OpenCitations

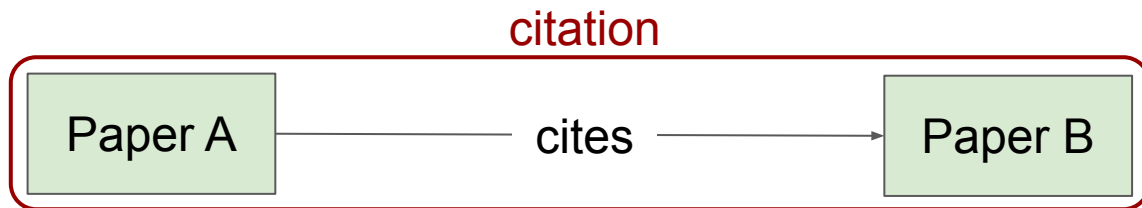## Citations are just facts, why are not they open?

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/DH.arc centre presentation
23 May 2019 – Aula Affreschi, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy

OpenCitations

DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA CLASSICA E ITALIANISTICA

Citations as conceptual links

citation

| Paper A | → cites → | Paper B |

A citation is a **conceptual directional link** from a citing entity to a cited entity, created typically by the inclusion of a reference in the reference list or in a footnote

Scholarly citations have been collected in commercial databases, e.g. WoS and Scopus, released with closed licenses, and retrievable only paying an expensive fee (thousands of euros!) that depends on the size of the organization

But scholarly citations are facts and, as such, they cannot be copyrighted

Liberating citations from the commercial oligarchy

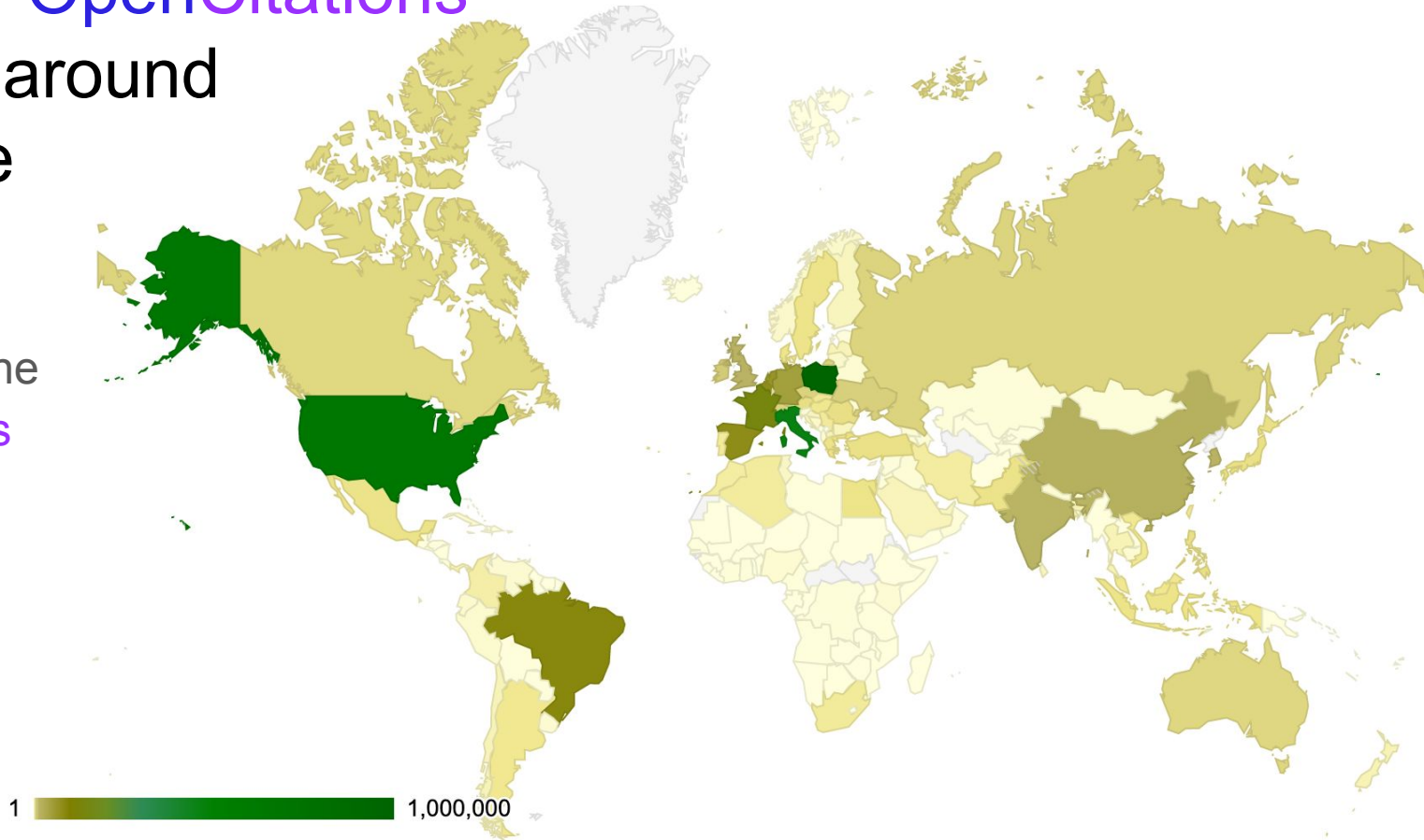OpenCitations (http://opencitations.net) is a scholarly infrastructure organization

- dedicated to **open scholarship** and the **publication of open bibliographic and citation data** by the use of Semantic Web technologies
- engaged in advocacy for **open citations** (see the Initiative for Open Citations)

It provides:

- data models: the OpenCitations Data Model (based on SPAR Ontologies)
- bibliographic and citation data (CC0): OpenCitations Corpus, COCI, CROCI
- software: GitHub repository released with open source licenses
- online services: dumps, REST APIs, SPARQL endpoints, and authoring / querying / browsing interfaces

Usage of OpenCitations services around the globe

Number of accesses to the OpenCitations services and website per country (from April 2018 to March 2019)
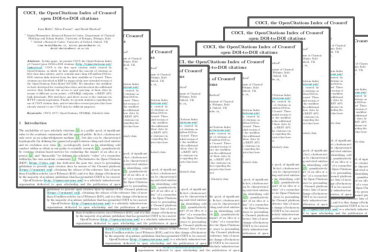

1   1,000,000

Some numbers

More than **500 million** distinct citations

More than **50 million** distinct citing / cited bibliography entities

More than **1.5 million** distinct REST API calls in 2019

```
/api/v1/citations/10.1016/j.biopsych.2013.07.043
/api/v1/references/10.1021/jf8001137
/api/v1/metadata/10.1007/s10845-016-1285-z
```

Only **3** people doing all the work – one is even retired!

So, it is pretty clear...

… we need help, right?

We have plenty of – and open to new – ideas and new developments in terms of infrastructure (i.e. programming), and also in terms of analytical studies (i.e. bibliometrics) and theoretical analysis (i.e. understanding the functions of citations)

The /DH.arc allows any of the students enrolled in DHDK to do internships in this fascinating and challenging domain, working on one of the most cited and used Open Science projects of the past two years

Students, what are you waiting for? Just poke me for more information!

Thank you for your attention

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Citations are just facts, why are not they open?

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