

Agreement PIDs: Small Schema, Big Story

PIDfest 2026

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The project openCost

- **Project partners:** University Library of Regensburg, Bielefeld University Library, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY Hamburg
- Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- **Goals:**
 - Creating a technical infrastructure that allows to comprehensively record **all** publication costs and subsequently make them **freely** accessible by means of standardized interfaces
 - Enabling cost transparency on an institutional, national, and international level

Project focus

- Development of a **standardized metadata schema** for the collection/recording and transfer of data on publication costs
- Implementation of an open interface for **harvesting** and querying this data
- Extension of the **Electronic Journals Library** (EZB) with special functions for displaying information on open access publication costs and on the assumption of cost

Project focus

- Development of a internal **metadata schema** for the recording of data on publication costs as a superset of the exchange format
- Provide an validator for the exchange format
- Extension of the **Electronic Journals Library** (EZB) with a new, unique, and persistent identifier for any agreements with publishing institutions including Diamond Open Access and Open Access infrastructures

Information about related agreements

Case 1: Mentioned in copyright

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Case 2: Mentioned in Acknowledgement - Funding

Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL.

Others: No mention at all

???

Information about related agreements

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Case 2: Mentioned in Acknowledgement - Funding

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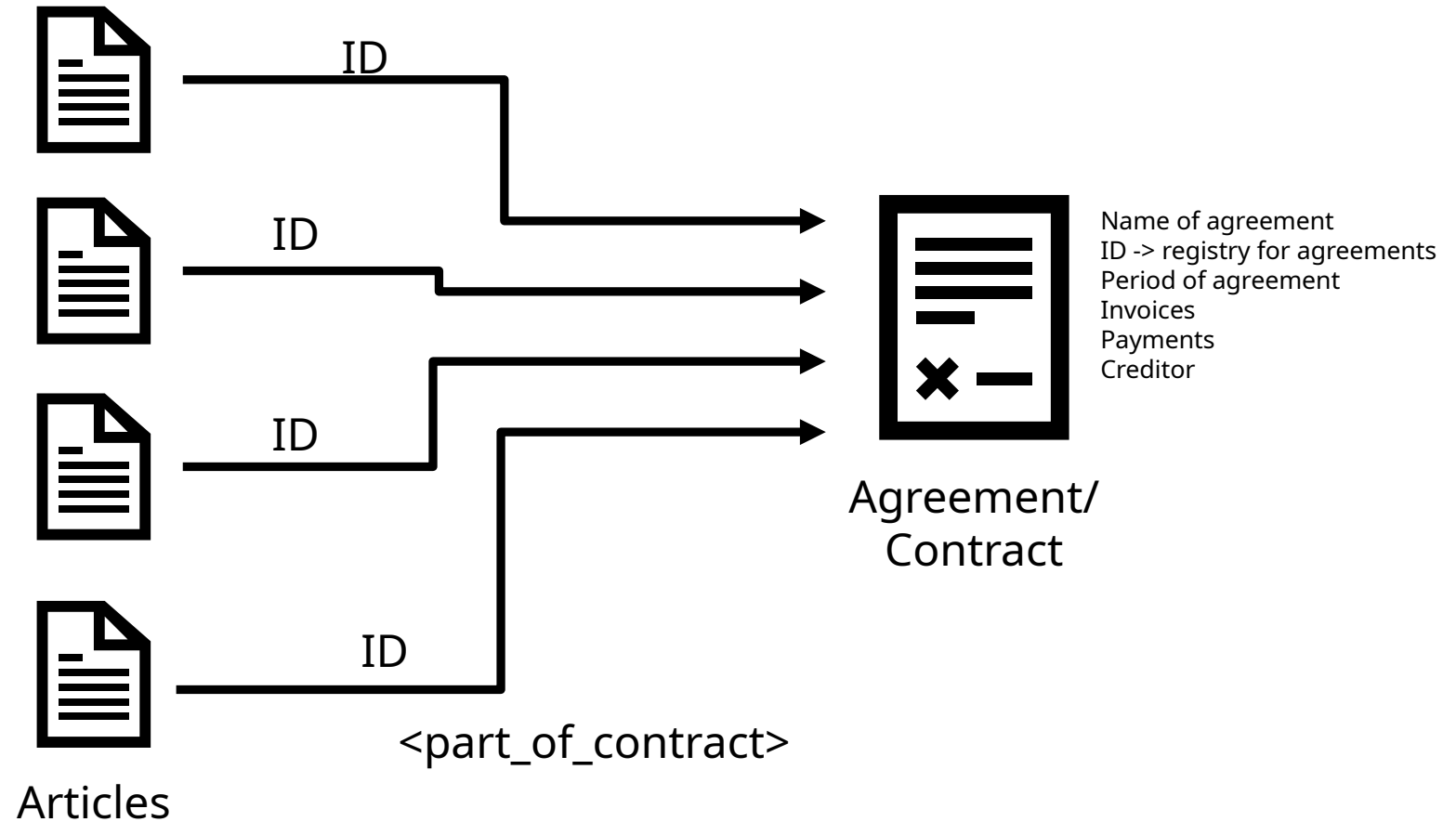
Is this information
Findable
Accessible
Interoperable
Reusable

