Improving Scholarly Publishing Metadata
Promising solutions for improving the accuracy of scholarly publishing metadata

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• Initial meeting of key stakeholders in 2018
• 2019-2020 Project delivers MVP and key principles
• Stichting (‘foundation’) OA Switchboard founded (Oct ‘20)
• Live as operational solution since 1 January 2021

→ Mission-driven community
→ Practical tool

209,226 messages
(Jan 2021 – 25 Sep 2022)
Central metadata exchange hub
simplify the sharing of information between stakeholders - standardised messaging protocol and shared infrastructure

OA Switchboard at a glance (2/2)
When it comes to ‘improving scholarly publishing metadata’, we’ve learned a thing or two

**Principles:**

1. Authoritative data from source
2. Time-specific metadata values
3. Keeping your own data secure
There is no such thing as absolute truth and absolute falsehood

Henry Augustus Rowland
American physicist and Johns Hopkins educator. Between 1899 and 1901 he served as the first president of the American Physical Society.
How does OA Switchboard contribute to improving the accuracy of scholarly publishing metadata?
What does the OA Switchboard *not* do?

- Clean up metadata at the source
- Take responsibility for metadata coming out of OA Switchboard (exports)
- Build the (custom) solutions for participants to connect to OA Switchboard
What does the OA Switchboard do to help improve scholarly metadata?

1. Build a community of like minded spirits
2. OA Switchboard hub itself as 'killer app’
3. Better management information for publishers
4. Re-use of ‘smart matching’ tool outside OA Switchboard
5. Market research

See more: oaswitchboard.org/publishers
1. Build a community of like minded spirits
We organise and facilitate a community to share best experiences, best practices and lessons learned

This resulted in:

- Development of concepts and solutions:
  - ‘custom connector’
  - ‘private datastore’
  - ...

- Direct lines of communication between institutions/funders and publishers to share immediate feedback on metadata quality
2. OA Switchboard hub itself as 'killer app'

To benefit from using the OA Switchboard message hub, a publisher’s metadata needs to meet a certain level of quality. There is a motivation and incentive for participating publishers to improve data quality to be able to deliver structured data output (JSON).
3. Better management information for publishers

By collecting and processing multiple data feeds, publishers are able to collect and structure their own data. This provides valuable management information and insights in:

- The status of metadata quality and potential improvement actions
- Shaping pricing/business models and OA strategies
4. Re-use of ‘smart matching’ tool outside OA Switchboard

For application within the OA Switchboard, and as part of the OA Switchboard, we have developed an open source ‘smart matching’ module.

Simple workflow(s)

Publisher system contains "Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam"

Smart Matching
1) Via Ringgold mapping
2) Via ROR Affiliation matching
3) Via ORCID Affiliation

All available open source

This tool helps to go from author affiliation data lacking PID’s to ROR id’s for all authors’ affiliation(s). This tool can also be applied by publishers in their own systems and workflows upstream to enrich metadata and use of PID’s.
5. Market research

In Fall 2022 we are conducting a shared*) research project with the aim is to increase awareness regarding the opportunities to use ROR id’s available at (author and publisher) source to enrich affiliation data in Crossref.

We’re sharing and discussing the results with the wider community in our next webinar.

“What are the opportunities to use ROR id’s available at source to enrich openly available author affiliation data? What is the status quo?”

*) with Ludo Waltman, Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University and a number of OA Switchboard publishers.

News

OA Switchboard webinar: Thursday 27 October 2022
Collaborating to Unlock the Power of PID

A how-to webinar from OA Switchboard partners and participants on opportunities to capture and maximise usage of identifiers.

Check out what we will cover and who will be speaking, and register [here](#). This webinar will be offered free of charge thanks to our host Aries Systems.
What’s next?

• Community

• Practical tools and solutions

*We’ll keep on working on incremental improvements and practical solutions*