

OPEN METADATA SOURCES

COMPARING OPENALEX TO
CROSSREF

DATE: 25 MARCH 2022

[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 at:

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

with all images and data belonging to this report located in [/reports/run_20220325_4](#)

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_metadata20220207
- Crossref Member Data: utrecht-university.crossref.member_data with date 20220311
- OpenAlex: academic-observatory.openalex.Work with date 20220313

Complete data and code are available at:

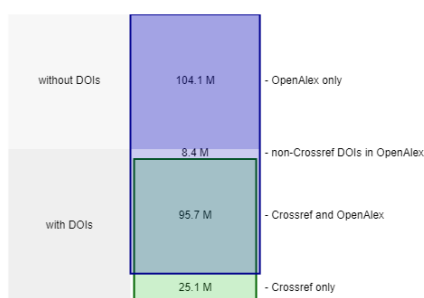
<https://github.com/Curtin-Open-Knowledge-Initiative/open-metadata-report>

with all images and data belonging to this report located in [/reports/run_20220325_4](#)

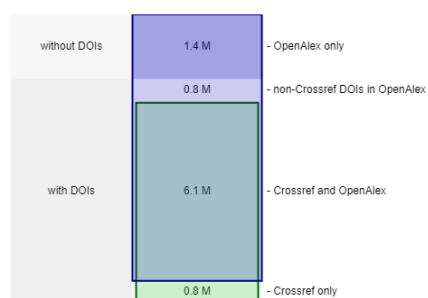
Coverage of OpenAlex vs Crossref

Comparing coverage

Overview

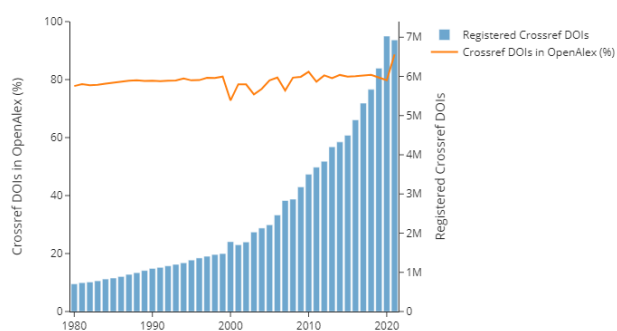


overall comparison - all time

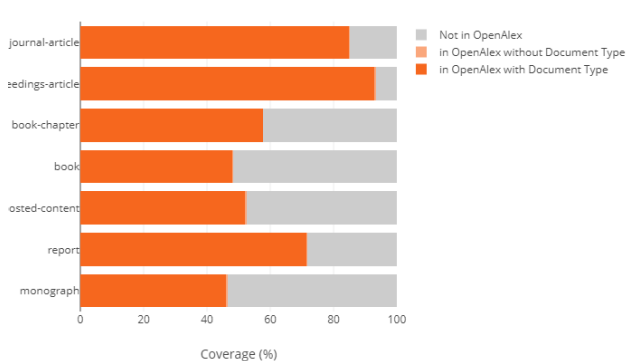


overall comparison - 2021

By year and publication type



coverage by publication date - all time

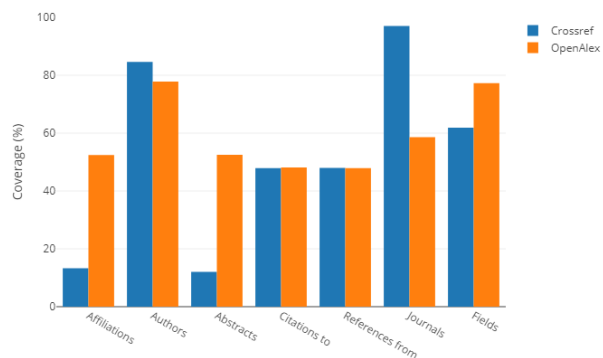


coverage by publication type - all time

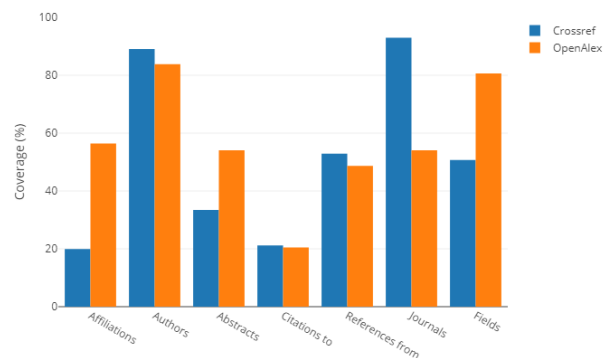
Value Add of OpenAlex to Crossref

Overview

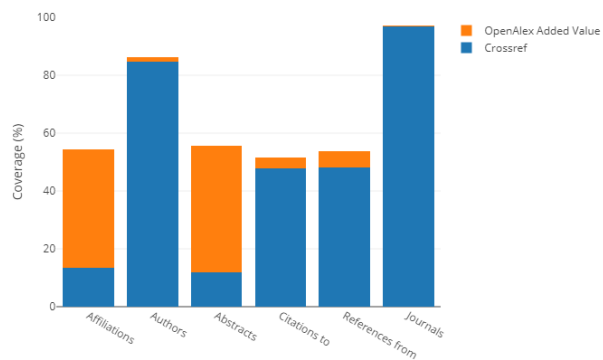
Comparing coverage of metadata types in Crossref and OpenAlex



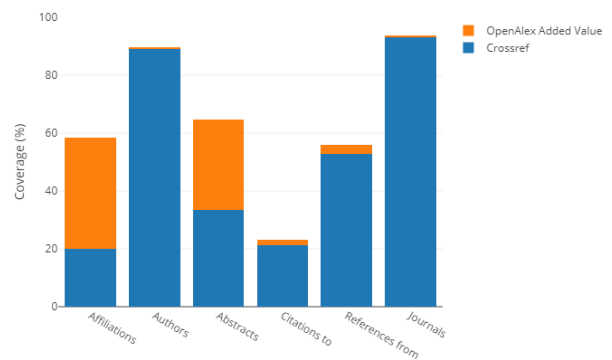
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021



