

# OpenAlex

[OpenAlex](#) a catalogue of the world's research was launched in 2022 by [OurResearch](#), a non-profit organization that builds tools for Open Science.

OpenAlex is completely open-source and free to use under the CC0 license. They do offer two value-added offerings to sustain themselves by supplying a paid subscription and consulting services. See more on [pricing](#) for the added services.

They compete with citation databases like Elsevier's Scopus and Clarivate's Web of Science (WoS) paywalled services. A 2024 study shows that more than 60% of all Diamond OA journals not found in WoS or Scopus are indexed in OpenAlex (Simard et al., 2024)

Universities use OpenAlex to measure the progress of their research teams in terms of publishing publications as well replacing paywall citation databases with OpenAlex. Leiden University use OpenAlex to calculate its research institution ranking since 2024 and Sorbonne University cancelled their subscription to Web of Science in 2024. See [CWTS Leiden Ranking Open Edition](#) and [Sorbonne University unsubscribes from the Web of Science](#).

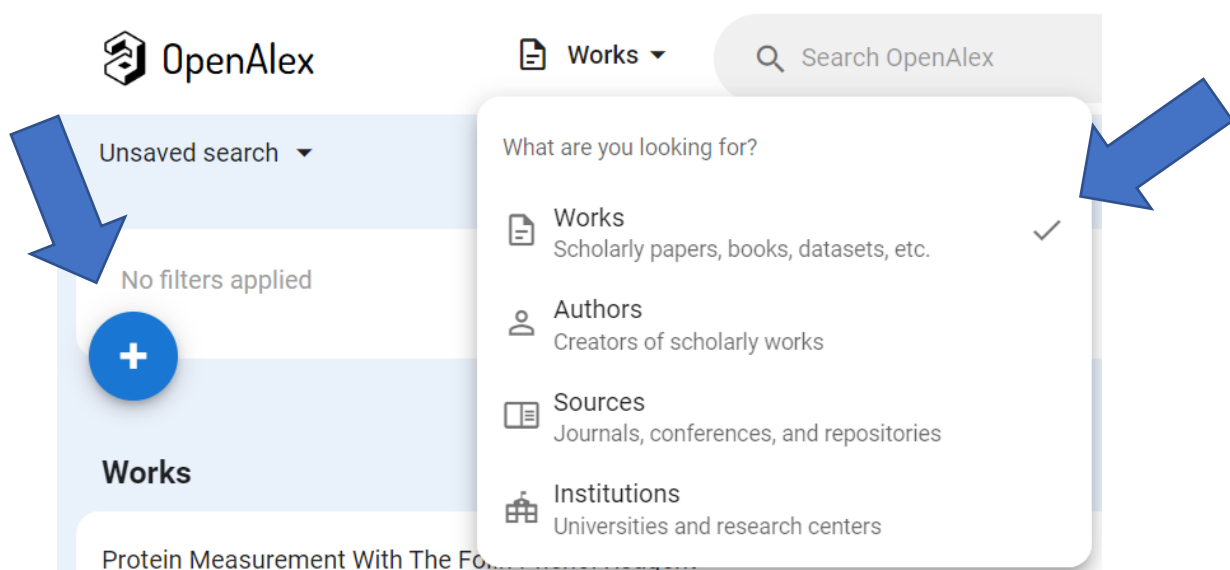
## The Data

OpenAlex aggregates and standardizes data from other sources. MAG and Crossref are the most important sources. Other key sources include ORCID, ROR, DOAJ, Unpaywall, Pubmed, Pubmed Central, The ISSN International Centre, Internet Archive and Web crawls.

## The Interface and Search Options

The public interface is clean and easy to use. Signing up for an OpenAlex account lets you create alerts and save searches.

One can search for works, authors, sources, or institutions. Search results sorting options are citation count, citation percentile (year), title, year, and relevance score. Search results facets allows one to limit results by 48 filter options, but the default filters are year, topic, type, institution, and the number of open access titles.





## Search Results

Searching for one of the titles on the DIGI-FACE platform called “Starchy staples production shortfalls in Ghana” shows interesting information about the authors and their institutions. Selecting the authors’ names or the institutions expands the search results showing interesting metrics.


The search results display in different views.

### Full view title screen view

The full screen view shows open access status (Gold in this case) and the Article Processing Charge (APC) paid for the Gold Open Access status. Articles are licensed for sharing and reuse via Creative Commons licenses or similar under the Gold OA model.

