



Press Release

Signature of a global reading and publishing agreement with the publisher Elsevier

The French bibliographic agency for higher education (Abes) has signed a nationwide contract with the publisher Elsevier, as part of the negotiations conducted by the Couperin consortium of higher education and research establishments (contract awarded on April 29, 2024). This agreement, worth €33 million per year, provides all higher education and research establishments in France with an open access publication service at no extra cost to authors in the majority of Elsevier's hybrid or fully open access journals. The contract signed by Abes covers 241 subscribing institutions, 44 of which subscribe free of charge, a figure that has risen since the national license was first introduced. This agreement is supported by the Ministry of higher education and research

The agreement has been signed for a period of 4 years (2024-2027), with no increase in the subscription price in 2024 and an increase limited to 1% in subsequent years:

- A reading service, for all articles published in the journals of the Complete Freedom Collection (including four Lancet titles), the Bibliothèque Médicale Française collection, the 5 JACC titles, in addition to Cell Press and a number of individual titles for those institutions who elected to exercise these options;
- Immediate open access publication service free of charge for corresponding authors from members of the agreement, in a list of nearly 2,500 eligible titles, including 676 fully open access titles. Publication rights at no additional cost amount to more than 11,000 articles per year and have been calculated to cover all French publications;
- An archiving service securing perpetual access rights to content subscribed from 2024-2027 on the PANIST national archiving platform, and expanding the ISTEEX platform with articles published until 2023 now available for text data mining.

This agreement is part of the consortium's activities to promote the development of open science and control publishing costs. This agreement, because it covers publication costs (APCs) and eliminates associated invoices, helps institutions who want to pursue that path to foster the goal of open access.

The Couperin consortium has already negotiated reading and publishing agreements with other publishers, such as EDP Sciences in 2018 and 2022 and Wiley in 2022. In order to promote "bibliodiversity", negotiations are also underway with fully open access publishers such as PLOS and Copernicus.

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Further information : <https://www.couperin.org/category/negotiations/accords-specifiques-so/>