to subscribers and some articles are available to everyone as they are made open access. The agreement makes all articles of Dutch authors open access.

Q: To which journals does the agreement relate?

A: This agreement relates to Wiley's hybrid journals. In the case of hybrid journals, some of the articles can only be read by subscribers and some can be read by anyone via open access. Open access publication is possible in all these journals. An agreement has also been reached about expanding the licence to include more journals than is currently the case. In total, open access publication will eventually be possible in 1,400 hybrid journals published by Wiley.

Q: What happens if a researcher would like to publish in a Wiley journal that does not provide Open Access?

A: The Dutch universities and Wiley have agreed that in such a case, they will get in touch with the journal's owner (mostly societies) and strive to make the journal open access.

Q: Why does the agreement not apply to Wiley's full Open Access journals?

A: To date, Wiley's full Open Access journals (approx. 60 journals) have not been part of the Big Deal agreements. A researcher can of course still make an individual decision to publish in one of the 60 full Open Access journals. However, as they are not part of the Bid Deal, the APC will need to be paid by the researcher as an additional fee.

Q: When will the agreement enter into force?

A: An agreement in principle has been reached. The details are currently being elaborated, including arrangements about when in 2016 this scheme will enter into force. However, it has already been agreed that articles cannot be published under open access retroactively in accordance with this scheme.

Q: What will happen after 2019? Why was a four-year contract chosen?

A: On the basis of this agreement with Wiley, 100% open access publication is possible until 2019. This will give the universities and researchers plenty of opportunity to show that they, too, take the step towards open access seriously.

The situation will be evaluated in 2019 and we anticipate that it will be possible to reach a similar open access agreement with Wiley for the subsequent period.

Q: What is the expected increase in the number of OA publications in the next four years?

A: Currently, researchers who are affiliated to a Dutch university publish about 2300 articles in Wiley journals. It is expected that this number will rise to about 2900 in the next four years.

Q: What about the costs?

A: Due to this agreement, individual researchers with a Dutch affiliation face no additional costs if choosing to publish Open Access in the journals within the scheme. Under the old situation academics themselves had to pay an additional sum of money for the open access publication of an article they had written, over and above the subscription costs that the universities were already paying for access to Elsevier journals.

Q: Could you give an indication of the size of the Big Deal contract in euros?

A: No, we do not comment specifically on the financial agreements that are involved in this agreement because it is, of course, sensitive competitive information. No additional fee is required for open access. However, a limited price increase for the title package has been agreed upon, as was the case in the agreements with other publishers.

Q: If academics do not have to pay APCs for articles in the designated OA journals, who does?

A: The costs for the APCs (a sum that an academic pays for the open access publication of his/her article) for authors with a Dutch affiliation have been bought off in this agreement with Wiley. For the next four years the costs fall under the big deal, provided that publication is in a selected journal.

Q: Is this deal different from the deals with previous publishers?

A: A 100% open access agreement has now been reached with both Springer and Wiley. These agreements therefore make a substantial contribution to the aim of achieving 100% open access to Dutch academic publications in 2024. The agreements with Elsevier and Sage (steps towards 30% and 20% open access respectively) are also very important in this regard. The major publishers are truly making headway, showing that open access will become the new reality. This will make the results of academic research more accessible to a wide audience.