

OPEN METADATA SOURCES

COMPARING OPENALEX TO
CROSSREF

DATE: 24 APRIL 2023

[PRELIMINARY VERSION]

Executive Summary

In January 2022, OpenAlex was launched as a source of open bibliographic metadata. Intended both as a replacement of and improvement on Microsoft Academic, it provides structured data on publications, authors, institutions and publication venues.

In this project, we assess and compare the value added by OpenAlex to Crossref metadata, both in coverage of publications and other research output (with and without DOIs) as well as in coverage of metadata (including identifiers) for authors, institutions, publication venues and disciplines.

The report currently contains all the graphs comparing metadata coverage of OpenAlex compared to Crossref, and of DOIs vs non-DOIs in OpenAlex, as well as some basic tables. More explanatory text and interpretation of findings will be added in a later version.

Complete data and code are available on Github:

<https://github.com/Curtin-Open-Knowledge-Initiative/open-metadata-report>

All images and data belonging to this report are located in the directory [reports/run_20230424_1](#) in this repository.

Introduction and Background

In January 2022, OpenAlex was launched as a source of open bibliographic metadata. Intended both as a replacement of and improvement on Microsoft Academic, it provides structured data on publications, authors, institutions and publication venues.

Many tools, projects and services relied on Microsoft Academic as source of largely open metadata, and might consider switching to OpenAlex. More broadly, the launch of OpenAlex has increased interest in the potential of open metadata to enable discovery, linking and integration of data on research processes and outputs.

Unlike metadata from closed sources, open metadata can be combined and enriched to provide a rich open metadata landscape. Transparency and provenance allow identifying and addressing existing gaps and biases in coverage and quality.

In this project, we assess and compare the value added by OpenAlex to Crossref metadata, both in coverage of publications and other research output (with and without DOIs) as well as in coverage of metadata (including identifiers) for authors, institutions, publication venues and disciplines.

Data sources

This report was run using the following tables as source data:

- Crossref: academic-observatory.crossref.crossref_metadata20230107
- OpenAlex:

Complete data and code are available on Github:

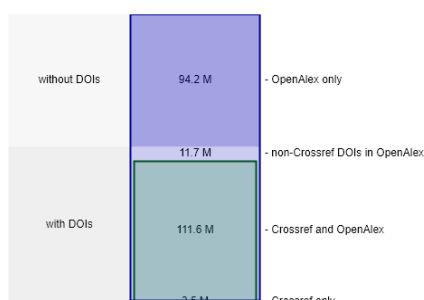
<https://github.com/Curtin-Open-Knowledge-Initiative/open-metadata-report>

All images and data belonging to this report are located in the directory [reports/run_20230424_1](#) in this repository.

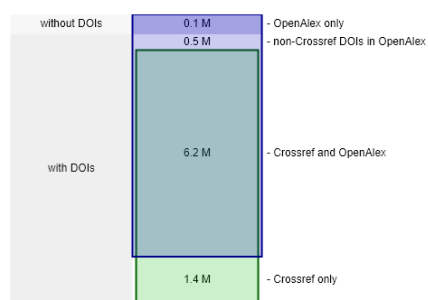
Coverage of OpenAlex vs Crossref

Comparing coverage

Overview

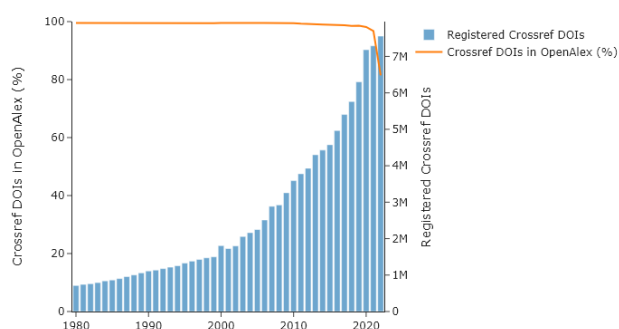


overall comparison - all time

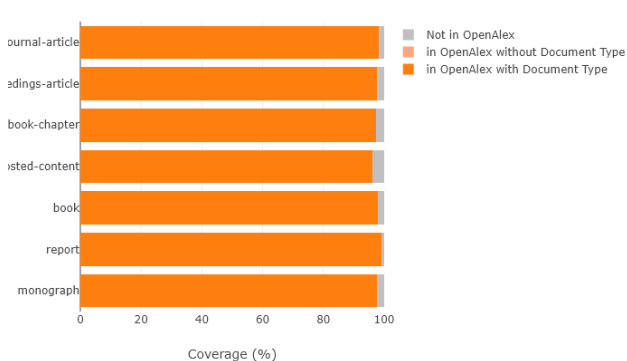


overall comparison - 2022

By year and publication type



coverage by publication date - all time

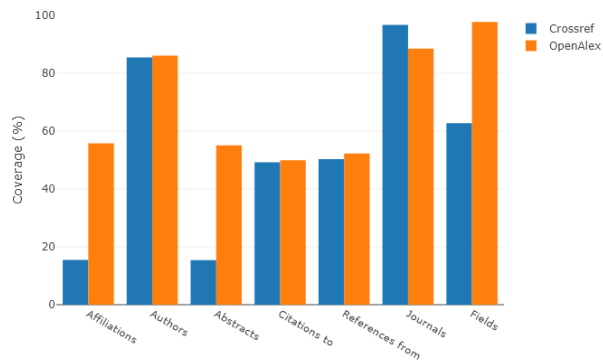


coverage by publication type - all time

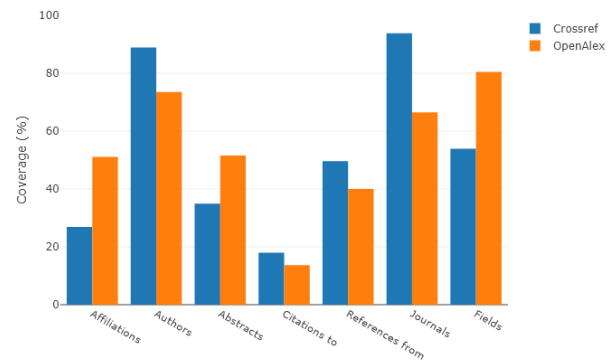
Value Add of OpenAlex to Crossref

Overview

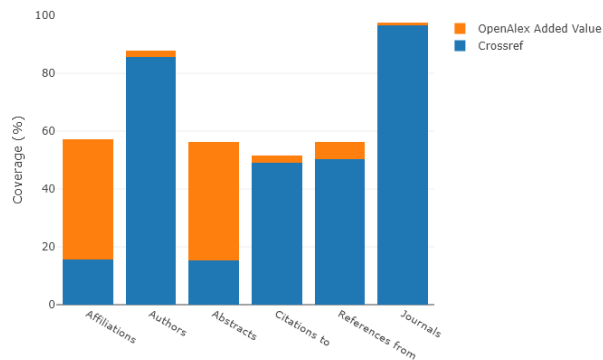
Comparing coverage of metadata types in Crossref and OpenAlex



