

[WIP] Citations for Python

[Science Python libraries have citations](#) and people are asking the PSF for the same. Below are some considerations for approach.

Article or no article?

Article

The majority of citations that are happening in the Scipy community are article based, which means that a journal article is written about the library and then it is published and the maintainers say, "Cite this article." This requires someone (or a few people) to take the task on of writing the article.

No Article (Focus on DOI)

If there was no article, the citation would be created solely off of an upload to [Zenodo](#) (or similar such place). By uploading it to Zenodo, then you get a DOI, which then traces back to the repository.

One citation OR Many citations

One citation to rule them all. (Article or no article)

- Pros:
 - Citations gets heavy weight over time.
- Cons:
 - It is going to be pretty silly when we are on Python 8 and pointing to citation that was established during Python 3.

One citation for each major version. (Probably no article)

- Pros
 - If someone publishes research, they will cite the exact major version that was used, so if someone was trying to recreate the research they would be able to do it. (However, if someone was trying to recreate it, the research code should be open sourced and there for the version of Python used should be specified.)
- Cons
 - One citation does get to be the heavy weight over time.

One citation for each minor version. (Definitely no article)

- Pros
 - Very specific reference to which Python.
- Cons

- Cumbersome. Is this necessary? This would be a major thing to maintain, and I am not sure that pros are worth it.

Summary of possibilities...

1. Article for one citation (1 DOI, generated by the publication)
2. No article (many DOIs -- one for each major version through [Zenodo](#) (or similar service))