

DOAB REST API

Advanced search and response guide

This guide expands on the Quick Start and Basic Search information available on the DOAB website. It explains API responses, metadata and bitstream expansion, field-specific searches, date queries, collections, funders, publishers, and JSON or XML output.

Base endpoint: [https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=\[search query\]](https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=[search query])

Contents

1. Understanding the API response
2. Retrieving complete metadata
3. Retrieving file information
4. Retrieving metadata and files together
5. Searching specific metadata fields
6. Date queries
7. Collections
8. Funders
9. Publishers
10. Communities and repository collections
11. JSON and XML responses

1. Understanding the API response

A successful REST API request returns HTTP status code **200**. Without an expand parameter, each matching record contains basic information, including:

- UUID
- title
- Handle
- item type
- last-modified date
- archived and withdrawn status
- links to additional REST API endpoints

The metadata and bitstreams properties may be empty or null unless they are explicitly requested using the expand parameter.

Parameter	Information returned
No expand parameter	Basic record information
expand=metadata	Complete metadata fields

Parameter	Information returned
expand=bitstreams	Information about attached files
expand=metadata,bitstreams	Complete metadata and file information

2. Retrieving complete metadata

Add the following parameter to include all metadata attached to each matching record:

```
&expand=metadata
```

General syntax:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=[search query]&expand=metadata
```

Examples

Full-text search with metadata:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=water+AND+fire&expand=metadata
```

Title search with metadata:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.title:%22the+deliverance+of+open+access+books%22&expand=metadata
```

Handle search with metadata:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=handle:%2220.500.12854/26303%22&expand=metadata
```

Metadata is returned as a list of fields. Each field contains a metadata key and its value. Common examples include:

```
dc.title
dc.contributor.author
dc.publisher
dc.date.issued
dc.identifier.isbn
dc.identifier.doi
dc.language
```

Note: A metadata field may occur more than once when a publication has multiple authors, ISBNs, subjects, languages, or identifiers.

3. Retrieving file information

Add the following parameter to include information about bitstream objects attached to each matching record:

```
&expand=bitstreams
```

General syntax:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=[search query]&expand=bitstreams
```

Examples

Full-text search with bitstreams:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=water+AND+fire&expand=bitstreams
```

Title search with bitstreams:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.title:%22the+deliverance+of+open+access+books%22&expand=bitstreams
```

Handle search with bitstreams:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=handle:%2220.500.12854/26303%22&expand=bitstreams
```

Bitstream information may include:

- file name
- bitstream UUID
- MIME type
- file format
- file size
- description
- download or retrieval link

Note: An empty bitstream list means that the API request was processed successfully, but no bitstream objects are attached to the record.

4. Retrieving metadata and files together

Metadata and bitstream information can be included in a single response by adding:

```
&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

General syntax:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=[search query]&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Examples

Full-text search:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=water+AND+fire&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Title search:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.title:%22the+deliverance+of+open+access+books%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Handle search:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=handle:%2220.500.12854/26303%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Recommended: Use `expand=metadata,bitstreams` when both complete metadata and file information are required. This avoids making a separate request for every individual item.

5. Searching specific metadata fields

DOAB searches can be restricted to specific metadata fields. To identify the appropriate field:

1. Open a DOAB record for the type of publication you want to search.
2. Select Show full item record below the publication thumbnail. Alternatively, append `?show=full` to the record URL.
3. Find the metadata field and value that you want to use.
4. Use the field name in the REST API query.

Example field query:

```
dc.title:"The deliverance of open access books"
```

Encoded as a REST API request:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.title:%22the+deliverance+of+open+access+books%22
```

When querying date fields, append the `_dt` suffix to the field name so that the value is interpreted as a date rather than ordinary text.

```
dc.date.accessioned_dt  
dc.date.issued_dt
```

6. Date queries

Titles added during the last seven days

Use `dc.date.accessioned_dt` to search by the date on which a record was added to DOAB:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.date.accessioned_dt:%5BNOW-7DAY/DAY%20T0%20NOW%5D
```

This query searches the `dc.date.accessioned` field from the start of the day seven days ago until the current time.

Important: The `lastModified` property is not the accession date. It indicates when the record was last modified. To retrieve `dc.date.accessioned`, include `metadata`.

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.date.accessioned_dt:%5BNOW-7DAY/DAY%20T0%20NOW%5D&expand=metadata
```

Titles in a subject category added during the last seven days

Search for titles classified as “Politics & Government” and added during the last seven days:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.subject.classification:%22Politics%20%26%20Government%22%20AND%20dc.date.accessioned_dt:%5BNOW-7DAY/DAY%20T0%20NOW%5D
```

Titles added between two dates

To search for titles added within a specific date range, use the following syntax:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.date.accessioned_dt:%5BYYYY-MM-DDT00%3A00%3A00Z%20T0%20YYYY-MM-DDT23%3A59%3A59Z%5D
```

Replace the two dates with the required start and end dates.