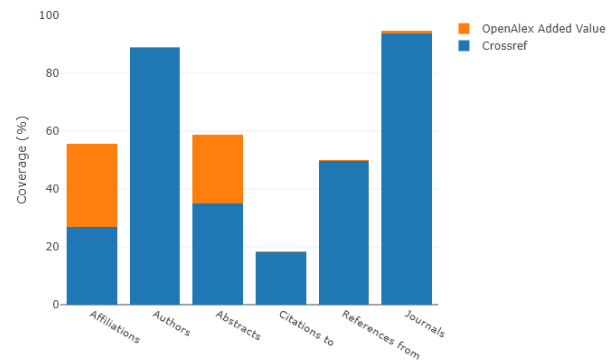
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022



coverage added value - all time

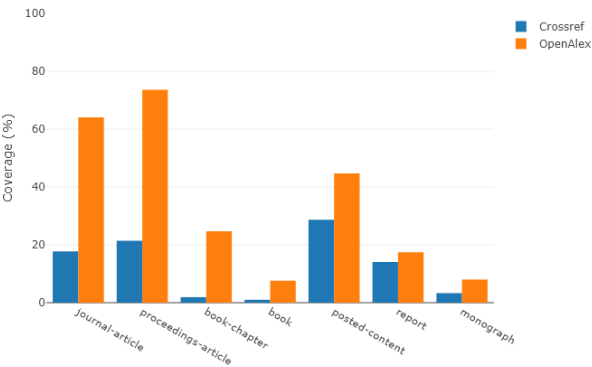


coverage added value - 2022

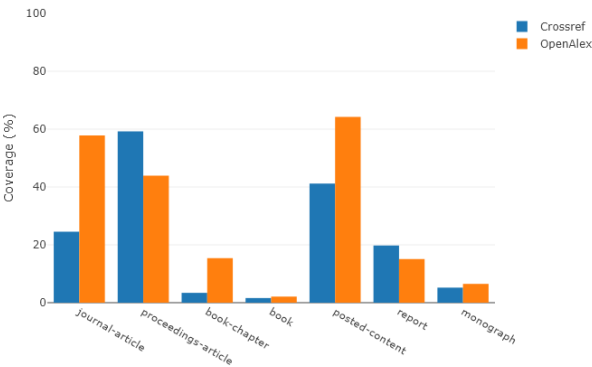
Details

Metadata coverage in OpenAlex and Crossref by publication type

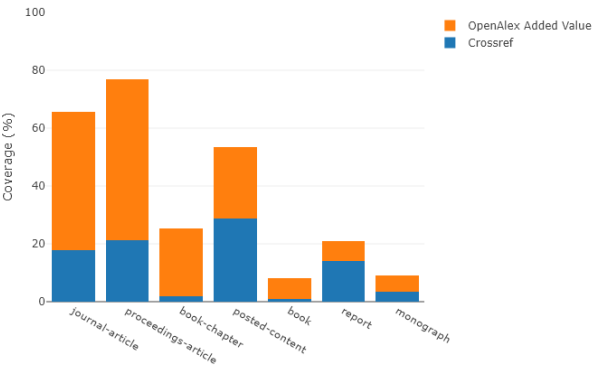
Affiliations



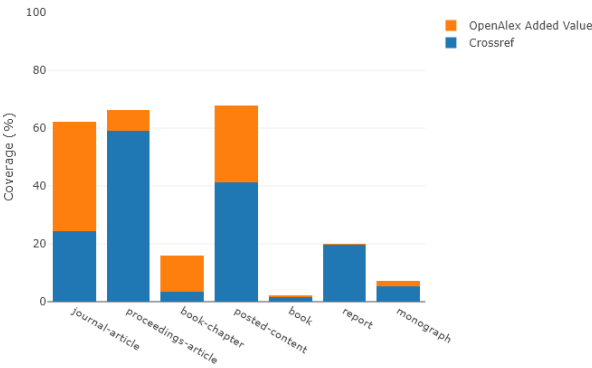
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

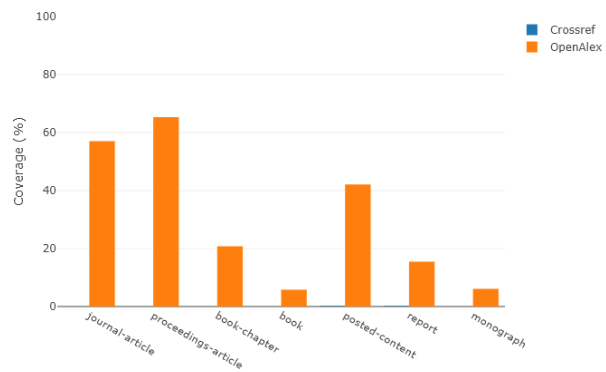


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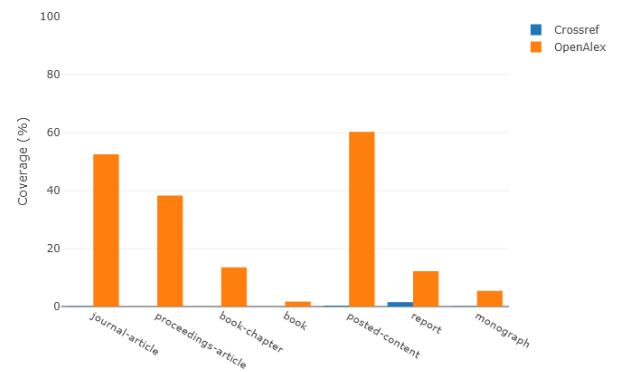


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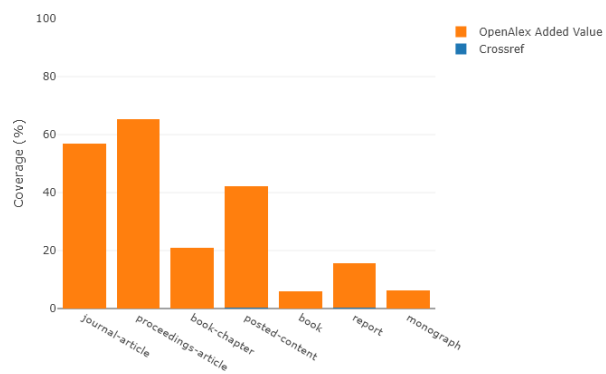
Affiliations ROR



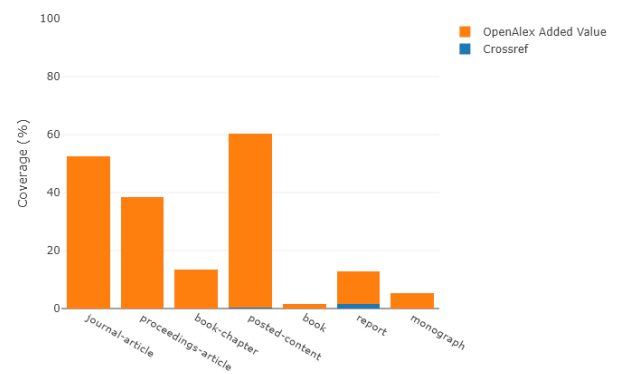
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