One can select the HTML or pdf versions if available or choose the API (XML) version from the icons directly under the title. The Permalink view option provides a clean, short URL that can be copied from the browser, e.g. <https://openalex.org/works/w4366819340>. The last icon is the feedback option for reporting report errors, etc.

## Starchy staples production shortfalls in Ghana: Technical inefficiency effects outweigh technological differences across ecologies

 Work

HTML 

PDF

API



**Year:** 2023

**Type:** article

**Abstract:** Starchy staples are a major source of livelihood support for farmers, traders, and processors who participate in these crops’ value chains, while also providing staple food to many people, especially ... [more](#)

**Source:** [PLoS ONE](#)

**Authors** [Isaac Gershon Kodwo Ansah](#), [Mark Appiah-Twumasi](#), [Francis Tsiboe](#)

**Institutions** [University for Development Studies](#), [Economic Research Service](#)

**Cites:** [43](#)

**Cited by:** [4](#)

**Related to:** [10](#)

**Topic:** [Cyanogenic Glycosides in Plants and Industrial Wastewaters](#)

**Subfield:** [Plant Science](#)

**Field:** [Agricultural and Biological Sciences](#)

**Domain:** [Life Sciences](#)

**Open Access status:** gold

**APC paid (est):** \$1,805



## Author view

**Isaac Gershon Kodwo Ansah**  
👤 Author

[View works](#) [API](#) [!](#)

**Alternate names** Isaac Gershon Kodwo Ansah, I. G. K. Ansah, Isaac Ansah, Isaac Gershon Ansah, Isaac Gershon K. Ansah [+4 more](#)

**Institutions** [University for Development Studies](#), [Wageningen University & Research](#)

**Past institutions** [University for Development Studies](#), [Wageningen University & Research](#), [Agricultural & Applied Economics Association](#), [Tamale Teaching Hospital](#)


**ORCID:** Yes [🔗](#)

**H-index:** 14

**I10-index:** 19

**Works count:** 56

**Citations count:** 643



Author information includes author metrics information such as ORCID, H-Index and I10-index counts, number of works, and the total citation counts for these works as well as career path history and top works.

The h-index is calculated by counting the number of publications for which an author has been cited by other authors at least that same number of times. For instance, an h-index of 17 means that the scientist has published at least 17 papers that have each been cited at least 17 times.

The i10-index was created by Google Scholar as an index to rank author impact. It is the number of publications the researcher has written that have at least 10 citations.

Selecting the authors home university shows all the works by authors from that university in the system.

**University for Development Studies**  
🏠 Institution ▾


[View works](#) [🏠](#) [API](#) [!](#)

**Related institution** [Tamale Teaching Hospital](#)

**ROR:** Yes [🔗](#)

**Works count:** 6,179

**Citations count:** 62,790




**Top works** [View all](#)

Global monitoring of antimicrobial resistance based on metagenomics analyses of urban sewage  
2019 · René S. Hendriksen, Patrick Munk, et al. · *Nature Communications*  
Cited by 757 PDF



The Key stats show the percentage open access sources, years published, result topics, all authors and their institutions and the different material types of the publications in the results set.


## Key stats


 year



More...

 open access


 



67.6%


4,175

 topic

Maternal and Child Nutrition in Developing Countries	219
Global Maternal and Child Health Outcomes	204
Agricultural Innovation and Livelihood Diversification	180
Challenges of Urban Poverty and Development	101
Microfinance, Gender Empowerment, and Economic Development	100

More...

 type

article	5,265
book-chapter	288
preprint	275
review	231
dataset	38

More...



## Conclusion

This is a relative new product and there might still be metadata issues such as duplicates or false entries. However, it is worthwhile to explore and evaluate this free citation database especially where funding does not allow institutions to subscribe to expensive citation database options like Web of Science and Scopus.

## References

Wikipedia, (2024). *Author-level metrics*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Author-level\\_metrics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Author-level_metrics)

Priem, Jason; Piwowar, Heather; Orr, Richard (2022). "OpenAlex: A fully-open index of scholarly works, authors, venues, institutions, and concepts". <https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.01833>

Simard, M.-A.; Basson, I; Hare, M, Larivière; V & Mongeon, P (2024). *The open access coverage of OpenAlex, Scopus and Web of Science*. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2404.01985>