coverage added value - all time

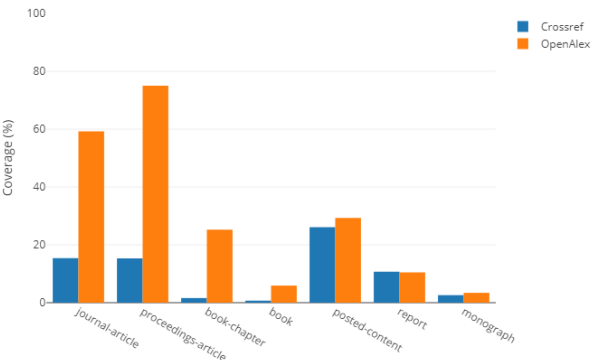


coverage added value - 2021

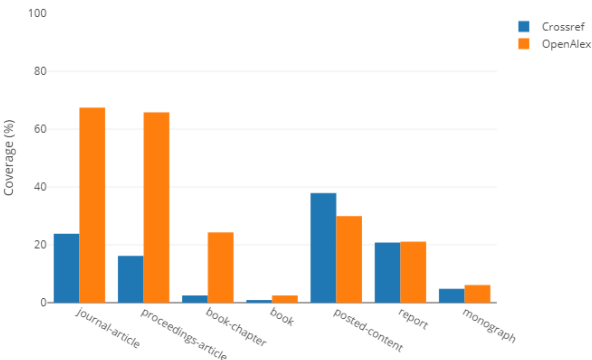
Details

Metadata coverage in OpenAlex and Crossref by publication type

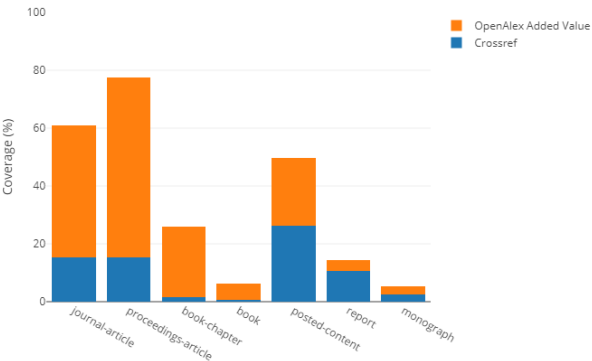
Affiliations



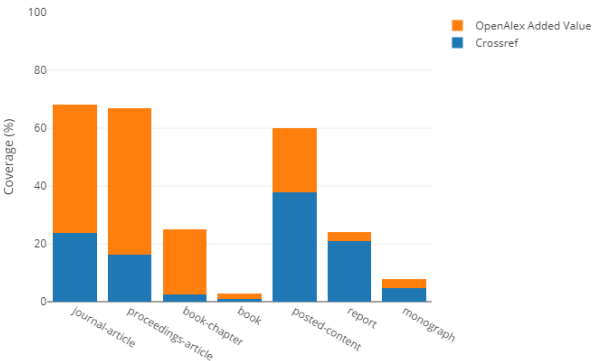
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

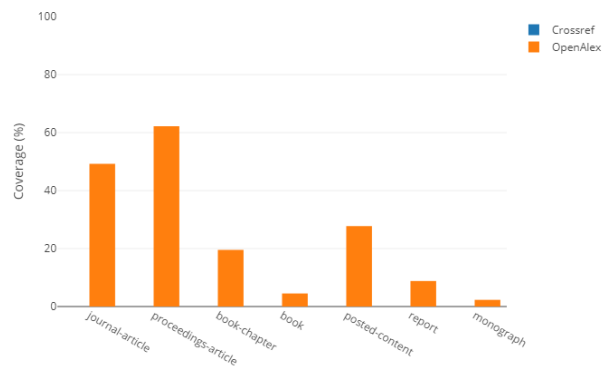


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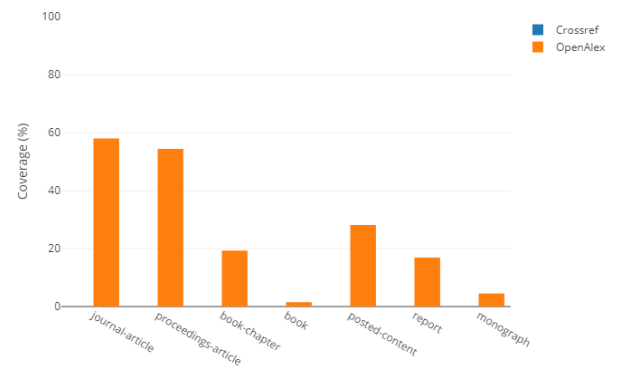


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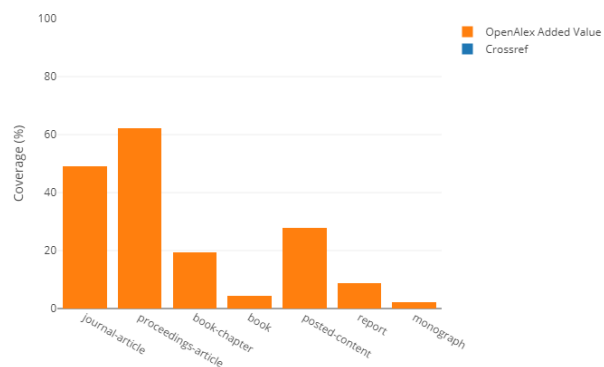
Affiliations ROR



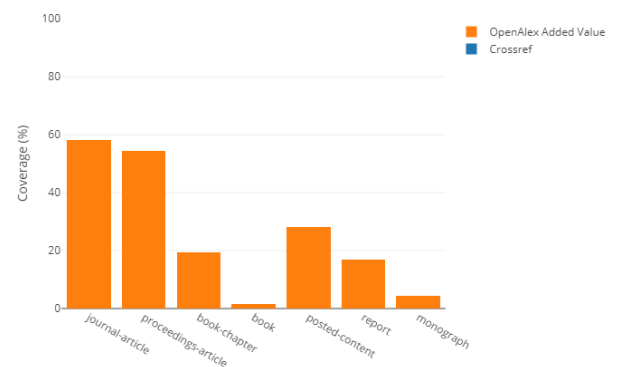
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

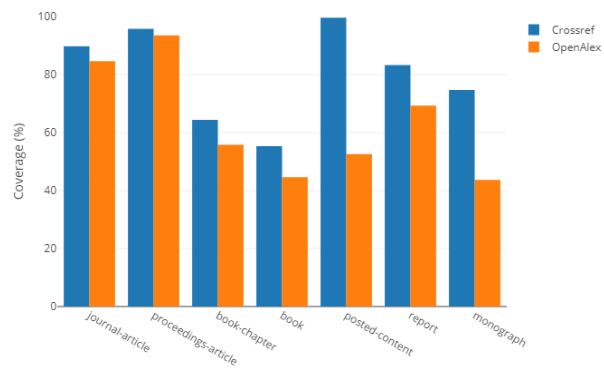


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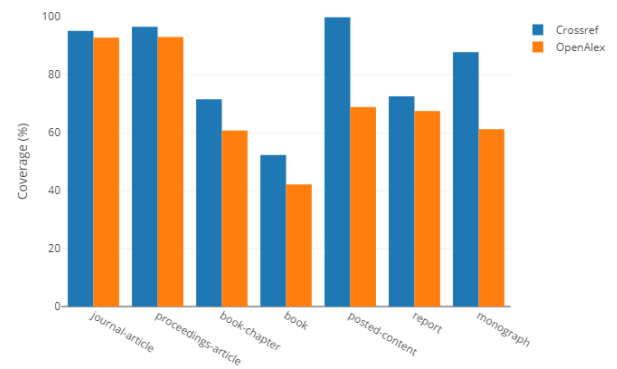


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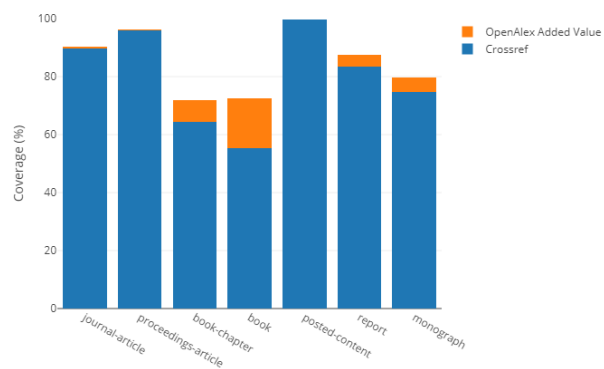
Authors