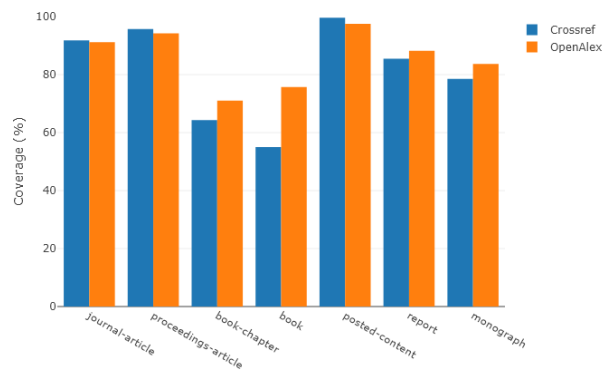


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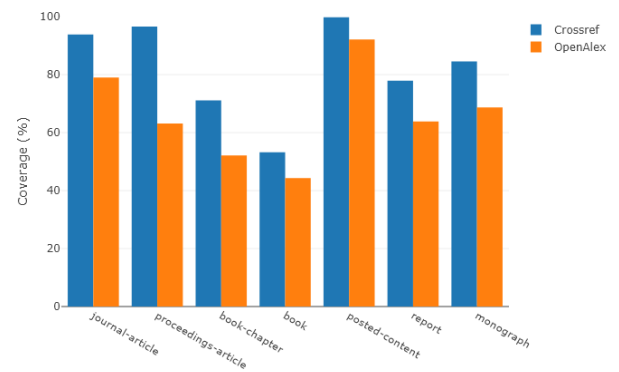


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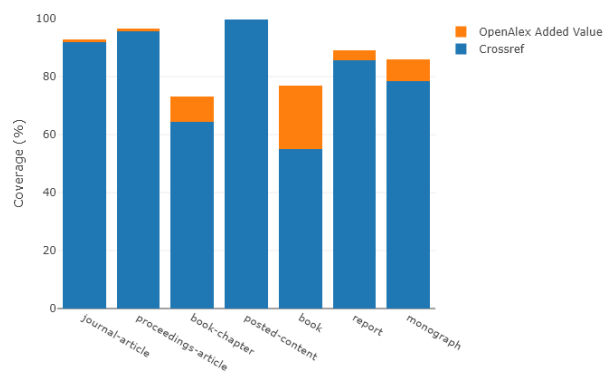
Authors



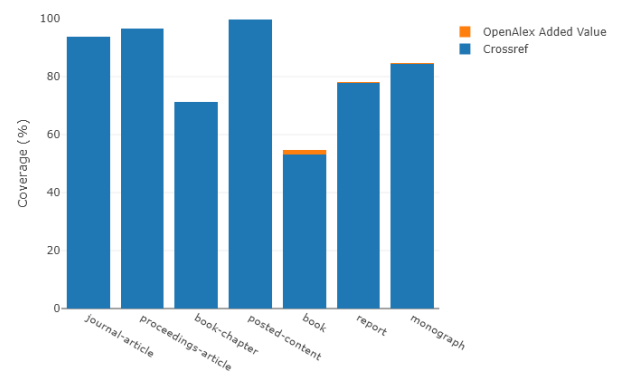
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

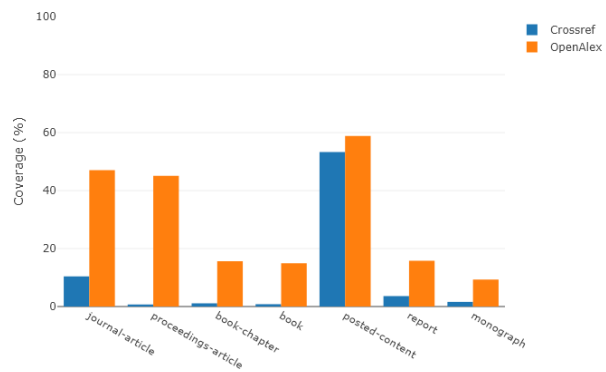


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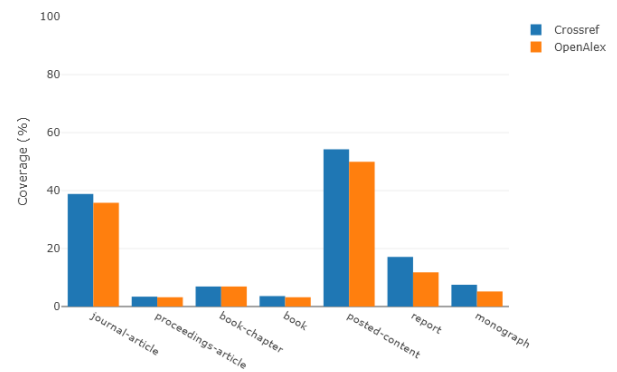


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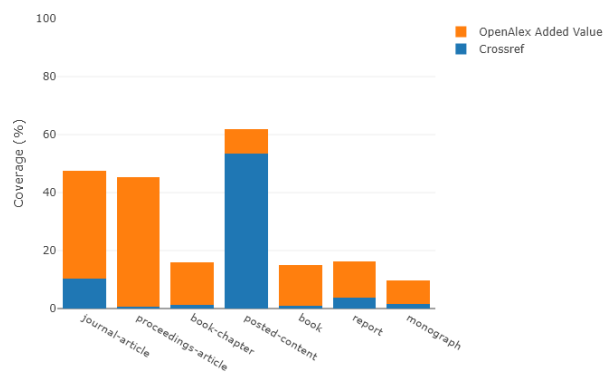
Authors ORCIDiDs



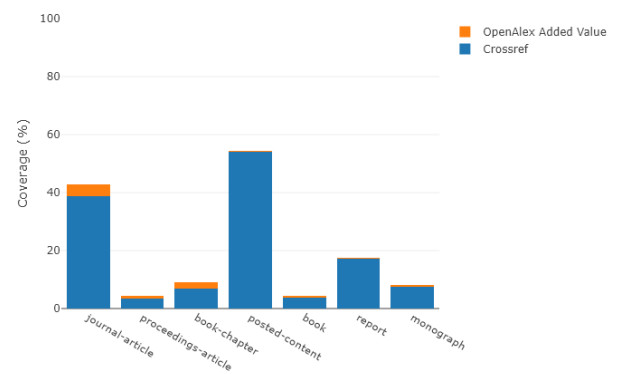
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

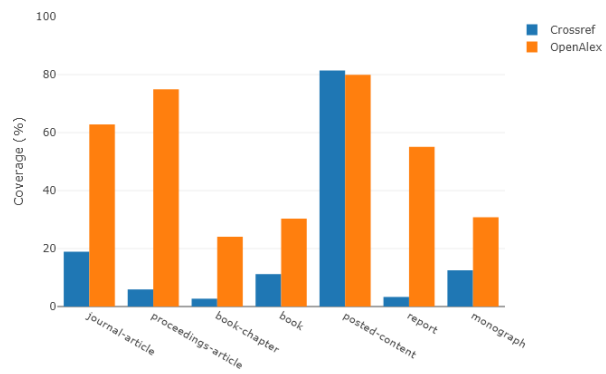


coverage added value - all time

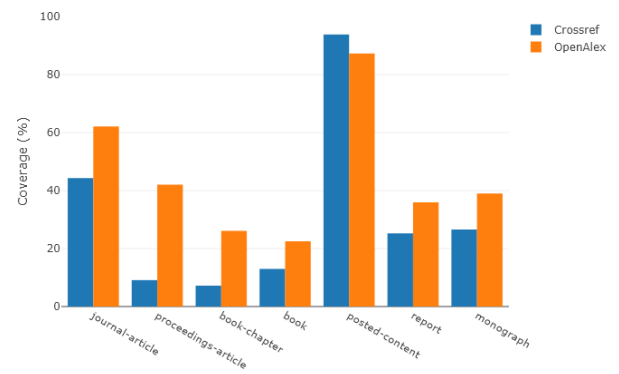


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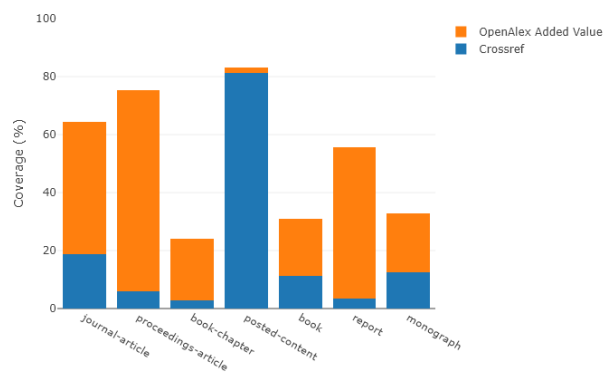
Abstracts



