



OpenAlex2Pajek

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The saturation approach to bibliographic networks construction

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Current version of slides (March 20, 2024 at 17:37): [slides PDF](#)

<https://github.com/bavla/OpenAlex>



[OpenAlex](#) is a fully open catalog of the global research system. It's named after the [ancient Library of Alexandria](#) and made by the nonprofit [OurResearch](#).

This is the **technical documentation for OpenAlex**, including the [OpenAlex API](#) and the [data snapshot](#). Here, you can learn how to set up your code to access OpenAlex's data. If you want to explore the data as a human, you may be more interested in [OpenAlex Web](#).

Data

The OpenAlex dataset describes scholarly [entities](#) and how those entities are connected to each other. Types of entities include [works](#), [authors](#), [sources](#), [institutions](#), [topics](#), [publishers](#), and [funders](#).

Together, these make a huge web (or more technically, heterogeneous directed [graph](#)) of hundreds of millions of entities and billions of connections between them all.

OpenAlex is a fully open catalog of the global research system [1]. It's named after the ancient Library of Alexandria and made by the nonprofit OurResearch.



OpenAlex launched in January 2022 with a free API and data snapshot. It is considered an alternative to the Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG), which retired on Dec 31, 2021 [2].

French Ministry of Higher Education and Research partners with OpenAlex to develop a fully open bibliographic tool. The CNRS has unsubscribed from the Scopus publications database. Wikipédia



Researchers, funders, and organizations around the world rely on scientific knowledge graphs to find, perform, and manage their research. For decades, only paywalled proprietary systems have provided this information and they have become unaffordable (costing libraries \$1B annually); uninclusive (systematically excluding works from some fields and geographies); and unavailable (even paid subscribers are limited in their use of the data).

OpenAlex indexes more than twice as many scholarly works as the leading proprietary products and the entirety of the knowledge graph and its source code are openly licensed and freely available through data snapshots, an easy to use API, and a nascent user interface.

OurResearch has a decade of sustained experience developing tools that advance open science. Funds from Arcadia will fuel the development needed to establish OpenAlex as the go-to scientific knowledge graph for researchers and organizations around the world. Long-term sustainability of OpenAlex will be achieved through value-add premium services.



OpenAlex History

May 2021- Microsoft announced MAG sunsetting

Dec 2021- MAG discontinued

Jan 2022- OpenAlex beta launched

May 2022- User Group launched

August 2022- Full text search

December 2022- Customer support ticket system

March 2023- Premium offering launched

July 2023- Improved author disambiguation launched

Webinar: Introducing OpenAlex 10.30, 18.30



OpenAlex solves several important questions for the analysis of bibliographic data:

- 1 identification of bibliographic units (IDs, [disambiguation](#))
- 2 free access (share derived data, [Download to your machine](#))
- 3 improving content through user participation ([Submit a request](#))

We are working on a project of higher-level bibliographic services using bibliographic data analysis to advise the user. For example: the selection of reviewers, the selection of a journal to publish an article, etc.

A good example is the OpenAlex report of bibliographic data for an individual unit. For example, an individual author. To display our bibliography, we include a link to our website. Photo!?

<https://openalex.org/authors/A5001676164>



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Comments

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As a data analyst, I miss short names for individual units (Garfield, journal abbreviations, etc.).

Person names are not structured (First, Mid, Last).

The problem of author countries – my example of an "extinct" country. [W2033820728](#), [W2059649701](#) ([JSONview](#)) Click API, see institutions

Missing relations to derived works (preprint – published, translation, book edition, etc.).

To ensure the OpenAlex longevity – UNESCO?



OpenAlex

How it works

OpenAlex2Pajek

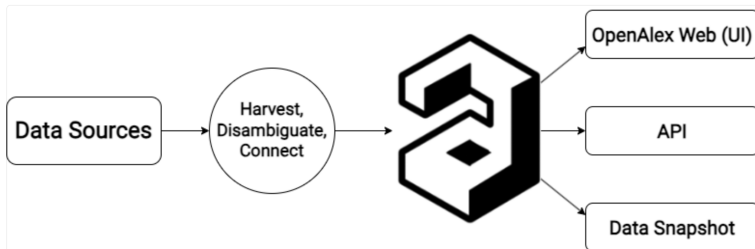
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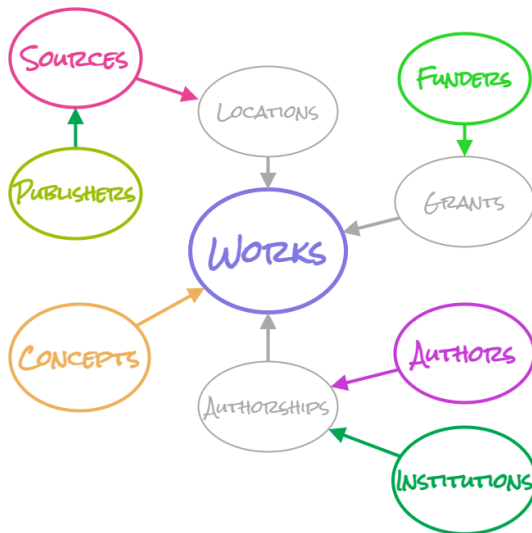
OpenAlex2Pajek