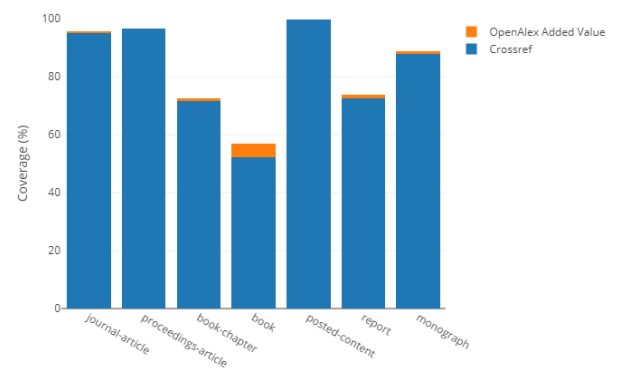
coverage comparison - all time



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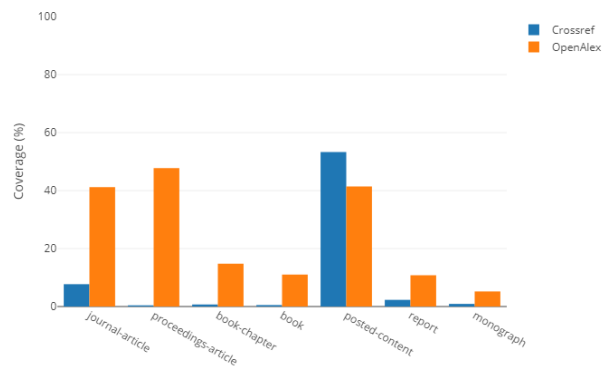


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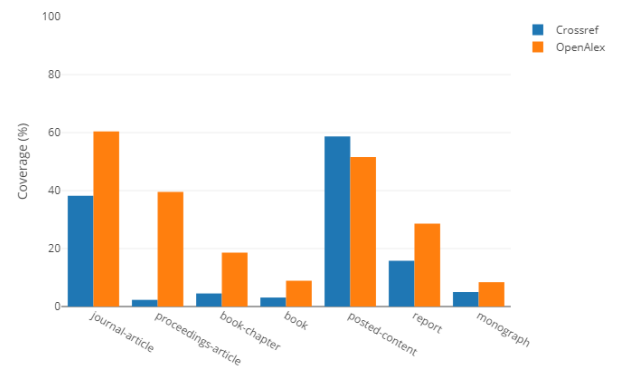


coverage added value - 2021

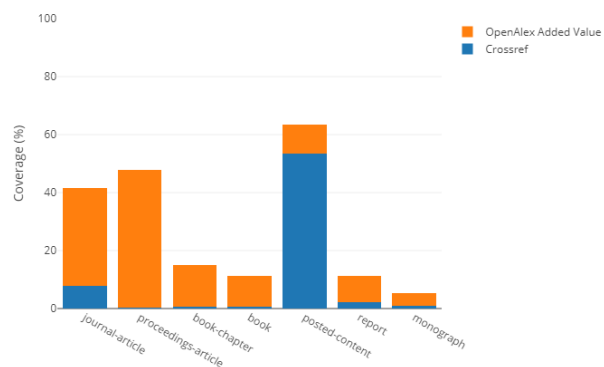
Authors ORCIDs



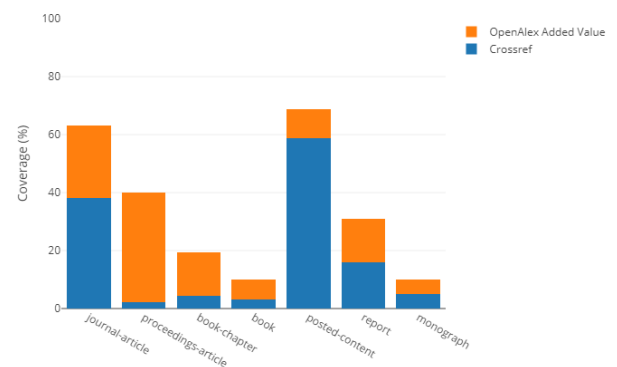
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

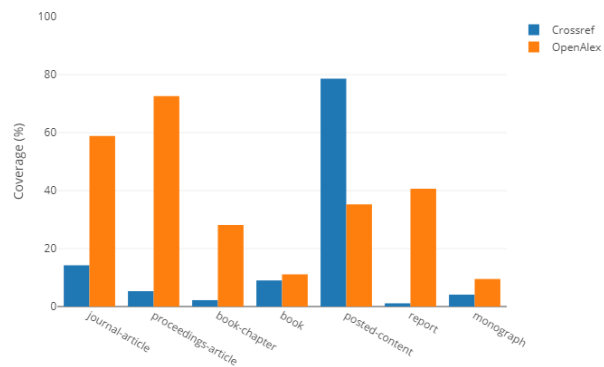


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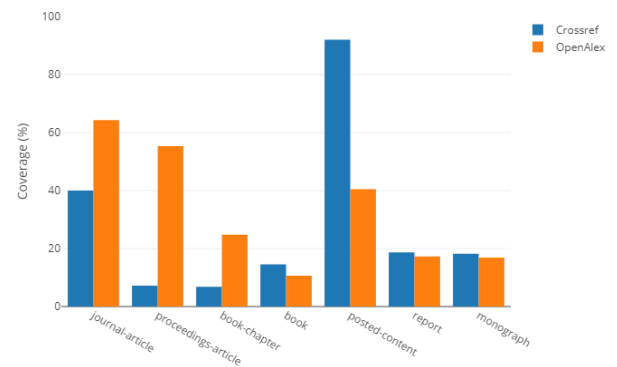


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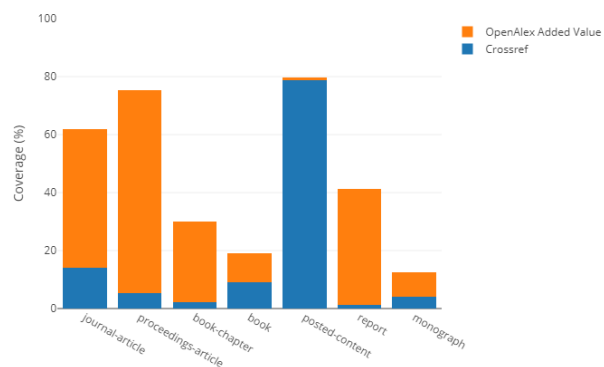
Abstracts



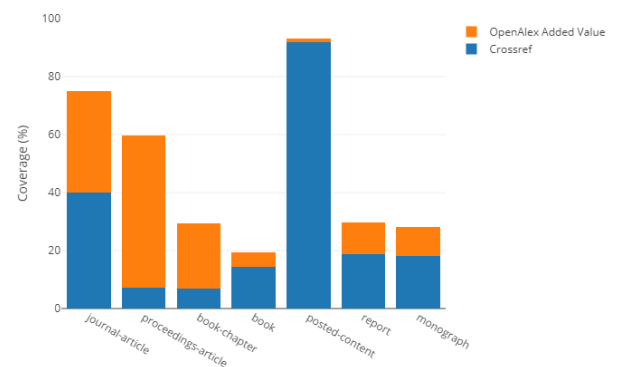
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

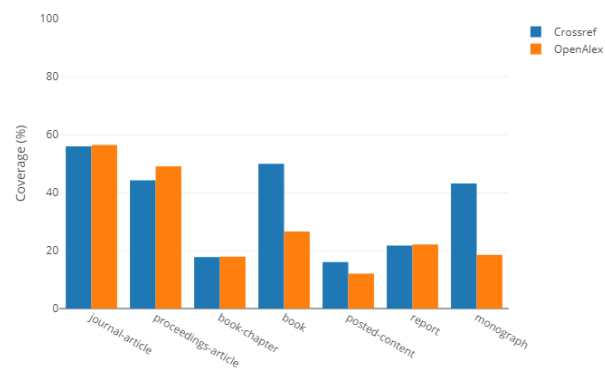


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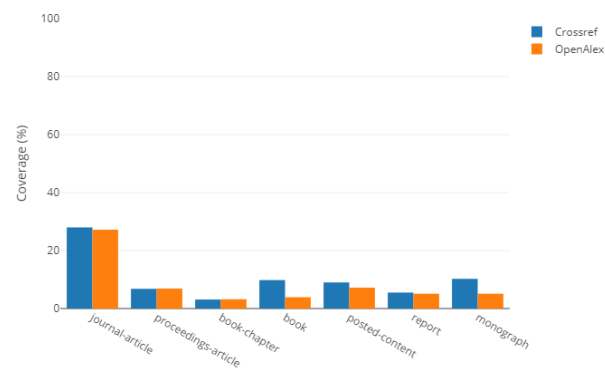


