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Making Open Citations work

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Until recently, reference lists were hidden at the end of articles, locked up in libraries and left for dead. But the references of an article contain a wealth of contextual information on how the hypothesis and interpretation of results evolved and fit into the scholarly record. The tangled paths of citations track the genealogy of ideas, and through reference lists one can see methods, theories, and ideologies introduced and die away. And (unfortunately) citations are often used as a measure of how important a researcher or research article is – they are, therefore, the bread and butter of research careers. New initiatives such at the Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC) are starting to unlock this knowledge, along with a growing consensus that citations are metadata and therefore should be freely accessible via Crossref, regardless of article license type. ScienceOpen has recently added 100 million citation connections between articles, and uses its powerful search engine to expose this knowledge to researchers for a richer discovery experience. This enables us to provide users with tools to track their own article citations through time (for free), trace citation networks, discover similar articles, discover highly-cited articles in their research field, sort searches by citations, and ultimately create a vast, contextual citation-based network for an intelligent search and discovery experience. Explore in this session the possibilities of and limitations on open citations and brainstorm ideas for technological solutions, publisher outreach and researcher engagement for a future with 100% open citations.