

Royal Netherlands Historical Society

BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review

[BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review](#) is the leading academic journal for the history of the Netherlands, Belgium and their global presence. The journal was founded in 1877 and publishes research about broad and important issues in the history of the Low Countries, and seeks to do so in a wider comparative and international context. [Rigorously peer-reviewed](#) BMGN – LCHR seeks to present the best historical scholarship of both young and more established scholars. The journal accommodates all historical sub disciplines and covers every period of history since the Middle Ages. It accepts contributions in Dutch and English.

BMGN - LCHR is published four times a year in print and online as an Diamond Open Access journal. Book reviews appear online only and continuously. Authors of articles published in BMGN – LCHR remain the copyright holders and grant third parties the right to use, reproduce, and share the article according to the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC 4.0\)](#). As BMGN - LCHR publishes research that is financed with public funding, the journal provides immediate open access to its content and it is APC-free. This policy is also grounded on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

In 2018 the BMGN-LCHR published four issues including one theme issue (on “Citizenship”, issue of 6 articles). In four issues 14 articles in total were published as well as three forum-discussions (11 articles) and two so-called dossiers (6 articles), in addition a hundred reviews were published solely online. 99 percent of the 2018 contributions were written by scholars from European and American universities and research institutes.

BMGN - LCHR is published by the [Royal Netherlands Historical Society \(RNHS, a non-profit learned society\)](#) in cooperation with Utrecht University Library (UOpen Journals), the Netherlands.

Question 1: Valorization

Academic historians who are active in the Netherlands generally aim to increase the societal impact of their publicly funded research by publishing articles and books in popularizing magazines and journals or in books aimed at a general audience. This output is generally published in Dutch and fits with the policy of NWO and the European funding bodies to stimulate and demand public outreach and the dissemination of academic research. As popularizing magazines and commercial Dutch publishers, who publish the majority of popularizing history books, will generally not be able or will not feel the (commercial) need to create an open access infrastructure, there is a serious danger that academic Dutch historians will no longer be able to participate in public outreach. **We would like to**

know how does Plan S not conflict with the general aim of NWO and European funding bodies to press for valorization?

Question 2: Mirror subscription journal

The RNHS is a not-for-profit learned society. The RNHS offers its members (close to 1,100 in total) the possibility of supportive membership i.e. a membership with subscription for the printed edition of *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review*. Roughly half its membership base subsidizes the journal this way. The fees for membership with subscription range from € 45 per annum (for members up to 30 years of age) to € 75 per annum (for members from 30 to 70 years of age). The subscription fee for non-members, such as libraries, universities and research institutes is € 110 per annum.

In the *Guidance on the Implementation of Plan S* it is mentioned that a journal, in order to be compliant with Plan S, must not have a mirror/sister subscription journal with substantial overlap in editorial board. These journals “will de facto be considered hybrid journals” and “are not compliant with Plan S unless they are part of a transformative agreement”.

Many learned societies, like the RNHS, offer their membership the possibility to support/subsidize their journals via a subscription. We would like to know how cOAlition S qualifies these learned society journals, like the one the RNHS publishes, that have a mirror subscription journal, as well as an online published (diamond) open access journal.

Question 3: Support of learned societies and their journals

As mentioned in question 2, many learned societies publish journals in green, gold or diamond open access. The main journals in the field of history in the Netherlands for instance are all published by a learned society. These societies are non-profit and pour possible positive revenues back into their scientific communities.

We would like to know how cOAlition S and Plan S intend to support and fund learned society journals? Furthermore we would like to know if and if so, what kind of role cOAlition S and Plan S see for themselves in developing a non-profit infrastructure/platform on which these journals can be published in (diamond) open access.