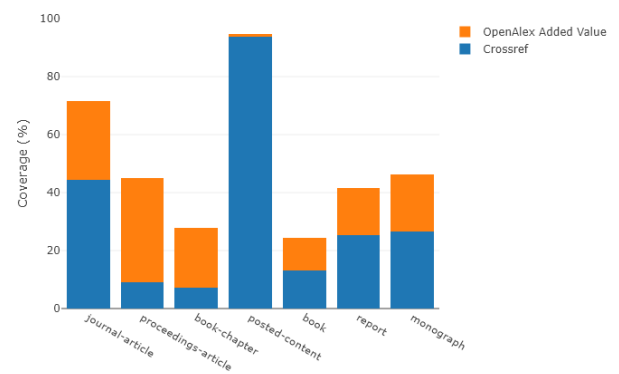
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

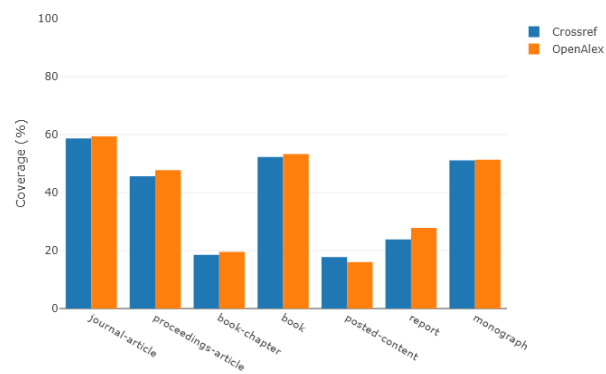


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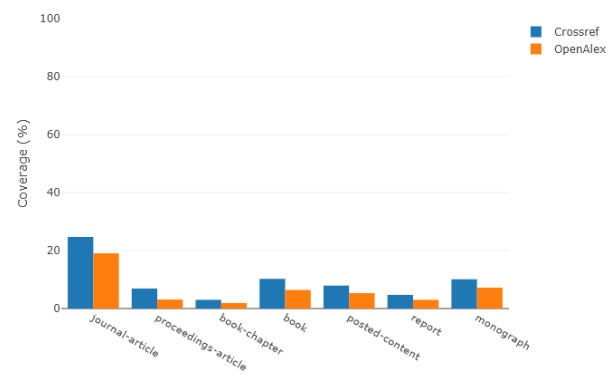


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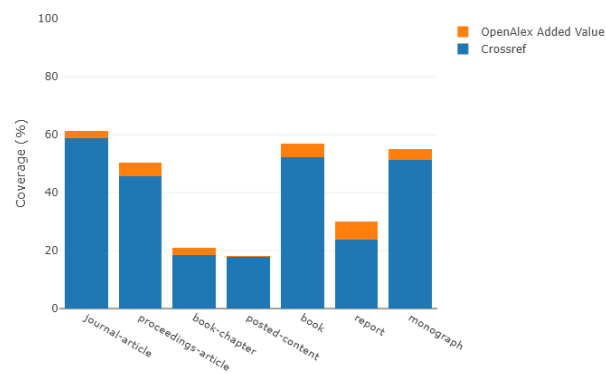
Citations to



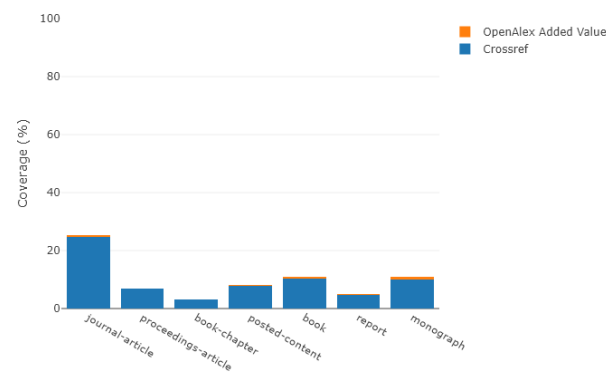
coverage comparison - all time



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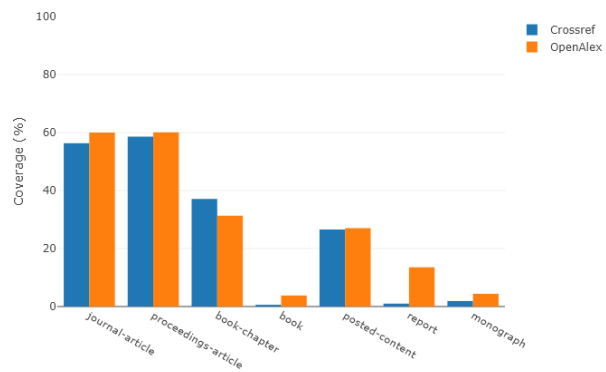


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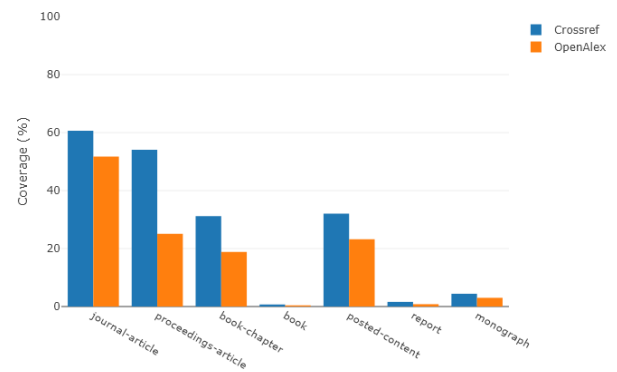


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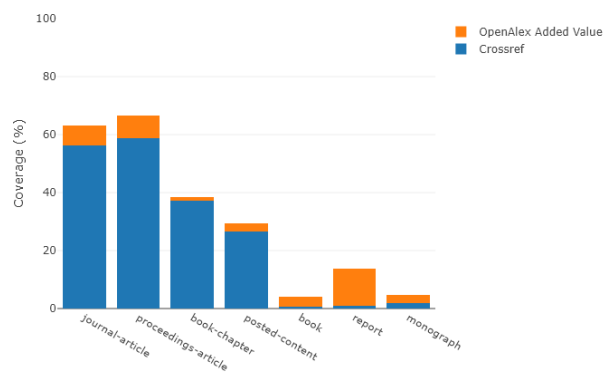
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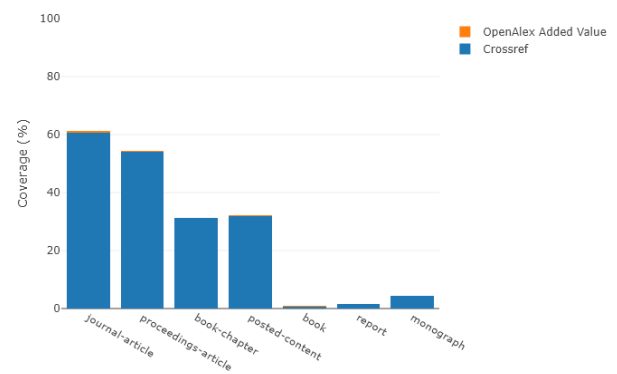
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

