

Research Object Crates: Bundling Research Data and Information

Research Object Crate (RO-Crate) is an open, community driven data package specification to describe all kinds of file-based data, as well as entities outside the package. In order to do so, it uses the widespread JSON-format, representing Linked Data (JSON-LD), allowing to link to external information. This makes the format flexible and machine-readable. These packages are being referred to as (RO-)crates.

Similar to other formats, RO-Crates is based on files and folders and has a single metadata file to describe the whole package. Therefore, such packages are easy to share between different computer systems and software. In order to create such crates, the RO-Crate community developed libraries written in different programming languages like Python, Ruby, JavaScript, and Java. With Describo, there is also a graphical user interface available.

We developed the ro-crate-java library, which allows creating, modifying and validating crates using the Java Programming Language. The focus of development was the ease of use: We aimed to make it intuitive and easy to create valid crates, without knowing the specification too well. Our implementation can be used for integration into repositories or other services or tools.

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Tools

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Research Data Package, FAIR, Metadata

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