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## METALEXICOGRAPHY: AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

**Abstract** While there was arguably a need for multi-authored, multi-volume, metalexigraphic handbooks three decades ago – when the field of metalexigraphography was still ‘young’ – it is a bit puzzling to make sense of the current output-flurry in this field. Is it simply a matter of ‘every publisher trying to fill its shelves’? or is there really a need in the scientific community for more and (continuously) updated reference works? And once available, are such works also consulted? Which parts? By whom? How often? For what purposes? In this paper we look at an ongoing, real-world metalexigraphic handbook project to answer these questions.

**Keywords** Metalexigraphography; major reference work; publishing model; download vs. citation patterns

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