



# Supporting Germany's open access transition with enhanced analytics

**High-quality, reliable Web of Science XML data streamlines institutional reporting for librarians and analysts.**

## Customer

Forschungszentrum Jülich, a nonprofit research center, part of the Helmholtz Association in Germany.

## Challenge

Enhancing OA Monitor, a comprehensive, searchable database of information on the volume and financing of open access publications across the DACH region, with high quality publications metadata.

## Solution

Web of Science™ XML data

## Outcome

Institutions in the DACH region can quickly and easily compile data needed to obtain funds for open access publishing from major national funding programs.

Open Access Monitor is an ambitious project supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and managed by Forschungszentrum Jülich (Research Centre) that enables the research community to measure and track the volume and financing of research publications. After enriching OA Monitor with Web of Science data, the tool now delivers vital insights into author participation in open access publishing that institutions within the DACH region rely upon to obtain additional funding.

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Open access to research literature holds the promise to accelerate discovery, improve research outcomes, and facilitate knowledge exchange across the global research community. However, as governments, institutions, funders and publishers implement policies and negotiate transformative agreements designed to transition to a more open future, tracking compliance with mandates and measuring progress have become challenging problems for all stakeholders.

After observing the process required to manually gather and compile publication, subscription and usage statistics from over 700 institutions for Projekt DEAL, Dr. Bernhard Mittermaier, Head of the Central Library at Forschungszentrum Jülich, decided to adopt different approach to support Germany's participation in the OA 2020 initiative. The result is Open Access (OA) Monitor: a unique database that aggregates information from institutions across Germany by repurposing data within existing

systems, including publications data, journal subscription data, and classifications based on contractual agreements. Dr. Mittermaier said:

"Before OA Monitor, if I wanted to know any figure about the development of open access, I had to either search my hard drive or use whatever partial data was available in the literature. Now, we have an answer in seconds."

At launch, librarians and analysts could use OA Monitor to prepare reports for policy makers and estimate yearly costs. However, many users also desired to see trusted institutional publication output statistics from the Web of Science within the system to validate reporting and ensure consistency with prior analyses. In addition to meeting these needs, incorporating Web of Science XML data into the system also made it possible to conduct more granular analysis of author participation in open access.

After Web of Science data was added to OA Monitor, the German Research Foundation (DFG) implemented a new program to fund open access publications that requires institutions to report on their publications by corresponding author. Using the detailed metadata in Web of Science, which includes corresponding author information, OA Monitor staff implemented new features in the system, which enabled institutions to quickly and easily meet this requirement— the related user guide was downloaded over 700 times. Dr. Mittermaier said:

"Web of Science is playing an important part in our success. Being able to track the corresponding author data offers significant added value, alongside the market penetration of the data."

Moving forward, OA Monitor will explore possibilities to add grant information, conference proceedings and books to the system as it continues its journey to help transform the publishing model and provide access to information that accelerates scientific innovation in a sustainable, equitable way.

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**Dr. Bernhard Mittermaier,**  
Head of the Central Library at Forschungszentrum Jülich

## About Clarivate

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