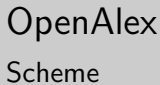
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OpenAlex is based on 7 types of units (entities): **W**(ork), **A**(uthor), **S**(ource), **I**(nstitution), **C**(oncept), **P**(ublisher), or **F**(under)





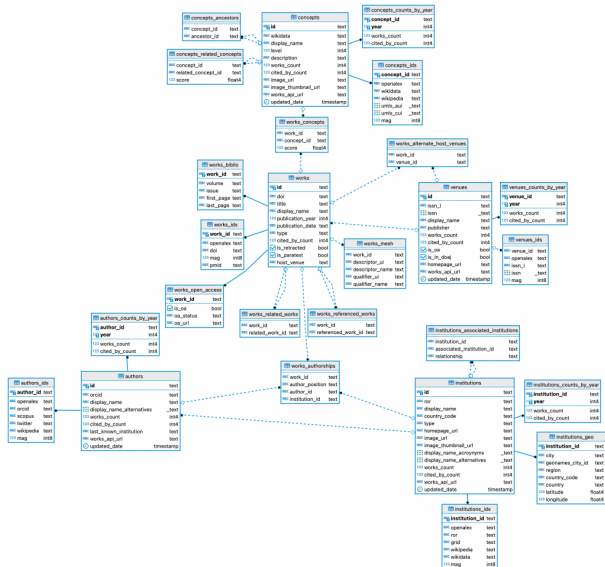
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Using web browser

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- OpenAlex site <https://openalex.org/>
- Known author ID <https://openalex.org/A5001676164>
- Work with DOI
<https://api.openalex.org/works/https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-012-0940-1>
- Known work ID <https://openalex.org/W2083084326>
- Name of the institution
<https://api.openalex.org/institutions?search=imfm>
- Known institution ID
<https://openalex.org/institutions/I4210106342>



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Using API from program

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R
Some functions



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Search, filter, select

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Using **search** we can search for a given search text across titles, abstracts, and full-text. Using a **filter** we can limit our search to units satisfying given conditions. Using **select** we can select data fields that will appear in results.

List of work IDs with titles

The OpenAlex API uses paging – the list data are provided by pages. The **basic paging** (up to 10 000 units) is based on two parameters `page` and `per_page`). **Cursor paging** is a bit more complicated than basic paging, but it allows us to access as many records as we like.



A first preliminary analysis performed in 2015 revealed that many works without a WoS description had large indegrees in the citation network. We manually searched for each of them (with indegree larger or equal to 20) and, when possible, we added them into the data set. It is important to note that earlier papers, which had a significant influence in the literature, did not often use the now established terminology (e.g., keywords) and were therefore overlooked by our queries.

After some iterations, we finally constructed the data set used in this paper. The final run of the program **WoS2Pajek** produced networks with sets of the following sizes: works



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Scheme

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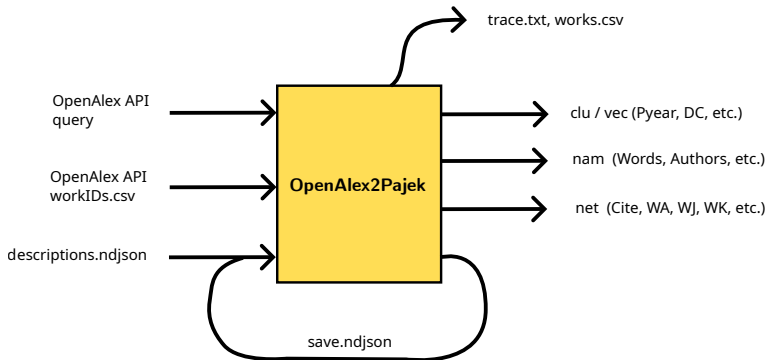
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Processing a sequence of works



