

# Elsevier journals are back online at 60 German institutions that had lost access

By [Gretchen Vogel](#) Feb. 14, 2017 , 3:15 PM

**BERLIN**—Scientists across Germany can again read and download the latest papers from *Cell* and *The Lancet*—as well as thousands of other journals published by the Dutch company Elsevier—after being blocked for more than a month.

Thousands of researchers lost online access to the journals on 1 January amid a dispute between the publishing giant and a consortium of German universities, technical schools, research institutes, and libraries. But yesterday, Elsevier released a statement saying that [it would restore access to the institutions](#) “while good faith discussions about a nationwide contract carry on.” The move “reflects our support for German research and our expectation that an agreement can be reached,” Elsevier says. (Staff at the University of Münster, one of the affected institutions, received the statement in a universitywide email this morning.)

The consortium, called [Projekt DEAL](#), was formed in 2014 to bargain with publishers for nationwide subscription agreements. It's holding out for lower prices, more transparency, and more open access than Elsevier has offered so far. More than [60 German institutions](#) allowed their subscriptions to run out at the end of 2016, expecting that a new nationwide contract would be in place by January. But in December 2016, consortium representatives [said the terms Elsevier had offered weren't acceptable](#). Researchers at affected institutions [lost access to new papers](#), and some to archived issues as well.