Types of Agreements with publisher with some kind of publishing component

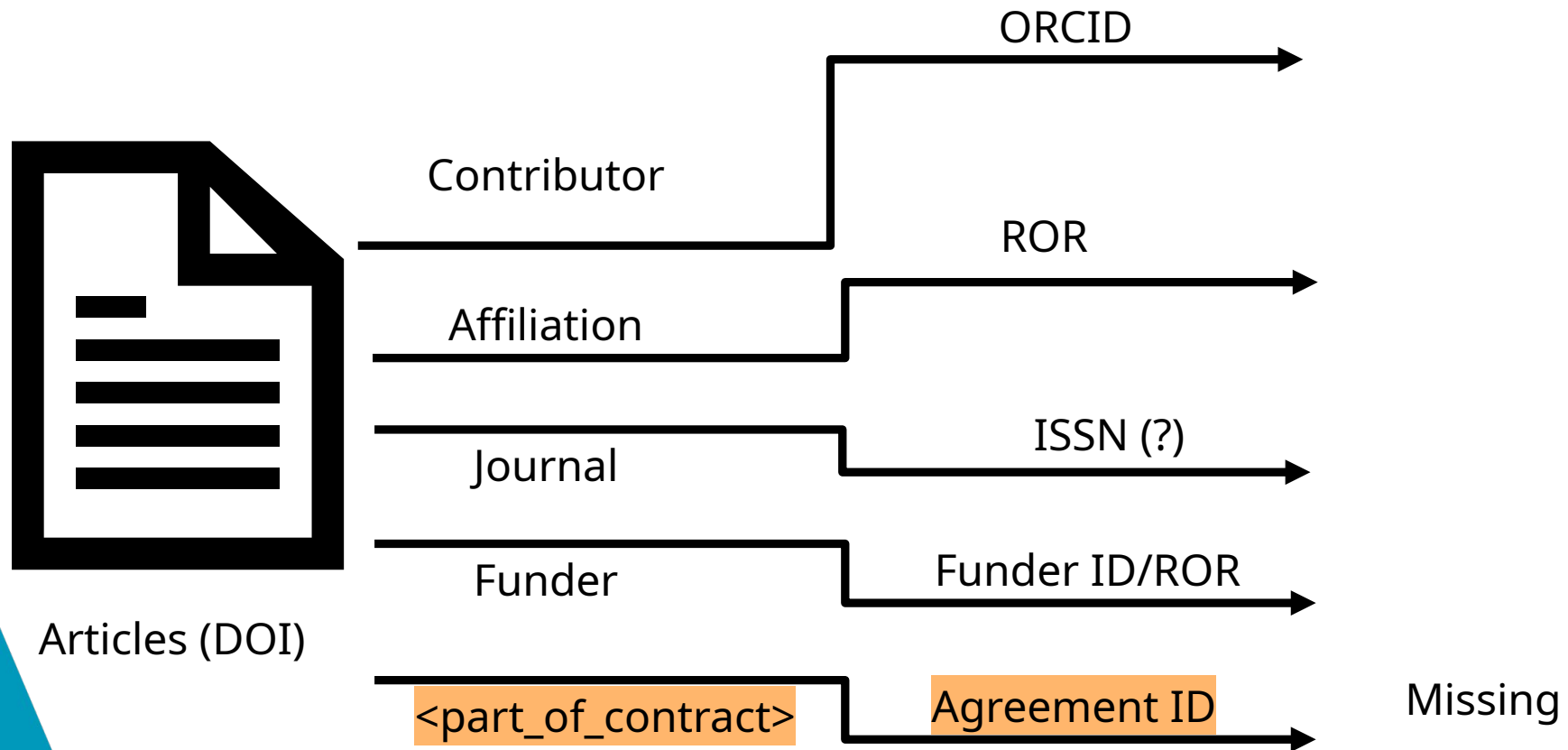
- Contract clause, which allows additional deposit in institutional repository, e.g. the Version of Record (VoR)
 - German national license
- Subscription with publishing component (institutional level, either fixed payment or based on number of publications)
 - Transformative Agreement, Vouchers
- Consortial Contracts with fixed payments
 - SCOAP³
- Payments for Diamond Open Access
 - Sponsorships, Memberships, Subscribe2Open etc.

