



Vision on the future of Open Science at the UG

Open Science at the UG 2021-2023: culture change

Vision: Open Science is a global movement aimed at spreading scientific research and education, and making it accessible. Open practices encompass educational materials and the entire research process, creating new opportunities for interaction, collaboration and engagement between academia and society.

The UG actively promotes the principles of Open Science within its academic community and facilitates an open and transparent research and education environment. In order for UG researchers to apply the Open Science principles, a culture change was and still is necessary.

Results of the first phase Open Science program 2021-2023:

- ✓ The foundation has been laid for the Open Science support infrastructure
- ✓ There is interest in and awareness of Open Science among researchers
- ✓ OS has momentum locally, nationally and internationally

Next phase at the RUG 2024-2026: implementation

Vision: Stimulating Open Science has worked, and now all lights are green to actually make Open Science an integrated part of the research and educational culture at the UG, as stated in the Strategic Plan. Further embedding requires decisive local and (inter)national action and close alignment with national and European policies and initiatives. The UG closely follows national and international developments, so that our vision grows over time with the changing context and relevant circumstances.

Open Science requires a sustainable publication culture in which Open Access is central. This requires academic and digital autonomy vis-à-vis publishers and other commercial providers.

Goals 2024-2026 are:

- Fully embedding Open Science in research and educational culture
- Towards digital and academic autonomy of commercial publishers and service providers: out of vendor lock-in
- Maximum impact of Open Science research



By 2027, the following points will have been achieved and the UG will be in a stronger position against the monopoly position of publishers:

1. UNL has identified a non-profit alternative to Gold Open Access. Diamond Open Access is the widely supported alternative Open Access publication model;
2. UKB has developed a sustainable national Diamond OA platform. University of Groningen Press has professionalized in close collaboration with other *university presses*;
3. The UG faculties know the extent of '*APC's in the wild*', thanks to research into the costs that researchers and faculties incur for Open Access publishing *outside* the big deals;
4. The costs of copyrighted materials and the dependence on expensive licenses have been substantially reduced. The transition of all copyrighted educational materials to open access, via the new Brightspace module for Open Educational Resources, results in a 10% saving on licensing costs;
5. Open source plays a greater role in European tenders. It has been investigated whether the UG, following Leiden and VU Amsterdam, can switch to open source software as an alternative to, for example, Web of Science, Scopus, or SciVal. As a university, we contribute to development with open source software and pay lower licensing costs;
6. We know that our researchers also want to continue publishing in leading journals, such as Nature. This requires a cultural change through (also) Rewards & Recognition. All activities are developed taking into account national and international developments, to ensure the competitiveness of our researchers and the university.
7. Diamond Open Access, Open Educational Resources and FAIR are the new standard, also in the accountability of research.

An important development regarding Open Science policy and initiatives in the Netherlands that the UG is in line with and that helps to achieve the above 7 points: There is 20M€ per year national impulse financing from OCW for the transition to Open Science (2023-2033), under condition of co-financing by the universities. Proposals are partly submitted together with other universities. Groningen is the secretary on three themes: University Presses (Diamond Open Access), data infrastructure and the Citizen Science Hub in the north.

The UG closely follows national and international developments, so that we are agile in our implementation and implement the vision as a priority and cost-effectively. Sufficient flexibility has been built into the design of the Open Science program so that, if this becomes necessary due to financial pressures, the program can be implemented in phases and/or with an extended timeline.