Who and where are we?

< 17,000,000 inhabitants

14 academic universities

37 professional/vocational univ.

< 3% of the global research output
Some publishing facts and figures

Number of articles: ~ 42,000 (2013)
Number of dissertations: ~ 4,500 (2013)

% OA (Gold, Green, Hybrid): ~ 50 (2013)
% Gold OA ~ 12 (2013)
End of 2013 the underminister of the Ministry of Education writes a letter stating how the Dutch government envisages the further development of Open Access.

The output of scholarly and scientific, publicly financed research output must be OA available:

- In 2019: 60%
- In 2024: 100%

The preferred route is the gold route, but no additional money will be made available!
After the Berlin Declaration on Open Access

• 2007: signed by
  - all 14 academic and research universities
  - the Association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)
  - the National Library (KB)
  - the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
  - the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)
  - SURF

• 2009: signed by the professional/vocational universities (HBO-raad)
Do all universities require their researchers to publish OA?

No!

But there are good exceptions:

The Executive Board of the Erasmus University decided that as of January 1, 2011 all academic staff members of the Erasmus University are required to submit the Accepted Author Manuscript of “basically all publications” to RePub, the university’s repository. With this decision the Erasmus University became the first Dutch university with a mandated Green Road Open Access policy.
Green, Gold or both?

As early as 2005 the Netherlands was one of the first countries that could boast the implementation of a **digital repository** in all of its academic universities.

The institutional repositories are linked through NARCIS, the national portal, now served and serviced by DANS.

- 2004 start of development
- 2007 incorporation of DAREnet

So we have been talking **green** for at least a decade... and it’s a long way to **gold**.
The so-called Big Deals

Until now the Association of University Libraries and the National Library (UKB) has negotiated and agreed *big deals*, for three to five years, between the universities and the main publishers.

These deals

- Predominantly concern subscription journals
- Costs appr. M€ 39, which roughly comes down to an average amount of well over € 100,000 per HEI per year
So now important questions are…

How and how fast can we move from green to gold?

Do we really want to focus entirely on gold?

How eager, if at all, are researchers to make the transition from toll access to open access?

What are the main blocking factors?
Top down approaches: the NWO policy

- In 2015, NWO will make the funding conditions for Open Access more **stringent** and it will presume a preference for the **Golden Road**. For the time being, NWO will also accept the **Green Road** as an alternative.

- The Incentive Fund Open Access Publications will be expanded to new publication forms such as **books**.

- NWO will encourage the establishment of **peer-reviewed** open access journals, encourage **awareness** among researchers and encourage publishers to develop fully open-access business models.
Top down approaches: VSNU

The universities, represented by VSNU, are now in a serious fight with publishers in order to incorporate full (gold) OA in the new big deals.
• For the universities, a strong requirement is that the new big deals remain at the present *price level*.
• The publishers argue that the incorporation of, or transition to, OA is costing them more, so the price level will have to go *up*. 
What about bottom-up?

- Researchers want to publish in the best journals, i.e. renowned journals with high impact factors.
- Why? Because the present system actually forces them to do so.
- For an OA journal to require the status of a high quality subscription journal it must, to begin with, be on the market for several years.
- How can researchers trust OA journals, e.g. how good is their peer review?
- There are, however, differences in OA publication between disciplines, cf. STEM and SSH.
- Researchers in NL experience the present system more or less as open access because owing to the big deals they have had access to all relevant journals for years.
SURF coordinates the contributions of three Dutch institutions in OpenAIRE2020.

A Post-Grant Gold OA Pilot was launched before the summer of 2015.

Researchers can get funding for publications resulting from eligible FP7 projects (€ 2,000 for an article, € 6,000 for a monograph).

In the first batch of funding requests there is not a single Dutch publication.....
How should we proceed?

- Somehow top-down and bottom-up approaches must meet.

- For a start, it may be helpful if researchers become aware of the cost of publishing. Some solutions:
  - NWO Policy
  - Article Processing Charges
  - Tools like QOAM
  - Cross-national collaboration
    - EC funded projects like OpenAIRE2020
    - Participation in the Knowledge Exchange consortium
The Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)

www.qoam.eu

Visiting QOAM
to find a journal to publish in

Enhancing QOAM
by sharing Journal Score Cards

2015 Radboud University Nijmegen
The idea behind QOAM

• QOAM is an online tool primarily for authors who want to publish in high quality Open Access journals at a reasonable price.

• Using crowd sourcing to collect information from authors, editors, peer reviewers and libraries, QOAM attempts to match authors’ and editors’ real life experiences with journals with analyses of those journals’ website information. Experiences include price information.

• Journals are evaluated using Journal Score Cards. Critical mass is key, so the tool can only become really successful when thousands of score cards have been filled in. At present, there are over 2,400 cards in the system.
The Knowledge Exchange initiative

The agreed vision for the Knowledge Exchange is:

“To enable open scholarship by supporting an information infrastructure on an inter-national level.”

Making this vision a reality means creating the building blocks for a European information environment that is outstanding in its support of research and higher education, bringing Europe together while extending the reach of European research and teaching around the globe. The partners work together on activities in the field of

- Open Access
- Research Data
- Research Tools and Technologies
- Interoperability Standards.
I am strongly convinced that in order for Open Access to become genuinely successful and durable the present system whereby many researchers are predominantly assessed and evaluated on the basis of their publications in high impact (i.e. usually subscription) journals must be *changed*.

We are all saying that we also want to implement Open Access for *societal* reasons. However, as far as I know, the percentage of Dutch citizens who wish to get access to research output is only 4.

Let us stop *bashing* publishers. We must accept that most of them are commercial companies and want to earn money. As long as we need publishers, let us try to reach good working relations with them.

We must work *together*, at the European and global levels, to take the next steps. On their own nobody can probably do the job.

*Mass Matters.*
Thank you!

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS?

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