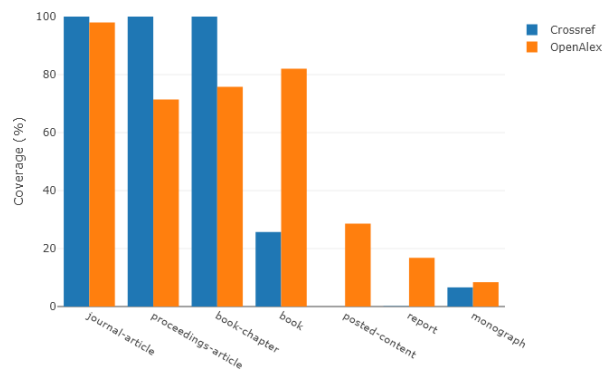


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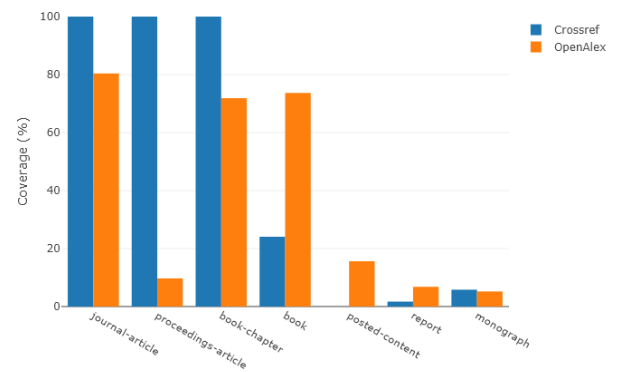


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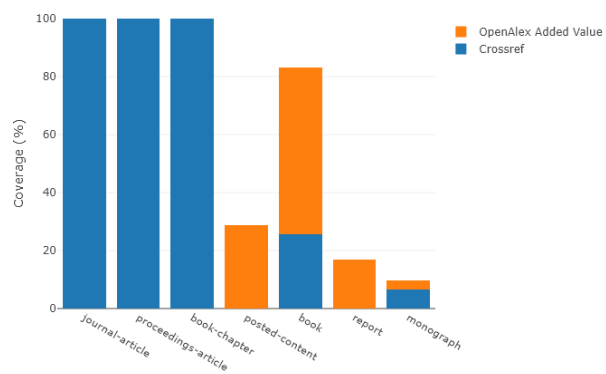
Journals



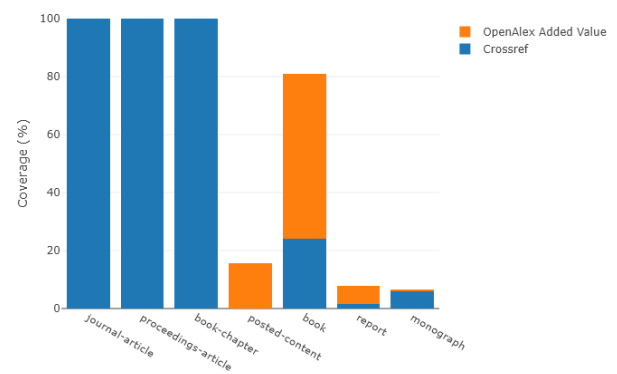
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

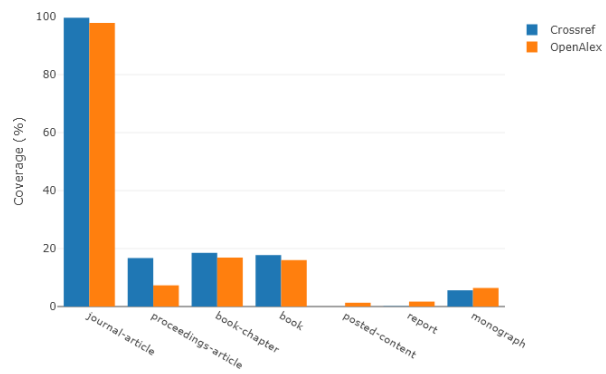


coverage added value - all time

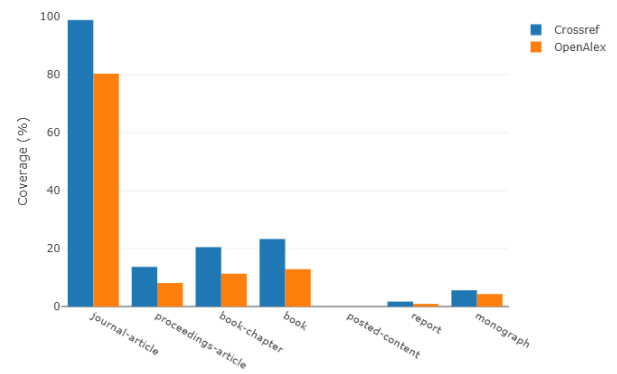


coverage added value - 2022

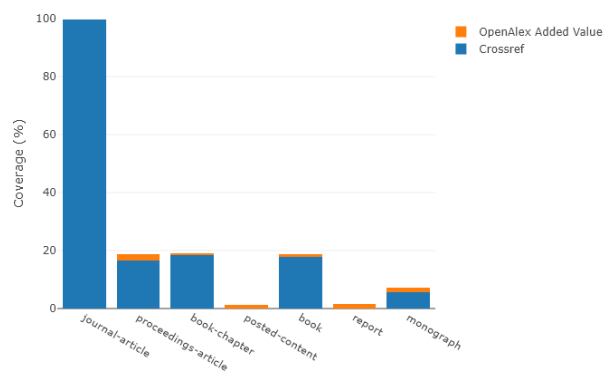
Journals ISSN



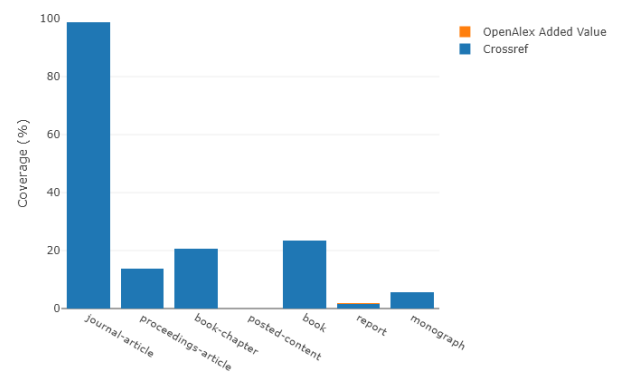
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

