Dear Members of Tuebingen University, 
dear Colleagues,

In the past few months, the Alliance of Science Organisations led by the German Rectors' Conference has conducted intensive nationwide negotiations with the publishers Elsevier, SpringerNature and Wiley as part of the DEAL project. It acts on behalf of several hundred scientific institutions in Germany (universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions). DEAL has set three main goals for the negotiations:

- Access to all journals of the three publishers mentioned above.
- Appropriate pricing based on a simple, appropriate and future-oriented calculation model based on the volume of publications.
- All publications of authors of the participating institutions will be made Open Access (CC-BY, including peer review).

The University of Tübingen has also granted the project a negotiating mandate.

Current state of negotiations

An agreement with SpringerNature, in terms of the goals mentioned above, appears to be possible in the course of 2018. Both parties have agreed to extend the previous terms for 2018 without a surcharge in order to negotiate details without time pressure. For the University of Tübingen this means that the same set of titles will remain available at the same price as in 2017.

The Baden-Württemberg licence agreement with Wiley, in which the University of Tübingen also participates, runs until the end of 2018, so there will be no changes for the University of Tübingen at the moment.

Although negotiations with Elsevier have been going on for more than a year, there are no results so far. The publisher has not submitted a negotiable offer from the perspective of the DEAL Group. In order to reinforce the goals of the DEAL Group, the existing Baden-Württemberg licence agreement with Elsevier was terminated on behalf of the LRK Baden-Württemberg (see press release by Prof. Ressel dated 7 July 2017). The licence agreement with the Elsevier imprint Cell Press was also cancelled. This means that the University of Tübingen will not have paid access to publications from 2018 onwards, archive access to paid content will however be maintained until the publication year 2017. However, Elsevier has not cut off access at all institutions whose contracts expired at the end of 2016. We will have to wait and see how it will be for Tübingen. In the event that the current Elsevier journals are switched off, the University Library prepares a replacement supply concept via document delivery services, about which we will inform you promptly.

Numerous scientists have assured the negotiator Professor Hippler, the President of the German Rectors' Conference, of their support in the negotiations with Elsevier by suspending their activities as editors or reviewers for Elsevier until an agreement has been reached. A list, which is updated at regular intervals, as well as further information on the project and a press review, can be found at www.projekt-deal.de/.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. Marianne Dörr and Dr. Johanna Dammeier at the University Library.

Prof. Dr. Peter Grathwohl, Vice-President for Research and Innovation