

# Key issue

## CrossRef Search



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In April of 2004, CrossRef – the cross-publisher citation linking network – launched the prototype ‘CrossRef Search’ service in partnership with Google™ search technologies. The prototype is being used to solicit feedback from end-users, to investigate the value of free full-text, interdisciplinary search across publisher boundaries.

### What is CrossRef Search?

CrossRef Search is a new interdisciplinary, inter-publisher search tool currently available as a pilot service. The pilot allows users to search the full text of high quality journal articles, conference proceedings, monographs, and other resources covering a range of scholarly research from numerous leading publishers. Although a good deal of published content is now indexed by Google independently of this new initiative, what makes CrossRef Search unique is that it provides a domain-restricted search. Through a special arrangement between Google and CrossRef, the service launches a typical Google search but filters the results set to the items from participating publishers, thereby reducing the ‘noise’ produced by general web searches and providing more targeted access to research material.

### Current coverage

There are now 29 publishers participating in CrossRef Search, contributing to an index of

3.4 million full-text content items. These publishers are:

- American Physical Society
- Annual Reviews
- Ashley Publications
- Association for Computing Machinery
- BioMed Central
- Blackwell Publishing
- BMJ (British Medical Journal) Publishing Group
- Cambridge University Press
- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press
- FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology)
- IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.)
- INFORMS (Information Management Specialists, Inc.)
- Institute of Physics Publishing
- International Union of Crystallography
- Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science
- Journal of Clinical Oncology
- Lawrence Erlbaum Associates
- Medicine Publishing Group
- Nature Publishing Group
- Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag
- Oxford University Press
- PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Springer
- Taylor & Francis
- University of California Press
- University of Chicago Press

- Vathek Publishing
- John Wiley & Sons

### How it works

CrossRef Search is available to users free of charge through search boxes on the web sites of participating publishers. (For instance, the service may be accessed from <http://prola.aps.org/xrs.html> or <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/search/external>) Google indexes the full text on publishers' web sites through a CrossRef DOI (digital object identifier) gateway; the process of crawling and fully indexing a large set of full-text publications can take several weeks. The index encompasses current content as well as deep backfiles of many journals. Results are returned using the standard Google search and ranking algorithms, filtering out all but the target publications, and using the item's DOI whenever possible to link from the search results to the full-text item. So CrossRef itself does not host any content or perform searches; it just works behind the scenes with Google to facilitate the crawling of content on publishers' sites as well as the display of search results, and sets the policies and guidelines governing participation in the initiative.

### Next steps

The pilot will run through 2004 and additional publishers may join in the interim. Participating publishers and CrossRef are now soliciting feedback from scientists, scholars and librarians for the purpose of evaluating and fine-tuning the service. Over 200 users have already replied to the posted survey. Participants are also investigating how DOIs can be used to improve indexing of content and enable persistent links from search results to the full text at publishers' sites. It is likely that CrossRef Search will work with other leading search technologies when and if the service is officially launched.

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For more information on CrossRef or CrossRef Search, please visit [www.crossref.org](http://www.crossref.org)

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