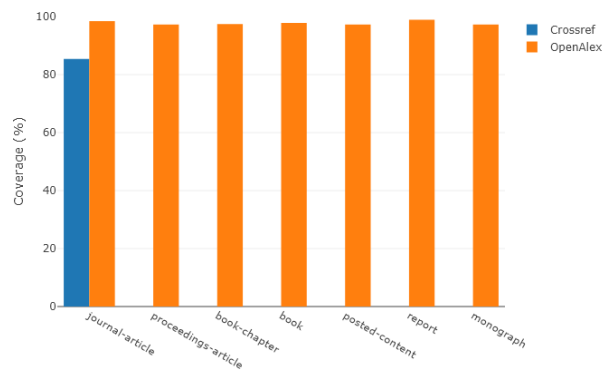


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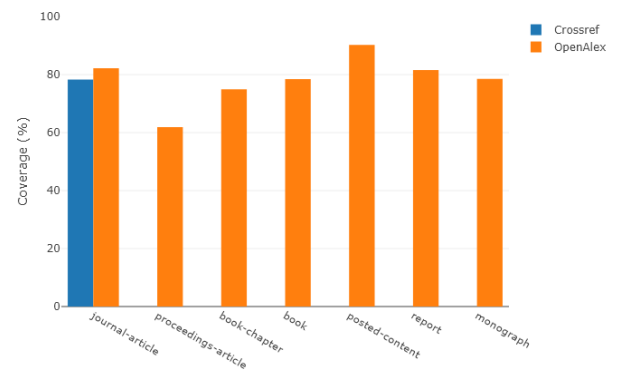


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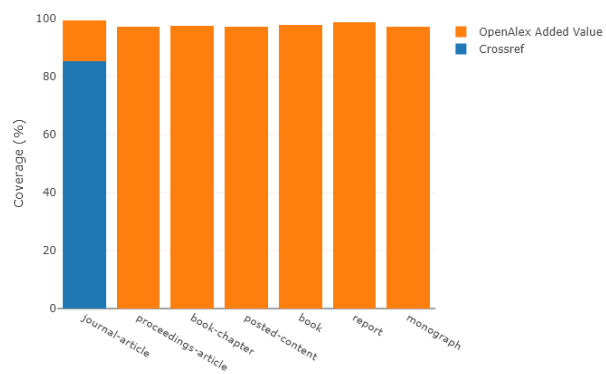
Fields



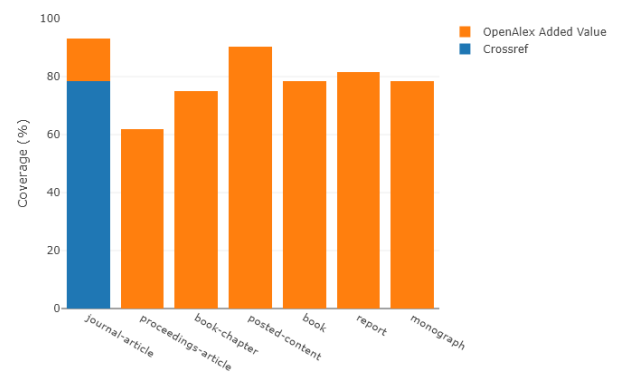
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022



coverage added value - all time

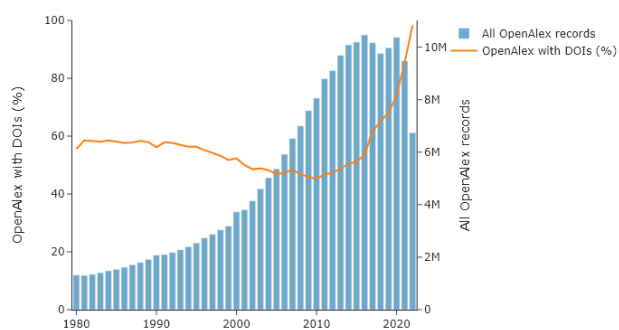


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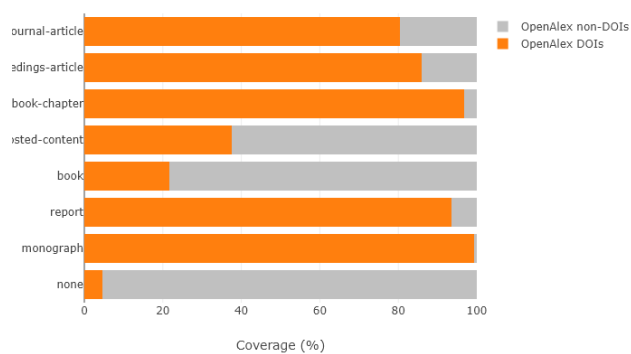
OpenAlex Coverage Beyond Crossref

