

The use case for CROW

The Clerical Resolution Online Widget is an open-source software used for clerical matching. Clerical matching is the process of manually reviewing records, as part of the data linkage process.

This document is designed to specify when CROW is useful and how it is designed to be applied. It also gives information on the different versions. For instructions on the practical application please check our [github](#).

When to use CROW

CROW is applicable for some but not all types of clerical matching work. CROW can be used:

- 1) To perform primary clerical matching in cases of uncertainty. It can be used to make a decision on a candidate pair of records or a cluster of records belonging to the same entity.
- 2) To assess the quality of automatic linkage. It can be used to verify candidate links and to check for false positives or false negatives.

In both cases candidate pairs or clusters need to be identified by either automatic matching or by blocking, prior to the use of CROW. These candidates need to then be placed in the format of CSVs; with a set specification (which is dependent on which version of CROW is used).

When you cannot use CROW

CROW cannot be used for clerical search. It cannot be used to look for matches within a large pool of data.

What version of CROW to use.

There are currently two versions of CROW available for use. One is CROW_pairwise and the other is CROW_clusters:

1. CROW_pairwise should be used when making a simple match or non-match decision between 2 records. The configuration instructions for this version can be found here – [CROW pairwise config instructions](#).
2. CROW_clusters should be used when you have a group of records (these can be from a single or multiple data sources). This is useful when resolving conflicting links. The configuration instructions for CROW_clusters can be found here [CROW clusters instructions](#).