

## Contract negotiations with major scientific publishing houses

The licensing agreements of the University Library of Bern with the major scientific publishing houses Elsevier, Wiley and Springer Nature expire at the end of 2019. Just like the other Swiss universities, the University of Bern has commissioned the umbrella organization swissuniversities to conduct negotiations with these three large publishing houses.

The negotiations are still ongoing. On 13 December 2019 the Open Science delegation of swissuniversities will evaluate the outcome of the negotiations and make a decision. The official communication from swissuniversities will then follow.

### Access is guaranteed

There are currently encouraging signs in negotiations with the publishing houses. But a contractless status may still exist with regard to one or more of the three publishing houses. Publications appearing in a journal of these publishing houses on or after 1 January 2020 would then no longer be accessible via the usual channels for members of Swiss universities (incl. university hospitals).

The University Library of Bern has already taken precautionary measures for this eventuality: Researchers, teachers and students at the University of Bern, the Bern University of Teacher Education and employees of the Insel hospital can still access articles published by these publishing houses at no additional cost and in as simple a manner as possible.

We will inform you about the exact processes as soon as the results of the negotiations are available.

### Read & Publish

The goal of the ongoing – and any subsequent – negotiations with the major scientific publishing houses is to achieve “read & publish” agreements. On the one hand, these new contracts would allow readers to access journals published by the publishing houses (“read”). On the other hand, all articles published by members of Swiss universities in journals published by the negotiation partners would be available on an open-access basis immediately and without any direct costs (“publish”). The main idea is the open access transformation of the publication system and a pricing and business model geared to the volume of publications.

Additional information on the goals of the negotiations in the swissuniversities [factsheet](#) (in German).