

# The DEAL-Contract

**A new model for accessing scientific articles, including free open access publishing for researchers**



## What is the DEAL-Contract?

The DEAL negotiations, initiated by the German Rectors' Conference on behalf of the Alliance of German Science Organisations, aim to make a significant contribution to providing researchers at universities with a more sustainable basis for accessing articles from scientific journals. The current subscription model, including constant price increases and additional costs for the OA publication of articles that are actually behind a so-called paywall (hybrid OA - also known as Open Access Option or Open Choice), is to be transformed into a new model.

The so-called "Publish&Read" model includes not only a reading component, i.e. access to journal content, but also a publishing component. This enables all researchers at institutions participating in the respective DEAL contract to have their articles released for Open Access at no additional cost. This eliminates the rather costly hybrid "double dipping" of articles that do not appear in Gold Open Access journals and need to be 'bought free'. Articles in Gold-Open-Access journals will have discounted APCs (article processing charges).

## Who is participating in the DEAL project?

The DEAL project negotiates nationwide license agreements with the three largest scientific publishers Elsevier, Springer Nature and Wiley for their entire portfolio of electronic journals. Any German university and higher education institution can join the agreement independently. The administration of the University of Bayreuth has supported the DEAL project from the very beginning and joined the first DEAL contract with the publisher Wiley at the beginning of 2019 and the second DEAL contract with the publisher Springer Nature at the beginning of 2020.

## What are the advantages for researchers?

Researchers have access to all journals of the participating publishers. Moreover, if a member of the University of Bayreuth submit an article to a (non-Gold Open Access) journal as a "corresponding author", their article will be Open Access by default when published. The Open Access Publishing Fund of the university automatically pays for APCs for articles in a publisher's Gold Open Access journal.

## What is the advantage for the University of Bayreuth?

For the first time, the University of Bayreuth has the opportunity to break out of the upward price spiral of the publishers. The costs of the "Publish&Read" model for each institution are calculated (after a transitional period) on the basis of the number of articles published in non-Gold Open Access journals in the previous year (multiplied by a fee of approx. 3,400 euros). Researchers publishing Gold Open Access journal contribute significantly to the price reduction of the "Publish&Read" model.

## What should researchers be aware of when submitting?

Before submitting an article, it is therefore recommended to consider whether there is a Gold Open Access journal published by Wiley and Springer Nature that might be suitable.

When researchers submit articles to a DEAL journal, the articles are automatically assigned to the institutions participating in the DEAL contract based on the information provided by the corresponding author. Subsequently, the respective institution will confirm that the article is eligible for OA release under the DEAL agreement.

In accordance with the publication guidelines of the University of Bayreuth, please use the correct affiliation (e.g. as corresponding author use the email address ...@uni-bayreuth.de) to ensure a frictionless assignment.

## Where do researchers find additional information?

Basic and further information about Open Access publishing can be found on the [website of the Bayreuth University Library](#).

Bayreuth University Library has compiled the most important information regarding the [DEAL negotiations](#) (in German) on its homepage. Information about the DEAL agreement with the publisher Wiley is also available in [English](#).

Frequently asked questions on the DEAL project which are relevant for authors: [FAQ DEAL Contract](#).

If you have any further questions on the topic, do not hesitate to contact Bayreuth University Library:

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