# OpenCitations - what does the future hold?

David Shotton, Chiara Di Giambattista and Silvio Peroni (first.last@opencitations.net)

## OpenCitations

OpenCitations is a not-for-profit open infrastructure, providing free access to global scholarly bibliographic and citation metadata, fully described [here](#).

We undertake advocacy for open scholarly metadata, particularly via [I4OC](#) and [I4OA](#).

Our goal is to provide open metadata with a scope, depth, accuracy and provenance surpassing commercial sources.

## VALUES

Our services, software and data will always be provided **without charge** under open licenses for any use at all.

That leads to an acknowledged sustainability issue, since developing OpenCitations is expensive, principally in terms of salaries and technical infrastructure costs.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

[SCOSS](#) has selected OpenCitations as an open infrastructure worthy of financial support by research organisations, academic libraries, funders and scholars worldwide.

We are most grateful to the many generous supporters who are already contributing to meet OpenCitations’ ongoing costs.

We invite you to join them!

## PRINCIPLES

OpenCitations adheres to the following:

- UNESCO principles of [Open Science](#)
- The [POSI](#) principles
- The [FAIR](#) data principles, that data should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable
- The [I4OC](#) principles that citation data should be Structured, Separable, and Open

## PARTNERSHIPS

We seek involvement from the community:

- to participate in the shared governance of OpenCitations
- to improve our software and services
- for the provision, annotation, curation and correction of OpenCitations data
- to work with us to broaden the scope of scholarly metadata that is openly available, beyond citations and abstracts

## BENEFITS

OpenCitations provides open citation and bibliographic metadata for the furtherance of scholarship and the creation of reproducible metrics for research assessment exercises and the performance evaluation of scholars.

Among others, Citation Gecko, CiteCorp, DBLP, OpenAccess Helper, VOSviewer and Zotero are now using our metadata.

## CSITATION METADATA

OpenCitations metadata are stored in RDF as [Linked Open Data](#) using Semantic Web Technologies.

Our primary database, COCI (the OpenCitations Index of Crossref open DOI-to-DOI citations) currently hosts **1,186,958,898 citation links** (as of 10 September 2021)

## SERVICES

OpenCitations metadata are supported by:

- Data access services and data dumps
- The [SPAR](#) (Semantic Publishing and Referencing) Ontologies
- The OpenCitations Data Model
- Open Citation Identifiers (PIDs for citations), and an [OCI Resolution Service](#)
- OpenCitations generic open software

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

OpenCitations Meta, a new database to hold comprehensive bibliographic metadata in house, speeding request responses by avoiding external API calls to Crossref, ORCID, etc., and by permitting us to create citation indexes over works lacking DOIs

**Citation coverage expansion** involving:

- Crossref references to non-DOI works
- References *within* non-DOI publications.
- New OpenCitation Indexes of references in DataCite, NIH OCC, etc.

## FEATURES

<table>
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