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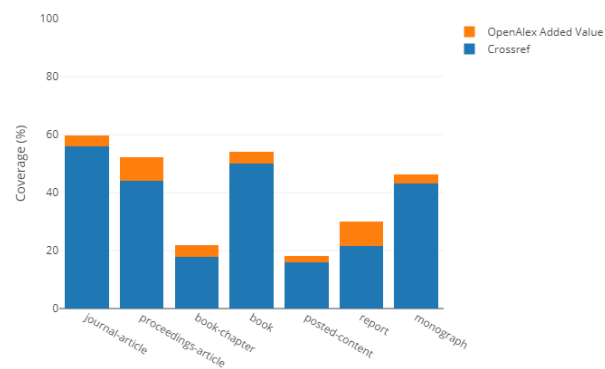
Citations to



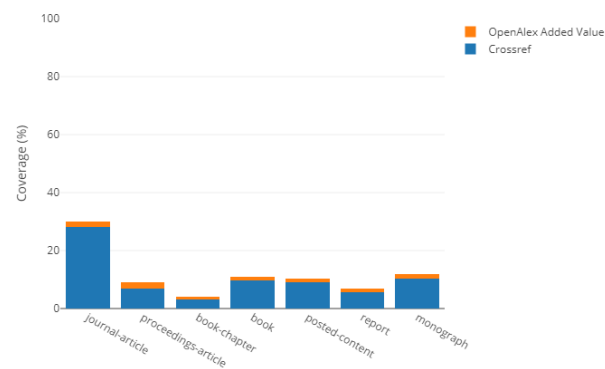
coverage comparison - all time



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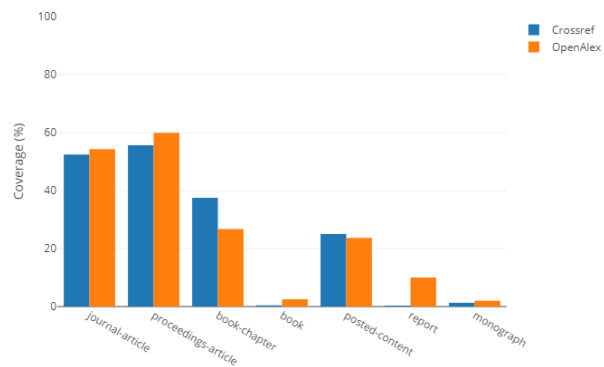


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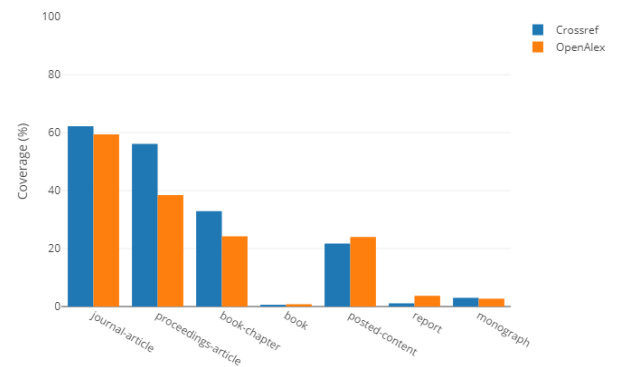


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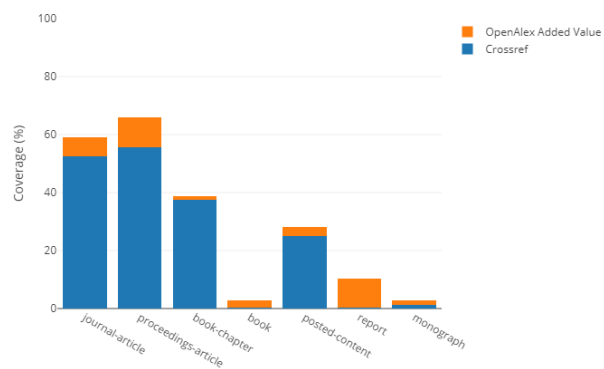
References from



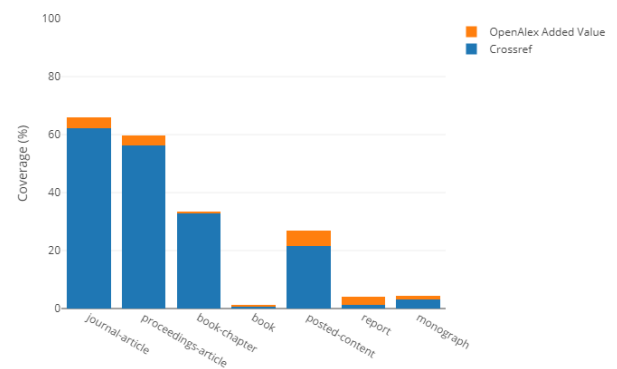
coverage comparison - all time



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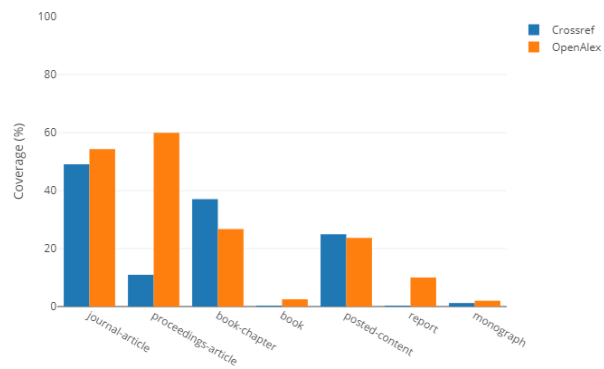


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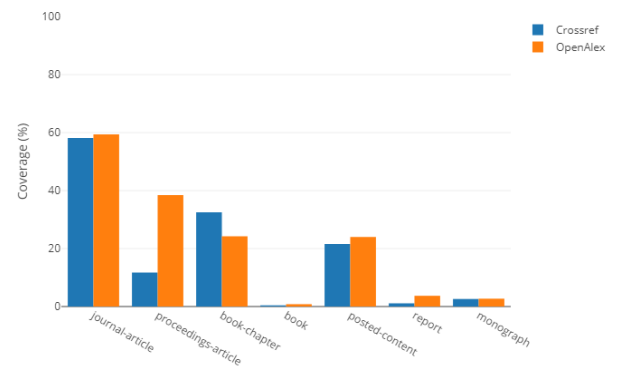


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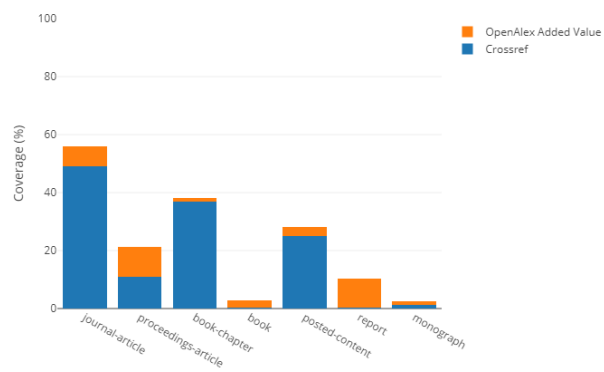
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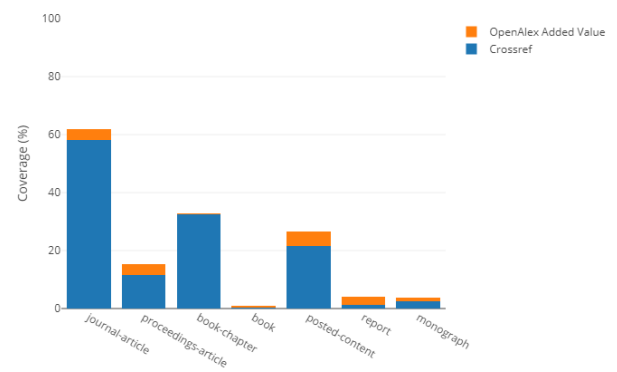
coverage comparison - all time



