

## **EUA Working Group on Open Access**

01/02/2007

*An interview with Dr. Sijbolt Noorda, chairperson of VSNU and of the EUA Working Group Open Access.*

### **What is the open access debate about, and why is it important?**

The digital world has changed the possibilities for publication, and made all information faster and easier to share. Scientific research should be able to benefit from this progress, and research results should be available to the wider public. Yet, unfortunately the publishing companies have so far not adapted and responded adequately to these needs.

### **What are the policy implications of this debate?**

There needs to be a fairer balance between the interests of the academic community and the market interests of the publishers. Publishers have moved to the digital mode without lowering their prices or their access regulations. It is important to take action now to build on findings and recommendations on this topic that were published recently by the European Commission, the European Research Council and the European Research Advisory Board. This is a debate where EUA's voice, representing so many universities across Europe, must be heard.

### **What are the main priorities for the EUA Working Group on Open Access?**

Firstly, to ensure that universities are able to fulfil their public responsibility as guardians of research knowledge and results, and to provide public access to research results. A second priority is the great need for sharing practice on self-archiving and making better use of the tools of the digital world.