New Entity in Repository: Contract

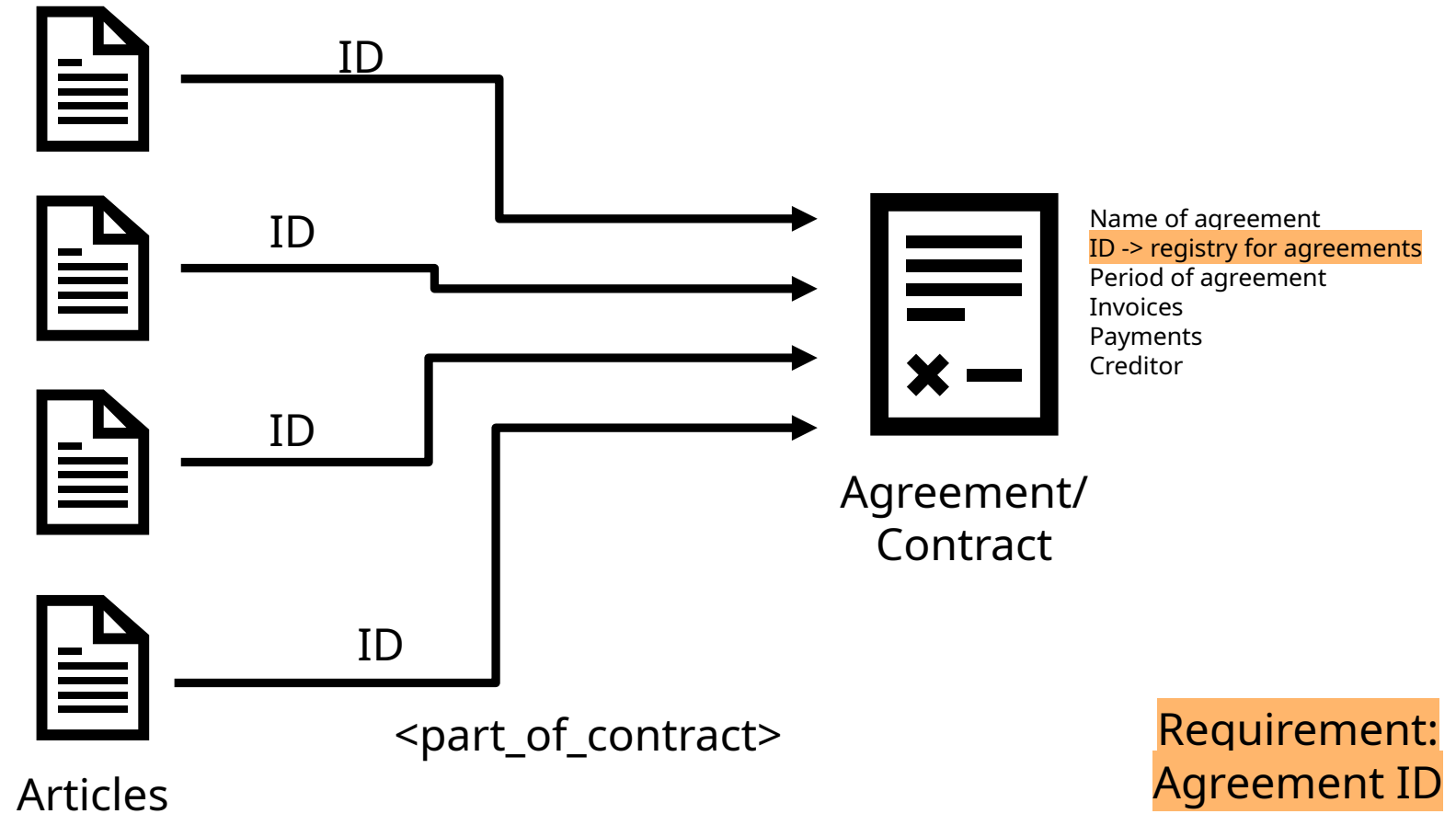
Reference in Article Metadata to Contract