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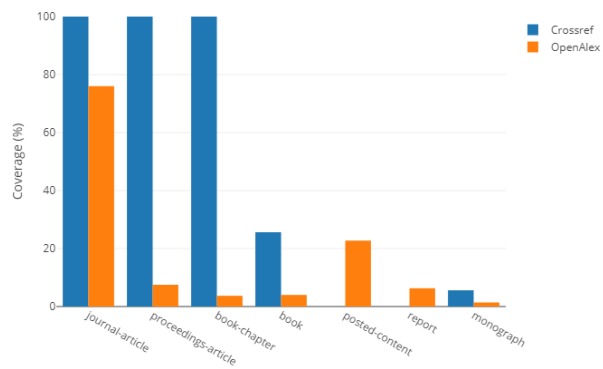


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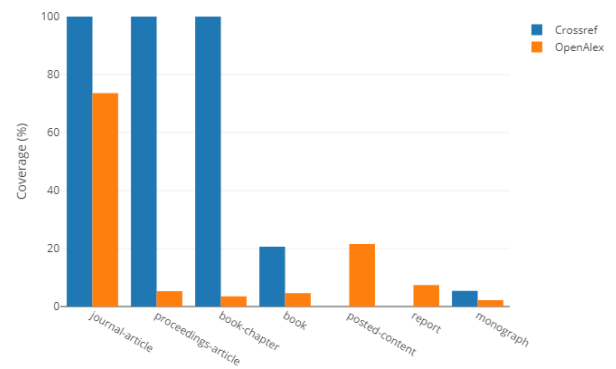


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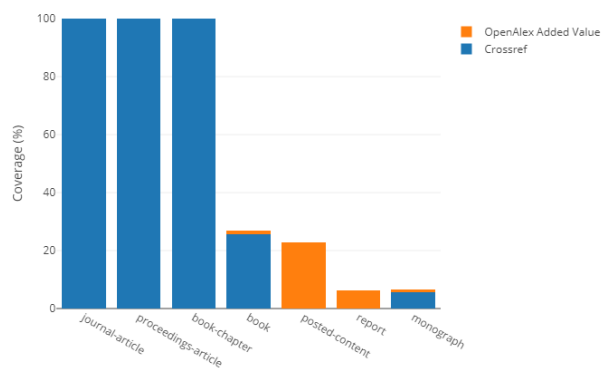
Journals



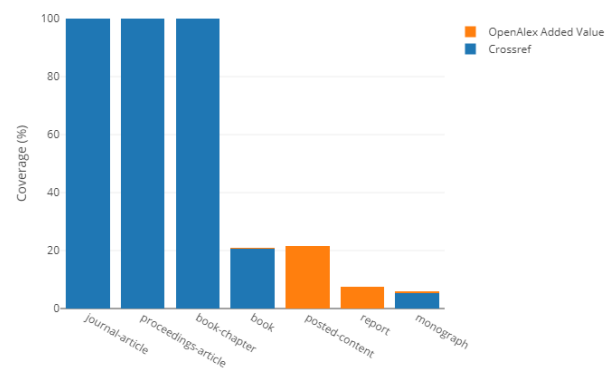
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

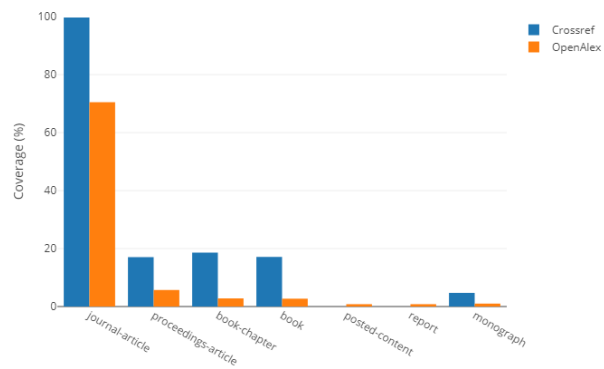


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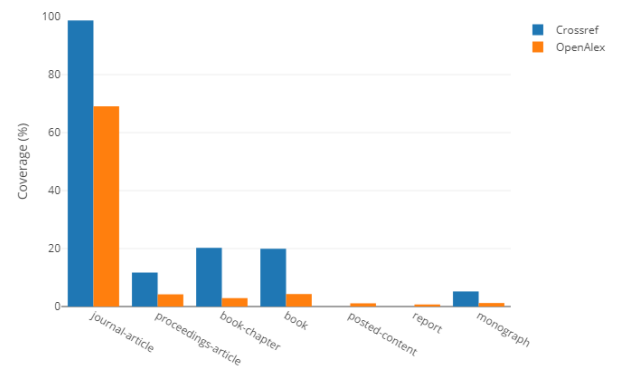


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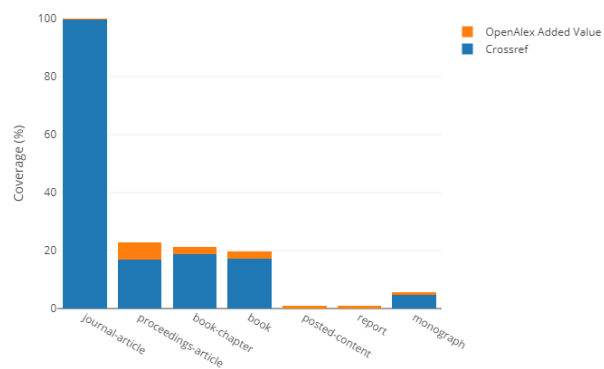
Journals ISSN



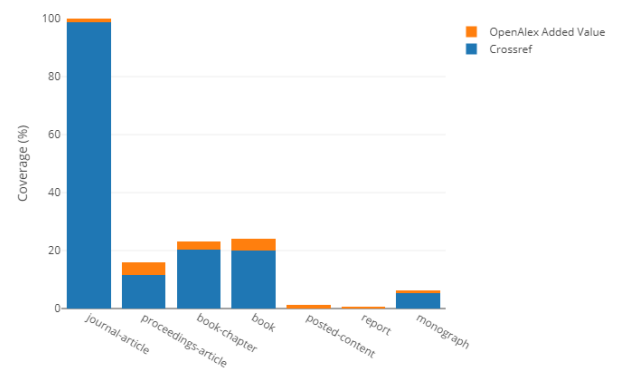
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

