A Software Citation Primer

- Software is as integral as a research paper, monograph, or dataset in terms of facilitating the full understanding and dissemination of research
- The journals task force of the FORCE11 Software Citation Implementation Working Group, including representatives from most major scholarly publishers, has written an article (10.12688/f1000research.26932.1) to provide broadly applicable guidance on software citation for the communities and institutions publishing academic journals and conference proceedings
- Communities and institutions should produce versions of the document with software examples and citation styles that are appropriate for their intended audience
- Article & community-specific versions aimed at authors citing software, including software developed by the authors or by others
- Article also includes brief instructions on how software can be made citable, directing readers to more comprehensive guidance published elsewhere
- Guidance helps to support proper attribution & credit, reproducibility, collaboration & reuse; encourages building on the work of others to further research

- Next steps:
  - Task force: works on what happens after article is submitted – how citations are processed and indexed – to ensure they are correctly registered and tracked
  - You: tell your communities about this, encourage publishers to support it, encourage authors & reviewers to follow it

Check for updates

METHOD ARTICLE

The importance of software citation [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

Daniel S. Katz [1], Neil P. Chue Hong [2], Tim Clark[3], August Muench [4], Shelley Stall [5], Daina Bouquin[6], Matthew Cannon [7], Scott Edmunds[8], Telli Faez[9], Patricia Feeney[10], Martin Fenner[11], Michael Friedman [12], Gerry Grenier [13], Melissa Harrison [14], Joerg Heber[15], Adam Leary[16], Catriona MacCallum [17], Hollydawn Murray[18], Erika Pastrana[19], Katherine Perry [20], Douglas Schuster[21], Martina Stockhause [22], Jake Yeston[23]

[1]University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA
[2]EPCC, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
[3]University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA
[4]American Astronomical Society, Washington, DC, USA
[5]American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, USA
[6]Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA, USA
[7]Taylor & Francis Group, Oxford, UK
[8]GigaScience Press, BGI Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
[9]Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
[10]Crossref, Lynnfield, MA, USA
[11]DataCite, Hannover, Germany
[12]American Meteorological Society, Boston, MA, USA
[13]Publishing Technology, IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA
[14]Production, eLife, Cambridge, UK
[15]PLOS, San Francisco, CA, USA
[16]Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK
[17]Open Science, Hindawi, London, UK
[18]F1000Research, London, UK
[19]Springer Nature, New York, NY, USA
[20]Product Management, Wiley, Boston, MA, USA
[21]National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA
[22]German Climate Computing Center (DKRZ), Hamburg, Germany
[23]AAAS, Washington, DC, USA

Open Peer Review