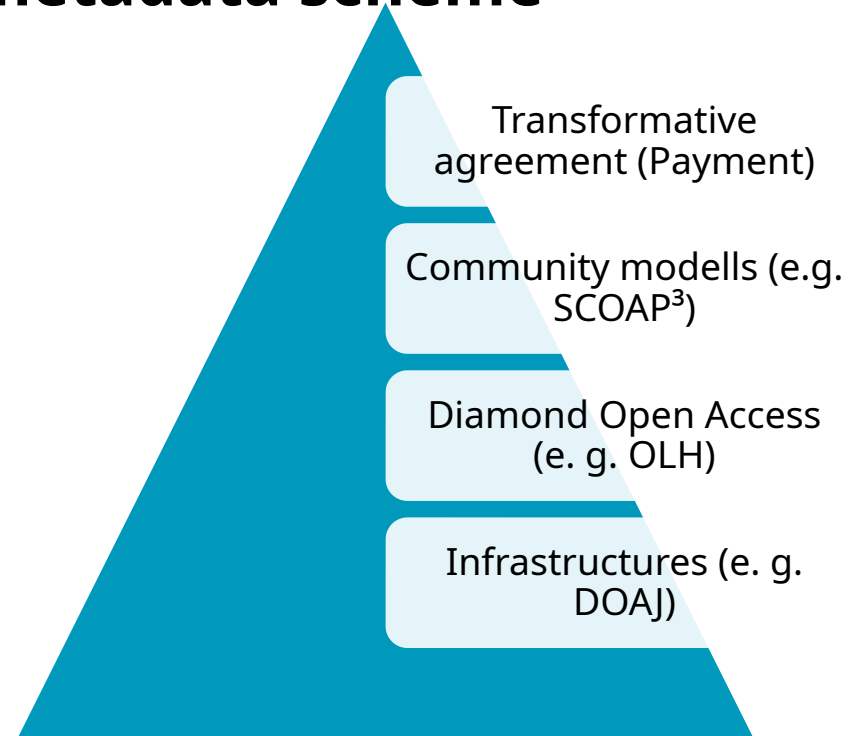
Connection of an article with different entities



New Entity in Repository: Contract Reference in Article Metadata to Contract



Flexibility of metadata scheme



See Transparency to Sustain Open Science Infrastructure, <https://tsosi.org/>



Important:

No payments on registry level

Must include consortia models but also institutional agreements

Agreement ID (with Negotiator, e.g. consortia)

oc-[Provider][Start_Date][Negotiator]-[Number_substructure]

Examples: oc-koala2026tib-1
(<https://opencost.de/oc-koala2026tib-1>)

- **Metadata**

- Name of Agreement*
- Provider Name (Consortia, Publisher)*
- Negotiator (Consortia Lead, Institution)
- Date: Start – End
- Substructure (e.g. specific subject)
- URL (Link to the Webpage)

* Mandatory fields

Agreement ID (without Negotiator, e.g. individuell contract)

oc-[Provider]-[Number_substructure]

**Examples: oc-scipost-1
(<https://opencost.de/oc-scipost-1>)**

- **Metadata**

- Name of Agreement*
- Provider Name (Consortia, Publisher)
- Negotiator (Consortia Lead, Institution)
- Date: Start – End
- Substructure (e.g. specific subject)
- URL (Link to the Webpage)

* Mandatory fields

Search & Browse the registry

[News](#) [About](#) [Results](#) [Conferences](#)



[Browse openCost Registry](#)

The openCost Project

The aim of **openCost** is to create a technical infrastructure enabling publication costs to be accessed freely via standardized interfaces and formats. This facilitates cost transparency at institutional and (inter-)national level.