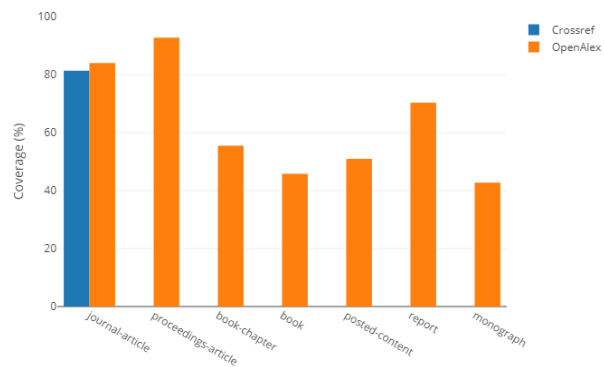


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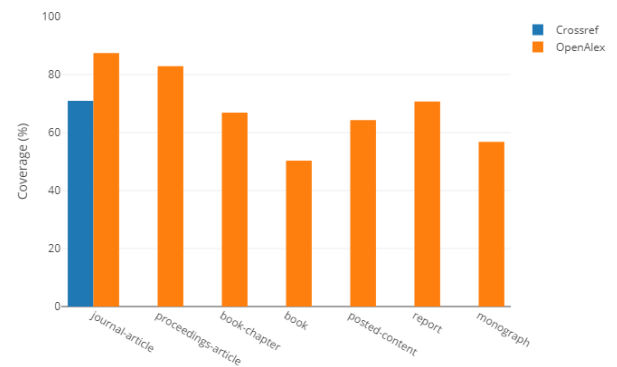


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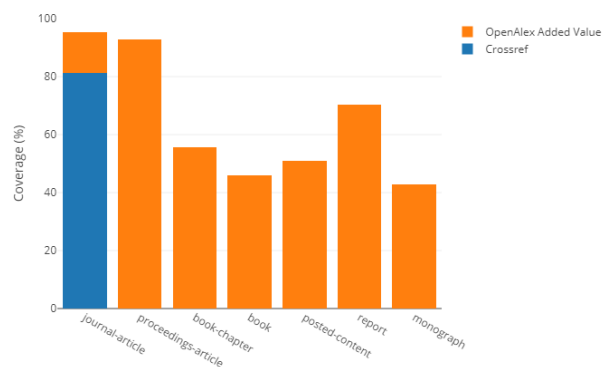
Fields



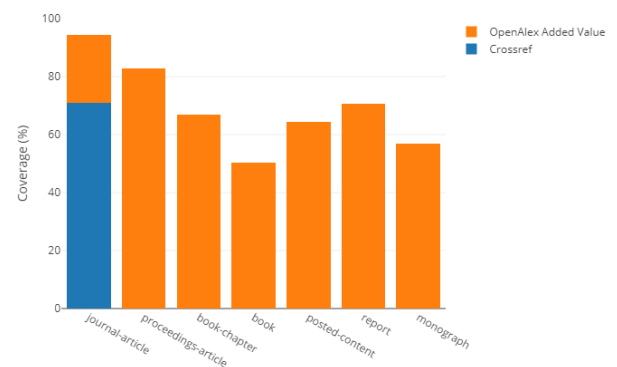
coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021



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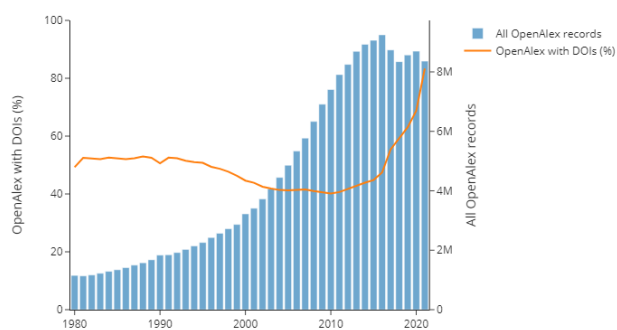


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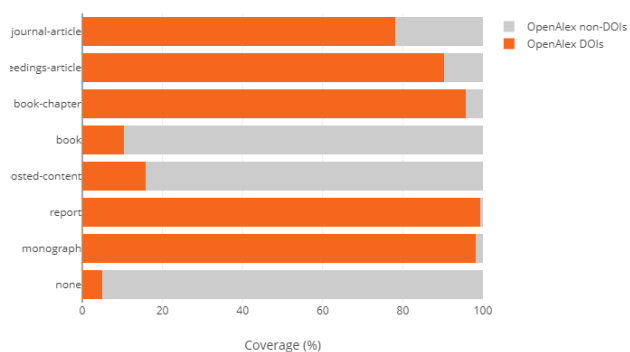
OpenAlex Coverage Beyond Crossref