DOIs vs non-DOIs

By year and publication type



coverage by publication date - all time

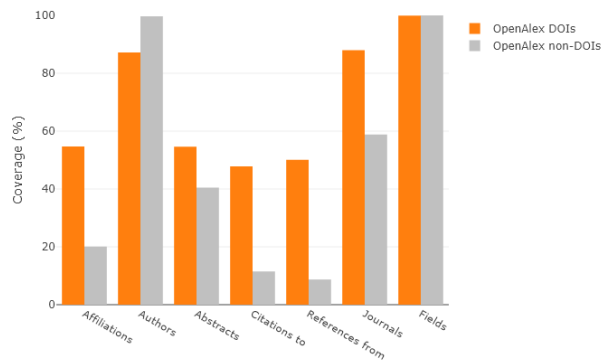


coverage by publication type - all time

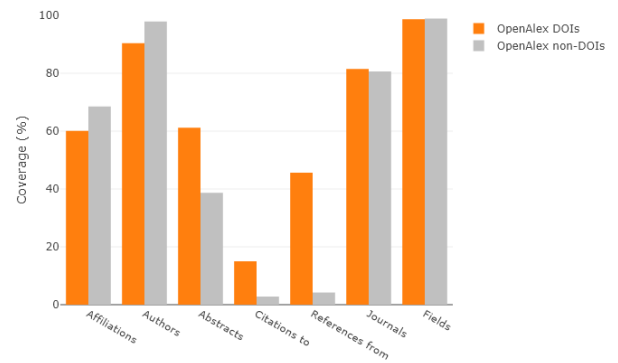
Metadata Coverage

Overview

Comparing coverage of metadata types for DOIs and non-DOIs in OpenAlex



coverage comparison - all time

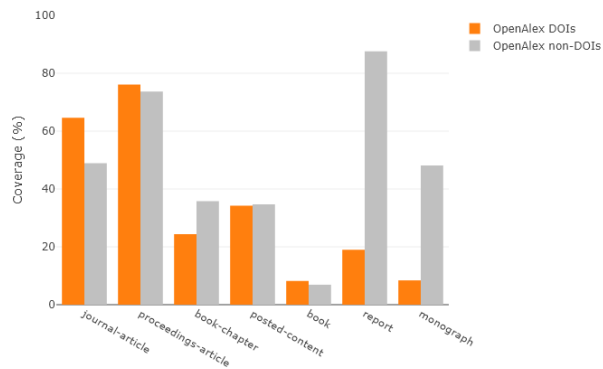


coverage comparison - 2022

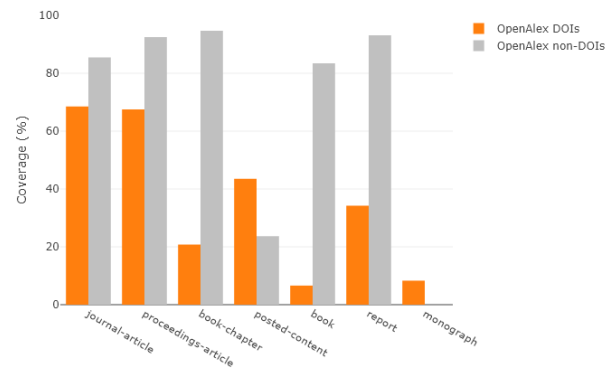
Details

Metadata coverage for DOIs and non-DOIs by publication type

Affiliations

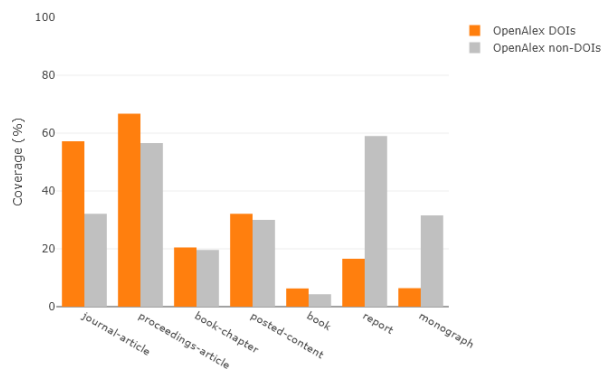


coverage comparison - all time

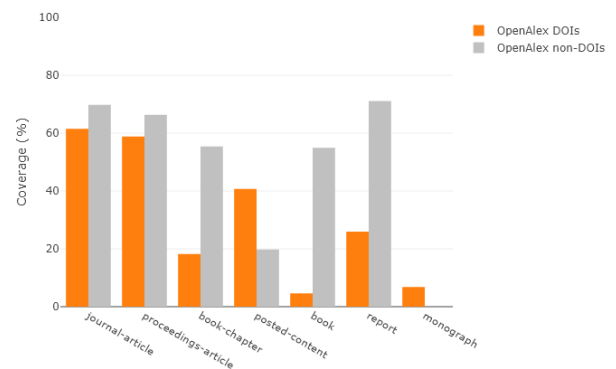


coverage comparison - 2022

Affiliations ROR

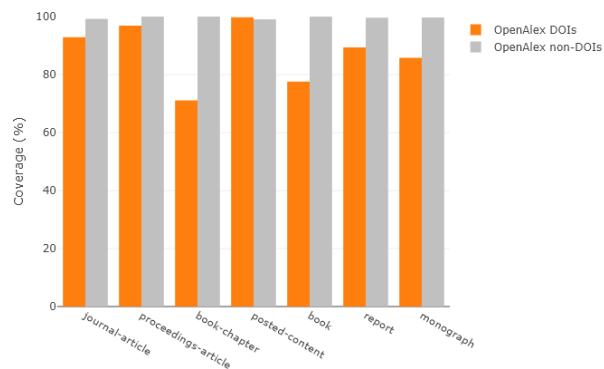


coverage comparison - all time

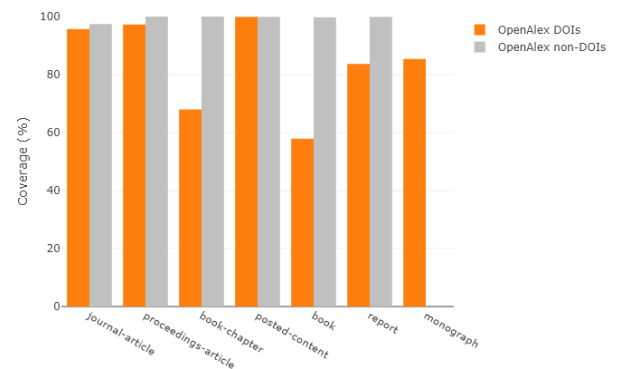


coverage comparison - 2022

Authors

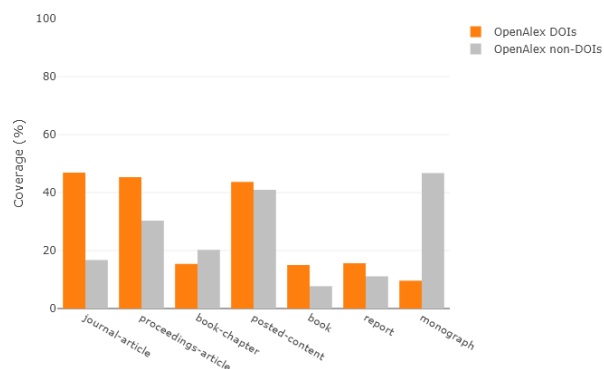


coverage comparison - all time

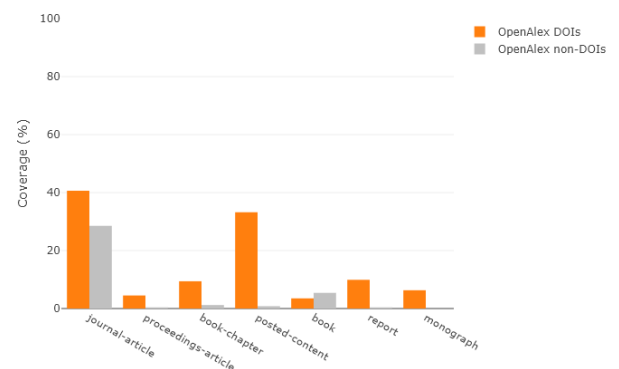


coverage comparison - 2022

Authors ORCIDs

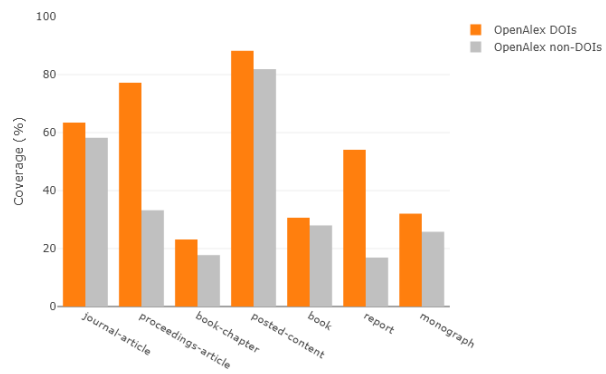


coverage comparison - all time

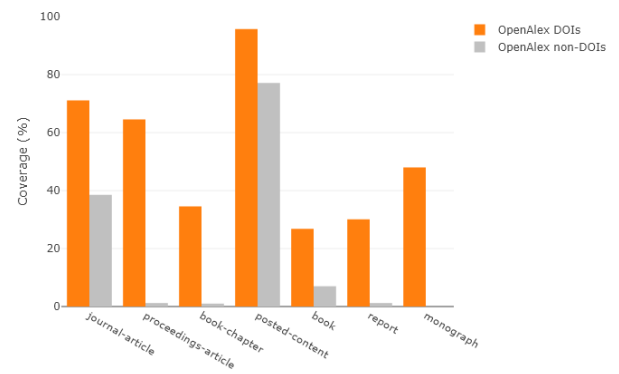


coverage comparison - 2022

Abstracts

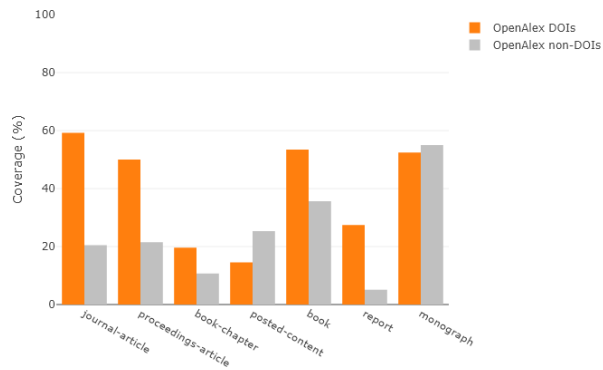


coverage comparison - all time

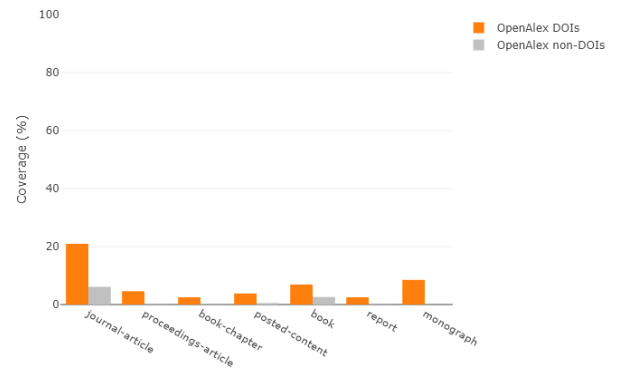


coverage comparison - 2022

Citations to

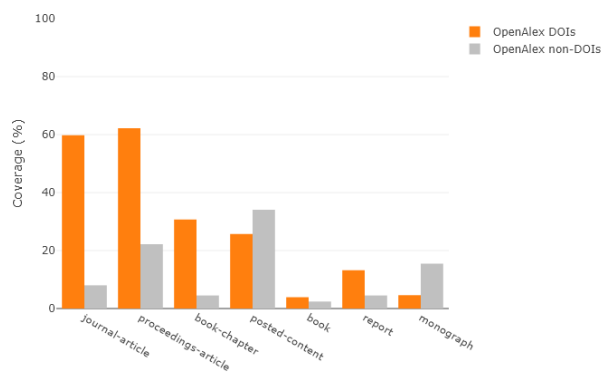


