

Information & FAQs for the preparation of a no-deal situation with Ovid/Wolters Kluwer for LWW in 2025

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This document will be updated when necessary and re-published with a new version number and date.

Background on LWW Read & Publish 2025-2027 negotiations

The negotiations with Ovid/Wolters Kluwer for the LWW Read & Publish Agreement 2025-2027 started early 2024 and have not yet resulted in a mutually acceptable agreement. As the current agreement ends on 31 December 2024, preparations were put in place for a scenario without agreement as of 2025. Meanwhile, the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries continues its effort to find a solution with Ovid/Wolters Kluwer.

Situation Overview and FAQ

For the participating institutions and their researchers, a no-deal scenario will affect both **reading access and publishing in the LWW Total Access journal portfolios**. The overview below shows the impact on reading and publishing on the LWW Total Access portfolio.

Portfolio	Reading
LWW Total Access Journals	<p>Reading might not be disabled immediately as some publishers grant a grace period. Once Ovid disables access, journal content published from 1 January 2025 onwards will not be accessible, except if available open access.</p> <p>Perpetual access will be provided to content published during 2016-2024, please see Ovids Journals@Ovid Post-Subscription Access Policy. There are certain restrictions to access to society published content where Ovid is not the copyright holder. Additionally, all participating institutions in the agreement from 2022-2024 own the LWW Total Access Archive (all content until 2016).</p> <p>See factsheet "How to get the Article" to retrieve articles through alternative channels.</p>
Portfolio	Publishing
LWW Total Access Journals	<p>Researchers can still publish in hybrid journals without charges, but articles will not be made Open Access by the publisher.</p> <p>To make a publication Open Access use the Green OA route: The options and restrictions of self-archiving depend on whether a journal is owned by Ovid/Wolters Kluwer or a society partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ For journals owned by Ovid/Wolters Kluwer: Authors may self-archive the Final Peer-Reviewed Manuscript for display no sooner than 6 months after publication of the final article in the applicable WKH Journal.➤ For society partner journals: They may have their own policies and authors should check the copyright policy of their chosen journal.

	Researchers can also pay Article Processing Charges (APC) to publish Open Access in hybrid journals, but this is strongly discouraged since so-called “costs in the wild” weaken the Swiss negotiation power. It is recommended that institutions do not pay APC for hybrid articles from central funds.
LWW Gold OA Journals	Researchers can still publish in fully Open Access journals if they pay Article Processing Charges (APC). It is recommended that institutions do not pay for Gold OA articles from their central funds.

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

1. Will a no-deal situation jeopardise Swiss research and education?

*Experience in Switzerland and internationally shows that a no-deal situation restricts access to literature but **does not significantly impede research and teaching**. Research articles can be obtained legally through alternative channels (see factsheet [“How to get the Article”](#)).*

2. How long does a no-deal situation last?

A no-deal situation will last as long as there is no acceptable agreement for LWW. The negotiation team will continue the negotiations with Ovid/Wolters Kluwer to find a solution.

3. Can institutions or researchers continue to pay APCs for individual articles?

Yes. Institutions cannot stop individual researchers to pay for their own publications. However, it is recommended that institutions do not pay for hybrid and Gold OA articles from central funds.

4. Will the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) pay Open Access fees for Gold Open Access journals of LWW?

As is recommended in point 3., the SNSF acts in unison with the Higher Education Institutions and will stop paying OA fees for Gold OA journals of LWW.

5. If an agreement can be found later in 2025, will articles in hybrid journals be made Open Access retrospectively?

This will be part of the negotiations.

6. If there is no contract, “costs in the wild” are likely to increase. How will this impact the negotiations?

While “costs in the wild” are likely to increase during a no-deal situation, they will not change the Swiss baseline fees used for a potential agreement.

7. Can my institution subscribe to individual journal titles?

Yes, institutions can subscribe to selected journals. However, as in non-contractual situations with other publishers, it is important to keep these subscriptions to a minimum so as not to weaken the Swiss negotiation power.

8. How can authors comply with the Open Access requirement of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and other funders? Are they temporarily suspended?

If publishing in hybrid journals, authors can still comply with the SNSF's OA requirements by applying the "Rights Retention Strategy" and depositing their final manuscripts in a repository (Green OA). In any case, the SNSF monitors compliance to its OA regulations sensibly and will account for a no-deal scenario accordingly.