DOIs vs non-DOIs

By year and publication type



coverage by publication date - all time

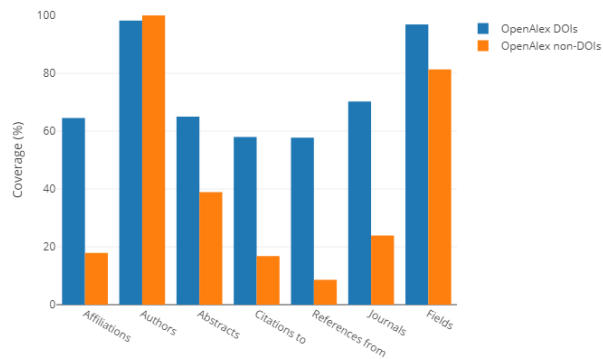


coverage by publication type - all time

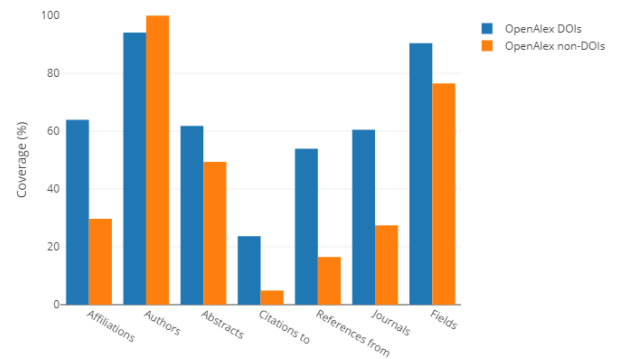
Metadata Coverage

Overview

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



coverage comparison - all time

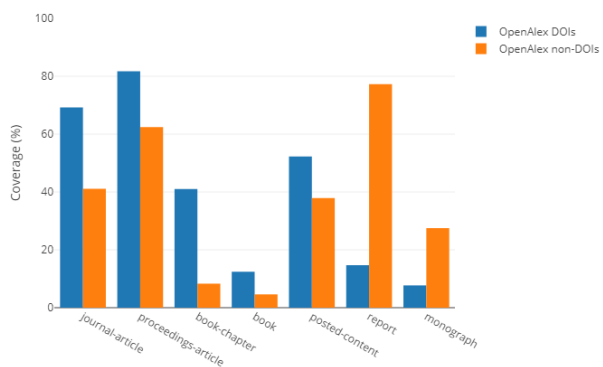


coverage comparison - 2021

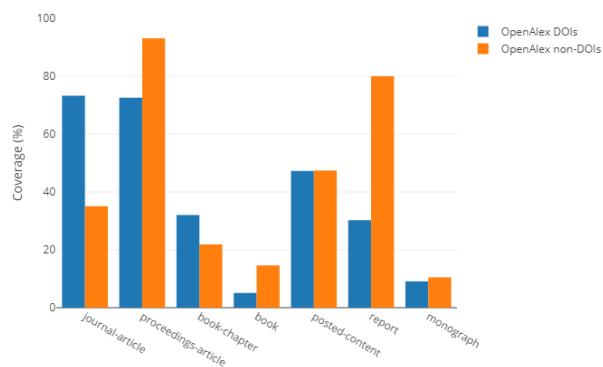
Details

Metadata coverage for DOIs and non-DOIs by publication type

Affiliations

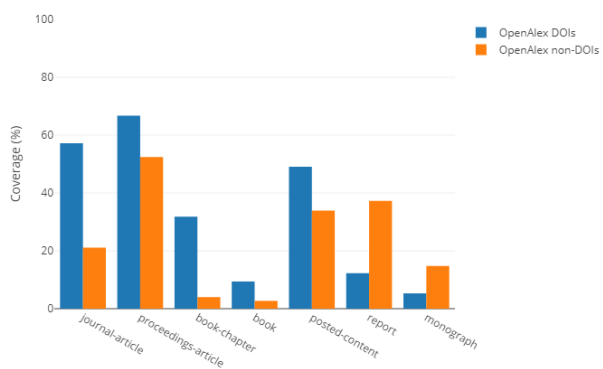


coverage comparison - all time

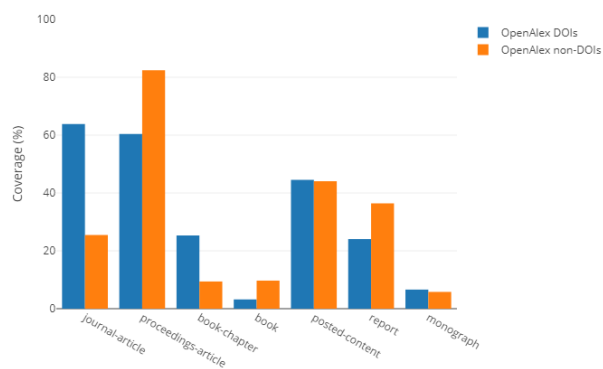


coverage comparison - 2021

Affiliations ROR

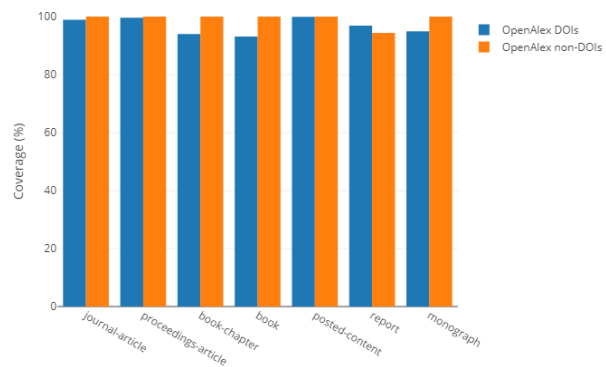


coverage comparison - all time

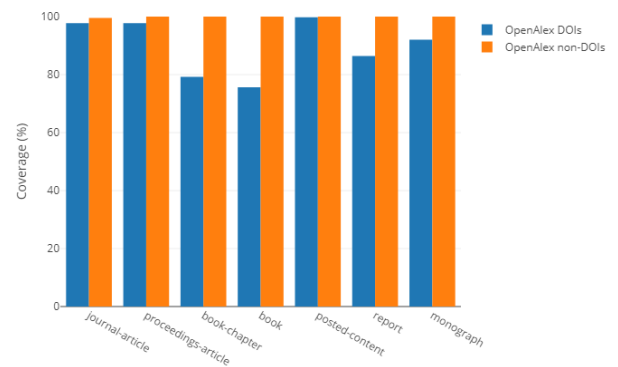


coverage comparison - 2021

Authors

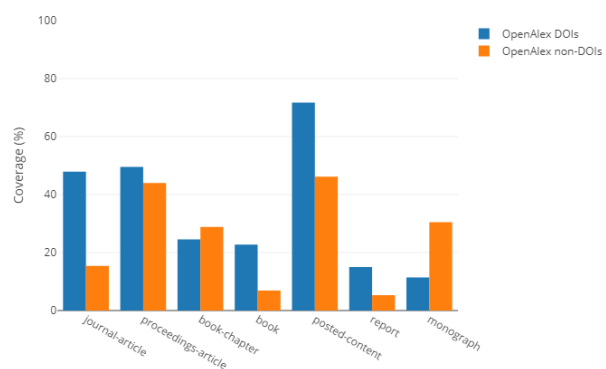


coverage comparison - all time

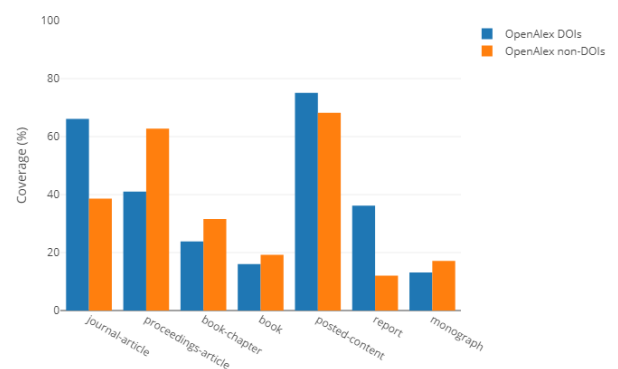


coverage comparison - 2021

Authors ORCIDiDs

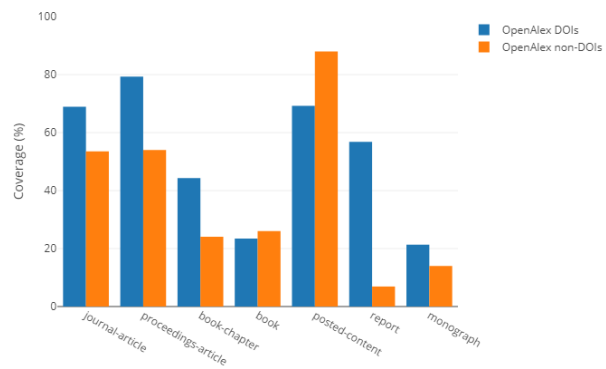


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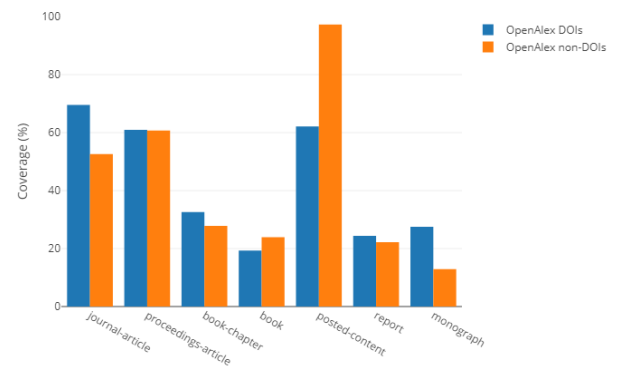


