The availability and completeness of funder metadata in Crossref. A case study for publications funded by the Dutch research council NWO

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BACKGROUND:
Funding councils spend a lot of effort in tracking the output they fund. Crossref is becoming an increasing interesting (open) source. In 2021 25% of DOI’s have funding info. But how to evaluate that figure? Do all publishers deposit funding data for their publications to Crossref?

METHODS
We looked at a sample of 5,004 DOIs registered in 2021 by grantees as the output of NWO funded research. In theory 100% of these publications should contain funding information in Crossref.

RESULTS
• 67% of records contain funding info
• 53% correctly identify NWO
• 45% use funder ID
• Big differences between publishers
• Differences between publishers can not just be explained by the absence of funding information.
• WoS, Scopus and Dimensions are able to extract funding info for sizeable extra records (up to 1,000).

CONCLUSION
Although funding information in Crossref is on the rise, some publishers have to step up their efforts to capture and deposit this data.

Based on a sample of 5,004 DOIs recorded as output funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO we conclude that some publishers need to seriously step up their efforts to deposit funding data to Crossref.