What objectives does OA-Statistics pursue?

To increase the acceptance of Open Access

Usage statistics for digital objects can be generated in real time and with little effort. Moreover, they can be compared to each other irrespective of the characteristics of the objects in question. Usage data underpin statements regarding the temporal distribution and use of research papers and other publications. Hence, as a publishing mode, Open Access facilitates the transparent and cost-effective assessment of the distribution and use of scientific findings.

To gather internationally comparable usage statistics

Usage statistics should be internationally comparable irrespective of the publication platform, resource type, country of origin, language, and thematic area. For this reason, OA-Statistics and its international partners have agreed on uniform standards for the gathering, exchange, and analysis of usage data.

To provide a lasting infrastructure

The long-term gathering and processing of internationally comparable usage data calls for a lasting infrastructure. OA-Statistics (OAS) offers support to established and new OAS data providers, for example in the form of guidelines and workshops. Continuous adaptation of hard- and software to new demands ensures that the central OAS service provider can operate smoothly.

With whom does OA-Statistics co-operate?

Standards are based on developments by and agreements between institutions and initiatives at national and international level.

Nationally

Via its participation in the DINI Electronic Publishing Working Group, findings from the OA-Statistics project have been incorporated into the DINI Certificate for Document and Publication Repositories 2010, which explicitly recommends the OA-Statistics infrastructure for use by certified repositories. OA-Statistics shares its experience and developments with the national projects in the area of Open Access and electronic publishing.

Internationally

Together with the Knowledge Exchange Usage Statistics Working Group, OA-Statistics has developed guidelines for the standardised exchange of usage data at European level. Moreover, it exchanges experience and information concerning organisational and technical aspects with projects such as PIRUS (UK) and ROAT (Japan).

Initiated by:

DINI – Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerkinformation e.V.

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Further information:
http://www.dini.de/oa-statistik

Funded by:

DFG

Open-Access-Statistik

Services and Standards
for Internationally Comparable
Usage Statistics

http://www.dini.de/oa-statistik

Why OA-Statistics?

A high journal impact factor (JIF) is widely regarded as an indicator of the quality of a journal and of the papers published therein. However, this measure of citation frequency is not uncontroversial because by no means all scholarly journals are covered, and certain document types are excluded altogether. Moreover, the JIF is not calculated on the basis of individual papers, but is a journal-level metric.

Usage statistics are an alternative to the JIF. They reflect the level of interest in accessing the content of an individual article and thereby enable item-level, usage-based assessment. Moreover, recommendation services and relevance criteria can be developed on the basis of usage patterns.

Open-access documents are not subject to any access restrictions. Hence they form a very good basis for the collection of usage statistics and the establishment of a standardised, internationally comparable procedure.

OA-Statistics has adopted these arguments in order to

- increase the **acceptance of Open Access** among authors and users of scholarly publications
- by **gathering internationally comparable usage statistics**, and
- by **providing a lasting infrastructure** for the collection and processing of usage data.

Participate in OA-Statistics and enable your repository's authors and users to benefit from usage-based assessment!

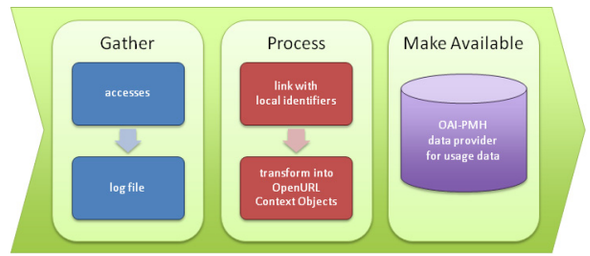
How does OA-Statistics work?

OA-Statistics has developed robust infrastructure components for the purpose of gathering and processing usage data and -statistics from a wide variety of repositories.

Infrastructure

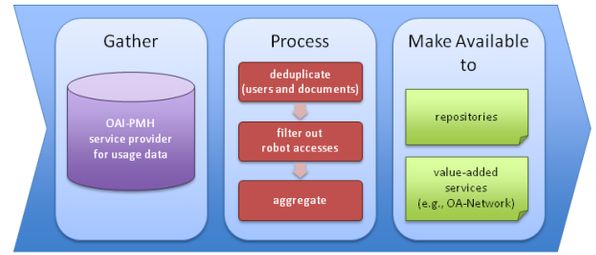
OA-Statistics' infrastructure is based on OAS data providers that gather the usage data at the individual repositories, process them, and make them available via a standardised interface. From there the data are harvested by a central OAS service provider that processes them and makes them available in a standardised way to the repositories and to value-added services.

Die **OAS data providers** record document usage in log files and pseudonymise user data (e.g., IP addresses). They process this usage information, adding unique document IDs and transforming the data into OpenURL Context Objects. Finally, these data are made available for harvesting via OAI-PMH.



The OAS data provider can be installed in just a few steps using the software packages provided by OA-Statistics. These packages are tailored to the most common repository systems.

The data gathered are harvested and processed by a central **OAS service provider** in accordance with COUNTER, LogEc, and IFAB standards.



The data are cleansed of distortions caused by automated non-human (robot) accesses. Moreover, duplicate documents – accesses to the same document stored at different locations – are identified and merged. The resulting standardised usage data are then transferred back to the repositories, where they can be displayed or, for example, used to sort lists of search results.

Data protection

The Web server log files of the repositories serve as the basis for OA-Statistics' metrics. The Central Data Protection Agency of the Universities in Baden-Wuerttemberg (ZENDAS) advises OA-Statistics on the handling of these data. In order to comply with privacy regulations, all information from which an individual user can be identified is rendered anonymous in such a way that the user is no longer identifiable.