coverage comparison - 2021

Abstracts

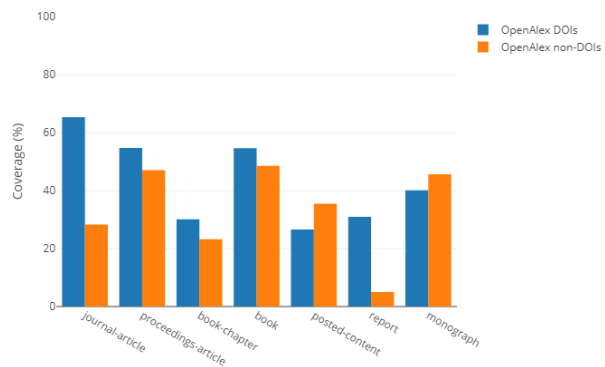


coverage comparison - all time

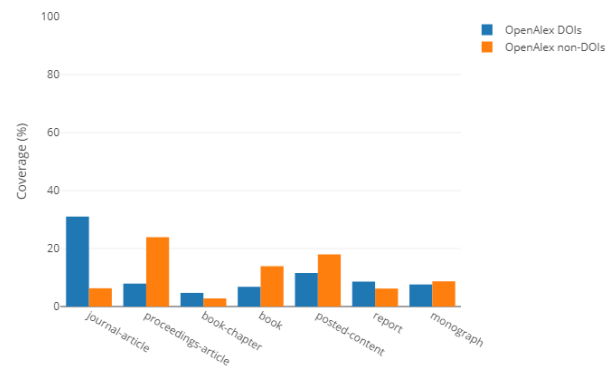


coverage comparison - 2021

Citations to

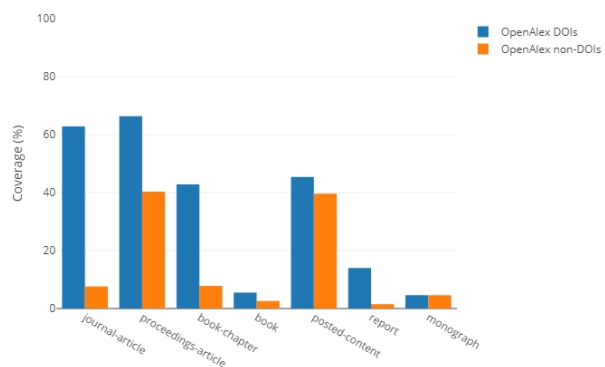


coverage comparison - all time

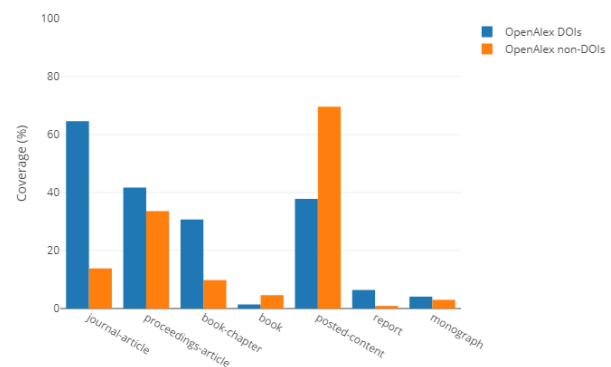


coverage comparison - 2021

References from

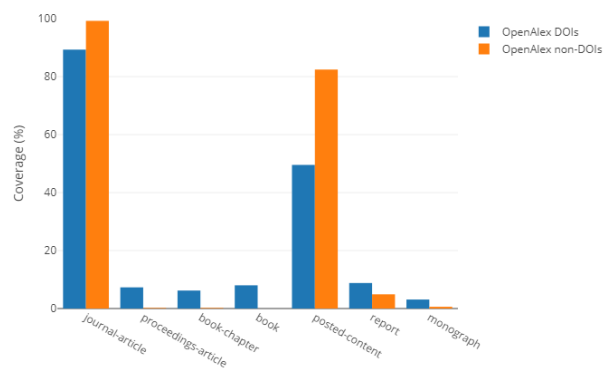


coverage comparison - all time

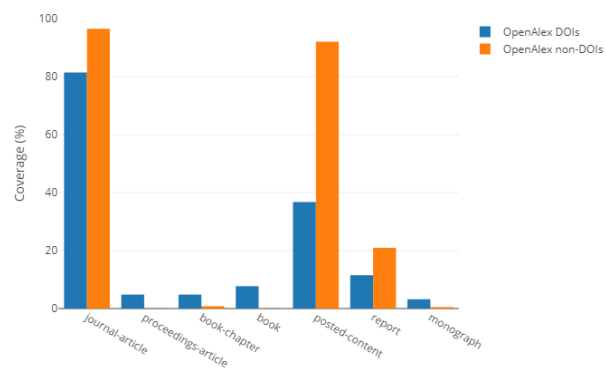


coverage comparison - 2021

Journals

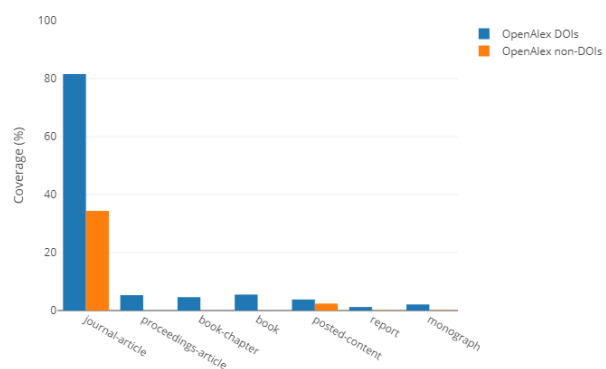


coverage comparison - all time

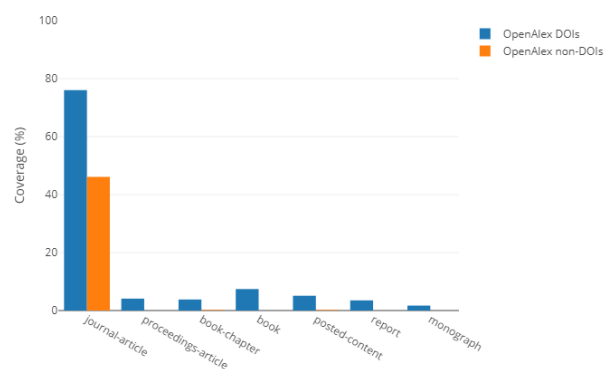


coverage comparison - 2021

Journals ISSN

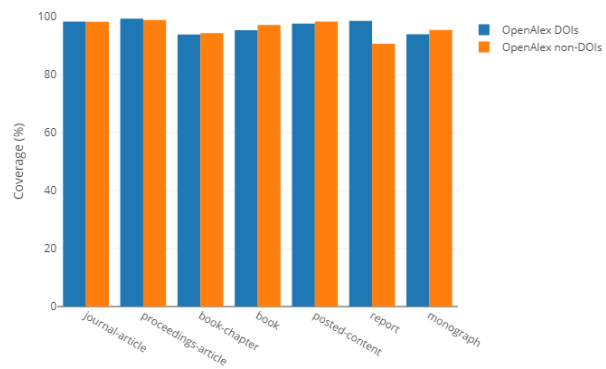


coverage comparison - all time

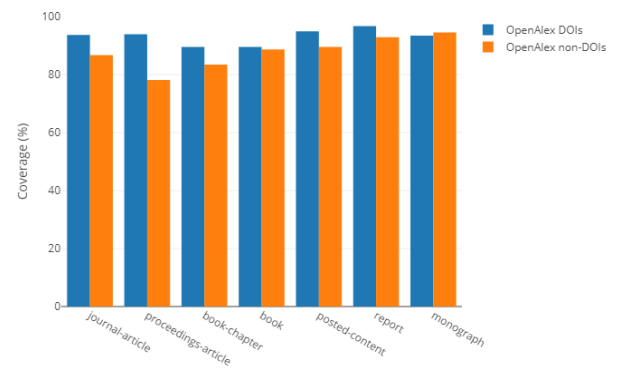


coverage comparison - 2021

Fields



coverage comparison - all time



coverage comparison - 2021

Appendix A - Tables

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

Crossref Current = 2019-2021

Focus Year = 2021

OpenAlex Coverage

Table 1. OpenAlex Metadata Coverage of Crossref DOIs

Time Frame	Crossref DOIs	OpenAlex Coverage of DOIs
All Time	120853191	95745824
Crossref Current	20168985	16762006
Focus Year	6929438	6142674

Crossref Coverage

Table 2. Crossref Metadata Coverage of Crossref DOIs

Time Frame	Crossref DOIs	Author Strings	Author ORCIDs	Affiliation Strings	Abstracts	Open Abstracts	Field Classification	Venue Names	ISSNs
All Time	120853191	102191747	7820510	16079306	14515321	51950592	74760667	117200545	96225467
Crossref Current	20168985	17589566	5180647	3952431	5577231	9260452	9871478	18933990	14687406
Focus Year	6929438	6174297	2091468	1379491	2315004	3276797	3513588	6444237	5178931