



Tale of software citation pitfalls



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Once upon a time, in a world that is not too different from ours, there were two neighboring kingdoms, which were separated by an impassable misty mountain chain.



The south was dominated by the kingdom of scholars, who lived in their graceful ivory towers.

However, building houses of any sort requires tools and even the sharpest minds cannot bend raw materials with pure willpower only.



Tools of quality and use were forged in the neighboring kingdom of software craftsmen, who openly shared their software tools with any creature that could use or reuse them. All they asked for in return was a sign of appreciation.

Signs of appreciation were paid in tokens of gratitude, which we know today as software citations. The tokens had to be passed to the software craftsmen whenever one of their tools was used in the process of creation.



Which path will you follow?

Not citing software



An owl was sitting on an old tree at the edge of the forest looking carefully down to the apprentice. It was the path of **no-citation**.

At the day you start your journey, the trees stood dark and silent. Between them, streets of different nature and size were visible. Some were hardly more than narrow paths through the grass.



The Forest of Scholarly Writing was ancient as time itself, and had already seen many scholars perish along their journey through the woods.

Scholars who were willing to transact their gratitude had to face a dangerous journey through the "Shiver Forest of Scholarly Writing" to reach the bank on "Discovery System Island".



Software mentions

A fox was waiting alongside a bright and wide path. It was lightheartedly walking this settled street. It was the path of **software mentions in the full text**.



URL software citations

A lively mayfly was flying wild circles. It was heading towards the forest; following a narrow, but well lit path that looked like a proper shortcut. It was the path of **URL software citation**.



Software paper citations

Two rabbit-like creatures were glowing like lanterns in the dark. These elemental spirits were meant to guide travelers with their lights. It was the path of **citations to software paper** persistent identifiers.



The story continues -
Can your software citation survive?

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