

Cooperation agreement between Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Crossref

1. Parties

This Cooperation Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into between:

- **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**, a community-curated directory whose mission is to increase the visibility, accessibility, reputation, usage, and impact of quality, peer-reviewed open access scholarly journals worldwide, regardless of discipline, geography, or language; and
- **Crossref**, a not-for-profit membership organisation that supports scholarly communications by enabling the creation, sharing, and linking of high-quality research metadata through open infrastructure and services.

Together referred to as “the Parties”.

2. Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms under which DOAJ and Crossref will collaborate on a set of initiatives designed to:

1. Improve the quality, completeness, and interoperability of article-level metadata within DOAJ; and
2. Support DOAJ’s Ambassador Programme, with a focus on improving open access publishing standards in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This Agreement documents the scope of work, deliverables, timelines, financial contribution, and expectations of both Parties and serves as a reference point and evidence of mutual agreement.

3. Background and Context

Historically, DOAJ has served the scholarly community primarily as an index of open access journals. As the Directory has grown in size, coverage, and reputation, it is increasingly used as a primary source of peer-reviewed open access content by researchers, discovery services, and aggregators.

To support this evolving role, DOAJ seeks to significantly enhance its handling of article metadata, ensuring alignment with current best practices in scholarly metadata, including recommendations from initiatives such as the Barcelona Declaration and Metadata2020.

4. Scope of Work

DOAJ shall undertake the following workstreams under this Agreement.

4.1 Article Metadata Enhancements

DOAJ will improve the ingestion, processing, storage, and display of article-level metadata, including:

a. Author affiliations and persistent identifiers

- Full support for authors with multiple affiliations
- Handle the display of persistent identifiers (PIDs), including authenticated ORCiDs, and ROR IDs
- Corresponding updates to the DOAJ XML schema (XSD) and display layer

b. Open references

- Ingestion and display of open reference metadata
- Linking to related articles to enhance user discovery and research context

c. Expanded metadata harvesting

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is an independent service managed by a Danish foundation [DOAJ Fonden](#).
Registration no. 45040984.
Registered address: Bøgevej 33, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

- Adaptation of the existing article metadata harvester to connect with additional trusted metadata sources
- Increased coverage of article metadata across a broader range of journals

These improvements are intended to benefit both direct users of DOAJ and downstream discovery, aggregation, and research analytics services that rely on DOAJ metadata.

4.2 Ambassador Programme

DOAJ will continue and expand its Ambassador Programme, a network of ambassadors based primarily in LMICs who:

- Support journal editors in understanding and applying good practices in open access publishing
- Organise and deliver workshops, webinars, and local events
- Collaborate with regional partners and policymakers
- Raise awareness of DOAJ and publishing standards within local scholarly communities

Crossref's contribution will support ambassador travel and the organisation of workshops and events.

5. Deliverables

5.1 Article Metadata Deliverables

DOAJ will deliver:

1. An improved article metadata display on the DOAJ website, including:
 - Author affiliations
 - Display of PIDs such as ORCiDs
2. An updated DOAJ XML schema (XSD) reflecting the enhanced metadata model
3. Support for ingestion and display of open references on article metadata pages

4. An adapted article metadata harvester capable of collecting metadata from additional sources
5. Updated public documentation describing DOAJ article metadata and related processes

5.2 Ambassador Programme Deliverables

DOAJ will deliver:

1. Ongoing ambassador activities throughout the project period
 2. Workshops, events, and outreach activities supported by the contribution
 3. An end-of-year report summarising activities, reach, and outcomes
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6. Financial Contribution

Crossref agrees to contribute a total amount of:

USD 58,250.00

This contribution supports the following cost allocations:

- Author affiliations and PIDs (e.g. ORCiDs): USD 13,750
- Open references ingestion and display: USD 18,750
- Expanded metadata harvesting: USD 18,750
- Ambassador Programme support: USD 7,000

DOAJ will issue a single invoice for the full amount upon signature of this Agreement.

7. Timeline

7.1 Article Metadata Work

The article metadata work will be carried out in four stages:
Scoping → Development → Testing → Implementation

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All stages are expected to be completed by the end of **Q4 2026**.

7.2 Ambassador Programme

Ambassador activities will take place on an ongoing basis throughout the project period, with reporting provided at the end of the year.

8. Governance and Review

The Parties agree to jointly review the status of activities under this Agreement at mutually agreed intervals. These reviews may cover progress, risks, and any necessary adjustments to delivery.

9. Intellectual Property and Licensing

- Crossref shall not claim ownership of any outputs produced under this Agreement.
- All DOAJ article metadata is made available under a **CC0 waiver**, and DOAJ retains no proprietary rights over such metadata.
- All software code developed as part of this work will be released as open source under the **Apache License**, in line with DOAJ's standard practices.

10. Communication

DOAJ and Crossref will collaborate on a joint public announcement acknowledging the cooperation and its objectives.

11. Term and Termination

This Agreement enters into force on the date of the last signature below and remains in effect until the completion of the work described in this Agreement, unless terminated earlier by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

12. Signatures

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is an independent service managed by a Danish foundation [DOAJ Fonden](#).
Registration no. 45040984.
Registered address: Bøgevej 33, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

For Crossref

Name: Ginny Hendricks

Title: Chief Program Officer

Organisation: Crossref

Date: 28th January 2026



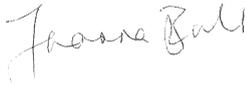
For DOAJ

Name: Joanna Ball

Title: Managing Director

Organisation: DOAJ

Date: Jan 31, 2026



Cooperation agreement_2026 CROSSREF_DOAJFoundation

Final Audit Report

2026-01-31

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