

Peer Review

Review of: "Sneaked references: Fabricated reference metadata distort citation counts"

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This article demonstrates that the Crossref system allows the inclusion of hidden references within the metadata submitted to it, a phenomenon referred to as "sneaked references" by the authors.

The article's writing quality makes for an engaging read, facilitating a clear understanding of the phenomenon, the underlying process causing it, and its broader implications.

However, readers may rightfully question whether this phenomenon is widespread across other journals, including those from major publishers, or if it remains confined to a small group of authors and this particular niche journal.

It is also important to note that, as of the time of this review (February 17, 2025), most of the sneaked references found by the authors have been removed from Crossref. The authors updated this work to the current state of Crossref in a newly released preprint.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: The author of the review has worked with the article's authors on the current topic in a following research.