To this end, a metadata schema has been developed to record publication costs in a structured way, to be exposed and harvested via OAI-PMH. Its implementation on OpenAPC, one of the largest aggregators of cost data, allows the Electronic Journals Library (EZB) to seamlessly integrate costs for display. Initially focusing on journal articles, the schema will now be expanded to cover additional publication- and cost types. The addition of a validator will facilitate seamless compliance checks. Another focus is the development of a generic openCost internal format that can serve as a blueprint for proprietary implementations. This supports institutions in local cost monitoring. In addition, the EZB will be expanded to include a contract registry. A dashboard will enable the evaluation of aggregated cost data from various sources.

[To openCost Project](#)

Recent Posts

openCost Webinars for International Open Access Week 2026

13. October 2026

openCost Webinars for Open Access Week 2026: two online events on 19 and 22 October on cost transparency and open science infrastructures.

OpenAPC: UPV Implements Data Harvesting

8. October 2026

openCost Registry, powered by EZB

The openCost Registry enables the structured recording of business and contract models in scholarly publishing, including memberships, subscribe-to-open models, and support for scholarly infrastructures. In addition, individual contract components, such as bundles or collections, can be recorded and uniquely referenced. The Registry complements initiatives such as the ESAC Registry and supports the assignment of opencostids.

The opencostid is a **unique, machine-readable identifier** for contracts and business models in the field of scholarly publishing. It allows agreements to be uniquely identified and linked to participating institutions as well as the resources they cover, such as journals. In this way, the opencostid increases transparency and facilitates analysis, monitoring, and data exchange across systems.

Open Access agreement information from the openCost Registry will be integrated into the **EZB**. This will provide EZB users with institution-specific information on Open Access agreements and the journals covered by each agreement. At the same time, the openCost Registry is independent of EZB participation and is available worldwide free of charge.

[To openCost Registry](#)

Search registry for agreements



[Advanced Search](#)

Requesting an opencostid

As a logged-in user you can submit agreements to the openCost Registry, which have an opencostid assigned yet. [Create an user account](#) in the registry or login to

<https://www.opencost.de>



Koala: Environment (SLUB) 2025-2027

opencostid: [oc-koala2025slub-1](#)

Alternative Agreement Title: KOALA Bündel Environment (SLUB) 2025-2027

Date Start: 2025

Date End: 2027

Provider Name: Koala

Agreement Substructure: Environment

Negotiator Name: Sächsische Landesbibliothek - Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden (SLUB)

URL: https://www.slub-dresden.de/fileadmin/groups/slubsite/KOALA/Product_information_KOALA_B%C3%BCndel_Environment_deutsch.pdf

URI: <https://opencost.de/oc-koala2025slub-1>

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Export Format

<https://www.opencost.de>

First Use Cases

Reporting of Payments

- For German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Starts June 2026

Transparency

- Including openCost ID in OpenAPC
- Possibility to see all payments and publications of one agreement even over more institutions

Conclusion

First time, that cost are published

Freely available

Standardized

Human readable

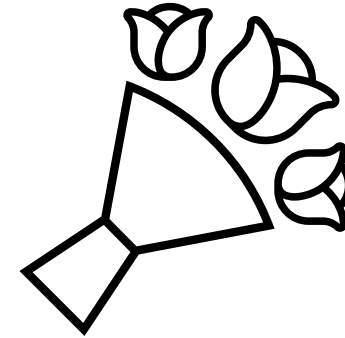
Machine readable

Fulfilling **FAIR**-principles



Thanks

- openCost
- DFG-Grant 457354095



- Team
- **Julia Bartlewski, Christoph Broschinski, Dirk Pieper (Bielefeld)**
- **Lisa-Marie Stein, Alexander Wagner (Hamburg)**
- **Bianca Schweighofer (thanks for slides), Robert Bosek, Cornelia Lang, Colin Sippl, Silke Weisheit (Regensburg)**



Thank you for the attention!

- Website: <https://opencost.de/en>
- openCost publications: <https://www.opencost.de/en/publications/>
- openCost mailing list: opencost.info@mailman.uni-regensburg.de
- Github repository: <https://github.com/opencost-de/opencost>
- Contains the schema and its documentation (including FAQs, tabular description, XSD file for formal verification, and folder with valid sample files)
- Tracks the evolution of the schema in a transparent way