For example:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.date.accessioned_dt:%5B2026-07-01T00%3A00%3A00Z%20T0%202026-07-31T23%3A59%3A59Z%5D
```

Note that `dc.date.accessioned` refers to the date on which a record was added to the DOAB repository. It should not be interpreted as the publication date.

Sort by accession date

Sort titles classified as “Politics & Government” by accession date and return one result:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=dc.subject.classification:%22Politics+%26+Government%22&sort=dc.date.accessioned_dt&limit=1
```

The `expand` parameter can also be added to date queries to retrieve metadata, bitstreams, or both.

7. Collections

To retrieve publications from a thematic or funding collection, query the `oapen.collection` field. Use the collection label rather than the collection ID.

Example: European Research Council

Basic query:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.collection:%22European+Research+Council%22
```

Include metadata:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.collection:%22European+Research+Council%22&expand=metadata
```

Include metadata and file information:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.collection:%22European+Research+Council%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

8. Funders

Publications associated with a funder can be retrieved using relationship metadata fields. The process has two stages:

1. Find the funder and its UUID by searching the grantor.name field.
2. Retrieve publications using the UUID in the oopen.relation.isFundedBy field.

Step 1: Find the funder

Example: search for “Austrian Science Fund (FWF)”:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=grantor.name:Austrian+Science+Fund+%28FWF%29&expand=metadata
```

The funder UUID is included in the returned metadata. Example UUID:

```
a39fc2ba-9538-4bcd-965c-6702ff320840
```

Step 2: Retrieve publications funded by the funder

Basic query:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.relation.isFundedBy:%22a39fc2ba-9538-4bcd-965c-6702ff320840%22
```

Include complete metadata and file information:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.relation.isFundedBy:%22a39fc2ba-9538-4bcd-965c-6702ff320840%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Recommended: A grantor.name query may also list related publications in repeated oopen.relation.funds fields. Query oopen.relation.isFundedBy directly when complete publication metadata and file information are required.

9. Publishers

Publications associated with a publisher can be retrieved using relationship metadata fields. The process has two stages:

1. Find the publisher and its UUID by searching the publisher.name field.
2. Retrieve publications using the UUID in the oopen.relation.isPublishedBy field.

Step 1: Find the publisher

Example: search for a publisher by name:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=publisher.name:Oxford+University+Press&expand=metadata
```

The publisher UUID is included in the returned metadata. Example UUID:

```
db4e319f-ca9f-449a-bcf2-37d7c6f885b1
```

Step 2: Retrieve publications from the publisher

Basic query:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.relation.isPublishedBy:%22db4e319f-ca9f-449a-bcf2-37d7c6f885b1%22
```

Include complete metadata and file information:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=oopen.relation.isPublishedBy:%22db4e319f-ca9f-449a-bcf2-37d7c6f885b1%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams
```

Recommended: A publisher.name query may also list related publications in repeated oopen.relation.isPublisherOf fields. Query oopen.relation.isPublishedBy directly when complete publication metadata and file information are required.

10. Communities and repository collections

DOAB content is organised into technical DSpace communities and repository collections.

List all communities:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/communities/
```

List all repository collections:

```
https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/collections/
```

Note: These repository collections are part of the technical DSpace structure. They should not be confused with thematic or funding collections represented by the oopen.collection metadata field.

11. JSON and XML responses

Set the HTTP **Accept** header to specify the preferred response format.

JSON

```
Accept: application/json
```

Example using curl:

```
curl -s -H "Accept: application/json"  
"https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=handle:%2220.500.12854/26303%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams"
```

XML

```
Accept: application/xml
```

Example using curl:

```
curl -s -H "Accept: application/xml"  
"https://directory.doabooks.org/rest/search?query=handle:%2220.500.12854/26303%22&expand=metadata,bitstreams"
```