

Q&A: You share, we take care!

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The ambition of the Netherlands is to achieve 100% open access by 2020. Agreements have been made with many publishers about open access publishing. Unfortunately, this is not possible for all types of publications or journals. That is why it is equally important to invest in depositing and making academic work available in institutional repositories. Luckily, thanks to the Taverne Amendment to the Copyright Act, there is an alternative. The Dutch universities have decided to give open access an extra boost from 2019 by starting a pilot, in collaboration with researchers, to make publications available after six months via university repositories, using the research information system CRIS.

Author Q&A

Q: Why participate in the pilot?

A: The amendment provides an easy way of sharing your work quickly. This means your work will be available sooner to a broad audience, potentially increasing the attention it receives and its impact. It can also be a simple way of meeting the requirements of a funder. Finally, it will contribute to the mutual objective of the universities of making all academic work available via open access by 2020.

Q: Which version of the article will be used in the pilot?

A: This will be the published version, since this is the one that has been 'made public'. This will increase the chance of correct citations (not of the author's version), while university libraries can simply include the work in the repository whether or not the researcher has access to the correct version (especially if he or she is a co-author). This makes it easier for researchers to share work without the need to take additional administrative steps.

Q: What are the conditions for the publication to be eligible for participation in the pilot?

A: The period of publication after six months applies under the following conditions:

- The publication is funded wholly or partly with Dutch public funds.
- The maker(s) has/have an employment contract with an institution participating in the pilot; the makers can be both authors and co-authors.

It is a short scientific work; this has the length of a scientific article or book chapter in an edited collection.

Q: May I share my work if the publisher has established an embargo period longer than six months?

A: The provision applies if the research the work is based on was funded wholly or partly with Dutch public funds, and if the work meets the other requirements of the Taverne Amendment. This overrules any requirements a publisher may have, contractual or otherwise. If this applies prior to the end of the embargo period, you may indeed share the work sooner.

Q: If I publish with an international publisher, can I still participate in the pilot?

A: Yes you can, if you meet the established pilot conditions set out above. The majority of the publications of researchers at Dutch universities are published by international publishers. They may perhaps attempt to invoke foreign law, but the Dutch universities assume that Dutch law will prevail.

Q: Where can I turn if my publisher has questions?

A: Your publisher might have questions about the pilot or could ask you to remove your article from the institution's repository. In that case, please contact your university library immediately. They can provide further information on subsequent steps and/or determine how the university should respond to the publisher in question, so you will not have to do so yourself.

Q: If I participate in the pilot, will I be meeting my funder's requirements?

A: That depends on your funder's requirements. If the funder demands immediate open access, participation will not suffice. If the funder agrees to a six-month embargo period or longer, you will meet the requirements.

Q: If I participate in the pilot, will all my articles be shared or only the most recently published one?

A: You can decide this yourself in consultation with your university library.

Q: Why doesn't my university transfer the published version of my article to the repository automatically after six months?

A: The Taverne Amendment regards a personal right. You must give the university permission by signing a model licence. In addition, you can indicate whether this concerns your most recently published article or all of them.

Q: Where can I find more information on participating in the pilot and its background?

A: The pilot is an initiative of the association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU). Information about the pilot and its results will be communicated on the national website [openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl). For more information, please visit <http://www.openaccess.nl/en/you-share-we-take-care>.

There is also a general Q&A about the pilot.