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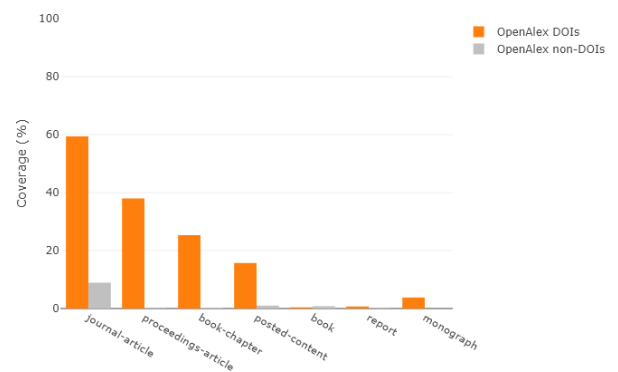


coverage comparison - 2022

References from

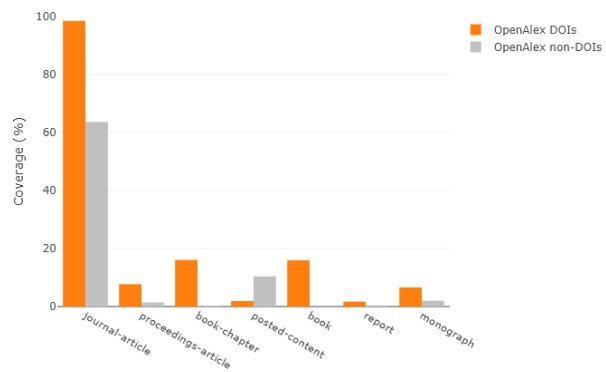


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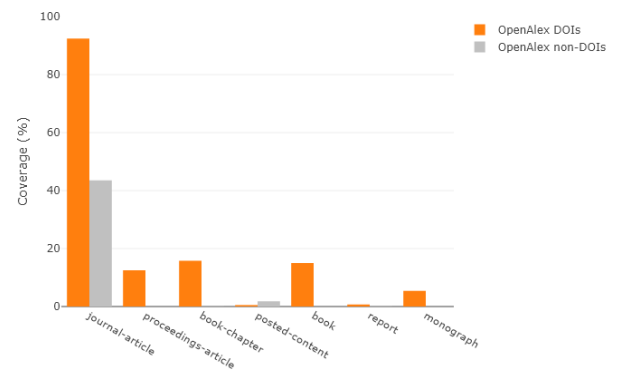


coverage comparison - 2022

Journals ISSN

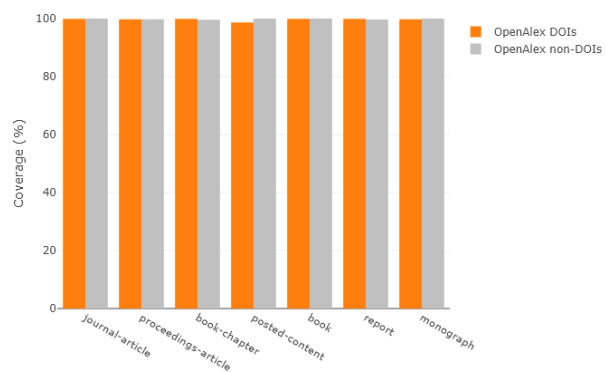


coverage comparison - all time

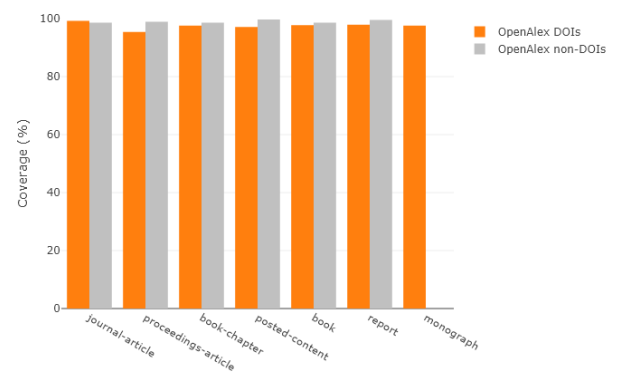


coverage comparison - 2022

Fields



coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2022

Appendix A - Tables

This section contains tables with summary counts. More tables will be added in a later version.

Crossref Current = 2021-2023

Focus Year = 2022

OpenAlex Coverage

Table 1. OpenAlex Metadata Coverage of Crossref DOIs

Time Frame	Crossref DOIs	OpenAlex Coverage of DOIs
All Time	114106963	111589895
Crossref Current	15457212	13331614
Focus Year	7557737	6154438

Crossref Coverage

Table 2. Crossref Metadata Coverage of Crossref DOIs

Time Frame	Crossref DOIs	Author Strings	Author ORCIDs	Affiliation Strings	Affiliation RORs	Abstracts	Field Classification	Venue Names	ISSNs
All Time	114106963	97534520	9714590	17712873	15184	17605618	71539736	110293918	88013738
Crossref Current	15457212	13708888	4574846	3670579	14112	5309811	8365274	14443911	11311113
Focus Year	7557737	6717850	2229979	2031355	10972	2638456	4076912	7090980	5446969