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Main loop

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```
source("OpenAlex.R")
save <- TRUE; step <- 500
if(save) json <- file("save.ndjson","w",encoding="UTF-8")
Q <- list( search="handball",
  # filter="publication_year:2015",
  select="id,primary_location,publication_year,publication_date,type,lan
  per_page="200"
)
openWorks(query=Q,list=NULL,file=NULL)
# openWorks(query=NULL,list=hiCitelist,file="saved.ndjson")
# openWorks(query=Q,list=hiCitelist,file=NULL)
cat("*** OpenAlex2Pajek - Start",date(),"\n"); flush.console()
repeat{
  w <- nextWork()
  if(is.null(w)) break
  if(save) write(toJSON(w),file=json)
  if(WC$n %% step==0) cat(date()," n =",WC$n,"\n"); flush.console()
  tryCatch(
    processWork(w),
    error=function(e){ cat("W",WC$n,w$id,"\n"); flush.console();
      print(e)} )
}
createNetworks()
closeWorks()
cat("*** OpenAlex2Pajek - Stop",date(),"\n"); flush.console()
```



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Surviving function call

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Environments:

```
eDict <- function() new.env(hash=TRUE,parent=emptyenv())
en <- eDict()
assign("key",value,env=en)
en[["key"]] <- value
exists("key",env=en,inherits=FALSE)
ls(en)
if(!is.null(v<-get0("key",envir=en))) {
  ## ... deal with v ...
}
rm("key",envir=en)
```



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Dictionaries in R

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```
keys = ls

eDict <- function(size=10000L) new.env(hash=TRUE,parent=emptyenv(),size=size)

getVals <- Vectorize(get,vectorize.args="x")

dict2DF <- function(dict,ind) {
  V <- as.data.frame(t(as.data.frame(getVals(keys(dict),dict))))
  for(n in colnames(V)) V[[n]] <- unname(unlist(V[[n]]))
  return(V[order(V[[ind]]),])
}

# Wid -> (wind,sWname,hit,pyear)
putWork <- function(Wid,val){ # val = list(sWname,hit,pyear)
  if(exists(Wid,env=works,inherits=FALSE)){
    dHit <- works[[Wid]][["hit"]]; vHit <- val[["hit"]]
    if(vHit){dName <- works[[Wid]][["sWname"]]; vName <- val[["sWname"]]
      if(dHit){
        if(dName!=vName) cat("W",length(works),dName,vName,"\n",file=WC$str)
      } else works[[Wid]] <- c(wind=works[[Wid]][["wind"]],val)
    }
  } else works[[Wid]] <- c(wind=length(works)+1,val)
  return(works[[Wid]][["wind"]])
}

# Sid -> (sind,Sname)
putSrc <- function( ...

# Aid -> (aind,Aname)
putAuth <- function( ...
```



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Program in R

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OpenAlex2Pajek.R



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Creating Handball Pajek networks

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```
> source("OpenAlex2Pajek.R")
OpenAlex2Pajek - Start Mon Mar 18 05:34:58 2024
*** OpenAlex2Pajek - Start Mon Mar 18 05:34:58 2024
Mon Mar 18 05:35:07 2024  n = 500
Mon Mar 18 05:35:15 2024  n = 1000
Mon Mar 18 05:35:25 2024  n = 1500
Mon Mar 18 05:35:33 2024  n = 2000
Mon Mar 18 05:35:45 2024  n = 2500
Mon Mar 18 05:35:53 2024  n = 3000
...
Mon Mar 18 05:53:38 2024  n = 23500
Mon Mar 18 05:54:04 2024  n = 24000
Mon Mar 18 05:54:33 2024  n = 24500
Mon Mar 18 05:55:02 2024  n = 25000
Mon Mar 18 05:55:51 2024  n = 25500
*** OpenAlex2Pajek - Stop Mon Mar 18 05:56:06 2024
hits: 25861 works: 233471 authors: 52643 anon: 1325 sources: 5510
```

ZIP

- 1 Open-houses
- 2 Webinars
- 3 Google user group
- 4 [GitHub/topic/OpenAlex](#)
- 5 Applications
 - 1 Webinar: How EPFL uses OpenAlex for tailor-made scientometrics and benchmarking between Universities
 - 2 OpenAlex Scholar in Emacs
- 6 Delgado-Quirós, L; Ortega, JL: [Completeness degree of publication metadata in eight free-access scholarly databases](#) [4]
- 7 [5], [6]



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The computational work reported in this paper was performed using a collection of R functions `OpenAlex`, R program `OpenAlex2Pajek`, and the program **Pajek** for analysis of large networks. The code and data are available at Github/Bavla/**OpenAlex**.

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