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Who Cares? Defining Citation Style in Scholarly Journals

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#Crossref2023:

Updates from the community

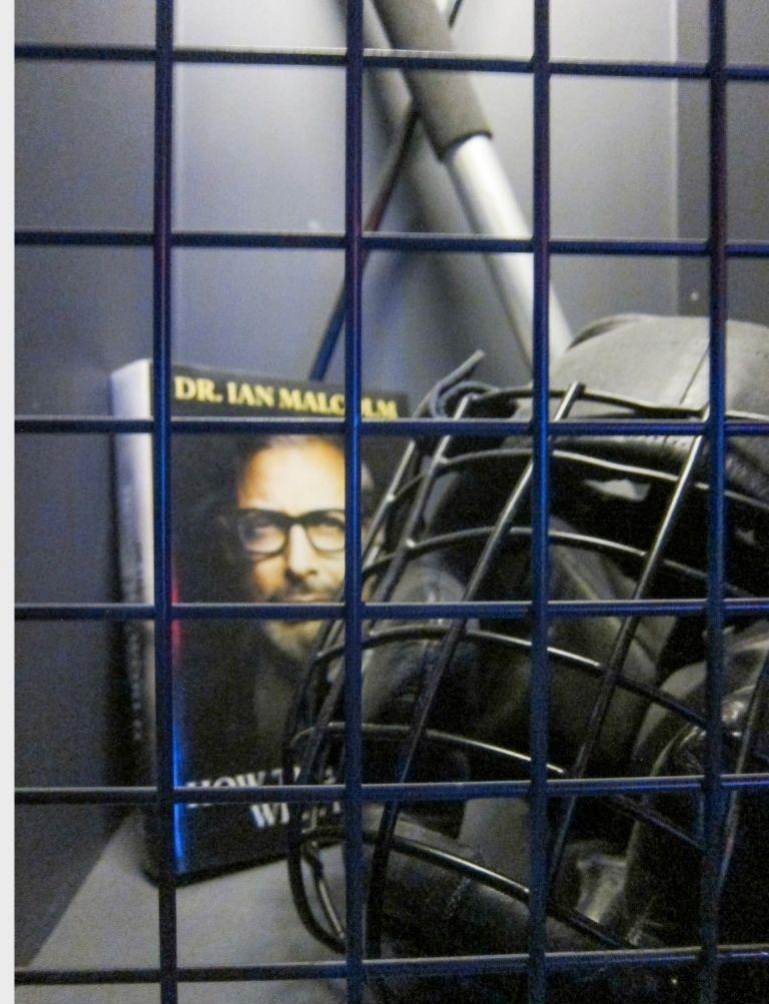
Hello!

Quote by Dr. Ian Malcolm:

“Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.”

Academic publishing and the labyrinth of citation styles.

The number in the Zotero Style Repository: 10,377!

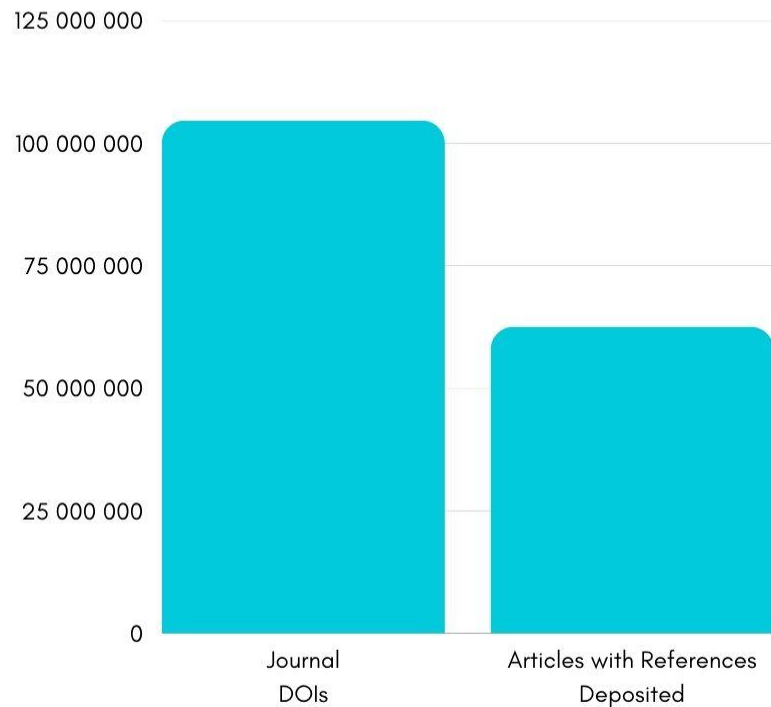


Challenges

Challenges faced by authors:

- Finding the correct citation style.
- Locating it in their citation manager.
- Ensuring correct referencing.

Use of DOIs



Observation

- Only half of the articles registered in Crossref provide reference lists with article metadata.
- Crossref's recognition of references depends on the provision of DOIs in references.
- Do journals require the provision of DOIs in references?

Why and what?

Goal of the study:

- Understand journal practices for citation guidelines.

Method:

- Analyzed 270 high-quality journals from Scopus (distribution by region).

Objectives:

- Prevalence of citation styles.
- How journals set citation style guidelines.
- Mandate of DOIs in references.

Results

- 54.1% of journals don't specify a citation style.
- Rankings of styles:
 - APA: 18.1%
 - Vancouver, Harvard, Chicago: 6.3% to 4.8%
 - ISO 690 and AMA: 4.1% and 3.3%

ChatGPT analysis



Findings

Assessment goal:

- Determine conformity of unnamed reference styles.

Findings:

- Presence of known styles, but with slight modifications.

Implications:

- Complications with reference managers due to modified styles.

Concerns and impacts

The "unnamed" approach:

- More complexity for authors and potential incorrect formatting.

DOIs as a solution:

- 41.1% of journals request DOIs.
- 78.1% include DOIs in reference lists.

Additional insights

- No significant impact based on the country of origin.
- Influence is related to the journal's scientific field.
- No attention to reference styles.
- Lack of requirements to include DOIs.

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Need for standardization or clear guidelines.
- Emphasize the importance of DOIs in improving the referencing system.
- Need for education among journals and authors.

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Open for the questions.

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