

# Mission and Strategy 2026 – OpenAccess.nl

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# 1. Introduction

OpenAccess.nl is the national information platform for open access in the Netherlands. It is managed by an editorial team that refers to the UKB's Working Group on Open Access (WGOA) as its steering board. The website provides clear, reliable, and up-to-date information on open access publishing for researchers, institutions, funders, and the wider public. Since its launch, the platform has supported the implementation of national open access policies and has highlighted Dutch progress in the transition to open access.

In 2026, OpenAccess.nl continues to develop in line with changes in scholarly communication. The platform focuses not only on informing the research community, but also on strengthening coordination between national stakeholders and increasing the visibility of Dutch contributions to open access across journals, books, and community-driven publishing initiatives.

## 2. Mission

Everyone should be able to read and reuse the results of publicly funded academic research online: this is the ideal pursued by the open access movement. All institutions of higher education in the Netherlands plus the Dutch government are working towards this goal. This site provides the national and international research community with objective information about recent developments that are helping to bring this goal closer in the Netherlands. The information is supplemented by news from abroad that is of interest to the Netherlands. The site also offers practical advice to researchers wishing to publish in open access.

## 3. Core Functions of the Website

### 3.1 Information Portal

OpenAccess.nl offers clear and practical information on:

- Open access publishing models, including Diamond OA;
- Funder policies (NWO, ERC, Horizon Europe, and others);
- Links to institutional policies;
- Information on repositories and self-archiving workflows;
- National publisher agreements and how to use them;
- Rights retention, copyright, and licensing;
- Identifying and avoiding predatory publishers;
- Developments, facts, and figures on open access in the Netherlands;

- The historical and current policy landscape for open access.

Content is written in both Dutch and English in accessible, neutral language to support researchers and support staff across all disciplines.

## 3.2 Central information hub for national OA deals

The platform provides a transparent and up-to-date overview of national open access agreements, including:

- Updated list of deals with conditions per publisher;
- Author instructions and step-by-step workflows;
- Information on costs, coverage, and limitations;
- Searchable tools such as the Journal Browser to help authors find open access publishing options at no additional cost.

This section supports both researchers and institutions in maximising the use of national agreements.

## 3.3 Coordination and Transparency

OpenAccess.nl acts as the central communication channel for agreements and open access policy developments coordinated by **UNL, UKB, SURF, and NWO**. The website:

- Shares updates on negotiations, new agreements, and policy changes;
- Highlights national initiatives, including community-led publishing, infrastructure development, and transition pathways;
- Ensures that researchers receive consistent and aligned information from all national partners

## 3.4 Guidance for Compliance

The platform supports researchers and support staff in fulfilling open access requirements, offering:

- Clear, step-by-step guidance for compliance with Plan S and funder policies;
- Checklists, FAQs, and scenario-based explanations;

- Guidance on the Rights Retention Strategy and repository-based publishing;
- Practical tools to support local and national workflows.

This makes the website a hands-on resource for compliance and daily research support.

## 3.5 Community and Outreach

OpenAccess.nl strengthens the Dutch open access community by:

- Sharing news, events, workshops, and training opportunities;
- Highlighting practical examples and success stories from institutions and researchers;
- Supporting communication between national working groups and local support structures;
- Acting as a hub for all materials produced by the UKB national working group on OA.

The platform connects policy, practice, and community expertise in a single national space.

## 3.6 National Expertise and Community Platforms

### 3.6.1 Diamond Open Access Expertise Centre

OpenAccess.nl hosts the **Dutch Diamond Open Access Expertise Centre**, the national hub supporting scholar-led and community-driven publishing. The Expertise Centre provides acts as an independent part of the website, managed by a team that collaborates with the OpenAccess.nl editorial board but that maintains its own editorial strategy. The Diamond OA Expertise center focuses on the following:

- Practical guidance, background information, and tools for Diamond OA journals and platforms;
- Support for editors, scholars, libraries, and institutional publishers;
- Resources on governance, sustainability, quality assurance, and infrastructure;
- Dutch examples and connections to international developments in Diamond OA.

By integrating the Expertise Centre into OpenAccess.nl, the website provides a comprehensive national entry point for both authors and publishers working in non-commercial open access models.

### 3.6.2 Netherlands Open Access Book Community

From 2026 onwards, OpenAccess.nl will also become the home of the **Netherlands Open Access Book Community**, a collaborative network for everyone involved in open access scholarly book publishing. The governance of this other section of the website will be similar to the one of the Diamond OA Expertise center.

This section will:

- Provide a central landing page for the community's activities and resources;
- Offer guidance for authors and publishers on licensing, workflows, and quality standards;
- Highlight Dutch initiatives in OA monograph publishing;
- Connect national stakeholders to international book-related infrastructures and networks.

This addition strengthens the website as a national hub not only for journal publishing, but also for open access books.

## 4. Target Audiences

OpenAccess.nl serves:

- Researchers at all career stages;
- Research support staff, open access officers, and policy advisors;
- Library professionals and repository managers;
- Research funders and national policymakers;
- Editors, university presses, and publishing platforms;
- Infrastructure providers;
- Members of the public interested in open science.

## 5. Monitoring and Improvement

OpenAccess.nl is continually monitored by the UKB Working Group on Open Access and through its editorial board it aims to improve its quality and usability by continually improve the following:

- Search engine visibility (SEO);
- Web analytics and user behaviour;
- Feedback from individual users and affiliated organisations via the feedback form;
- Accessibility, clarity, and consistency of content.

Annual content reviews ensure that the platform remains accurate, relevant, and aligned with national developments.

## 6. Governance and Management

OpenAccess.nl is a collaborative initiative of **UNL, NWO, SURF, and the UKB**. The executive decisions for the website are taken by the editorial board, who is in constant contact with its steering committee, the UKB WGOA.

The editorial board directly oversees:

- Content strategy and prioritisation;
- Consistent communication from national partners;
- Integration of new initiatives (e.g., Diamond OA Expertise Centre, OA Book Community);
- Alignment with researcher needs and national policy developments.

The UKB WGOA oversees:

- The general yearly and 5 year strategy of the website
- The financial aspects of the website management.

## **7. Conclusion**

In 2026, OpenAccess.nl strengthens its role as the national hub for open access information, coordination, and community building. By combining clear guidance, transparent communication, the Diamond Open Access Expertise Centre, and the forthcoming OA Book Community, the platform supports a sustainable, equitable, and open scholarly communication system in the Netherlands.