



Journals API Getting started guide

Version	Date	Changes
1	May 2025	First publication
2	October 25	Endpoint details updated



Datasets

CONTENTS

Overview.....	3
API Specification	3
Authenticate.....	3
Request	5
API Summary	7
Response	7
Rate Limits and Response Times	8

OVERVIEW

Journals API: Enables programmatic access to full text articles from Science Direct and is updated daily. ScienceDirect is a leading full-text scientific database offering journal articles from more than 2,500 journals and is updated daily. This API retrieves relevant XML full-text articles, based on customers subscription.



Visit the following link to access detailed interface documentation:

https://developer.digital.elsevier.com/documentation/data_data-delivery-journal-datasets

API SPECIFICATION

Categories
API Root-Endpoint
Supported Response Formats
Authentication Model
Support Email
Developer Support

Medical, Science, Engineering
<https://api-us.digital.elsevier.com/>
XML
Client Credentials Grant
datasupportRD@elsevier.com
cmdp.datasets@elsevier.com

AUTHENTICATE

Once you have credentials, obtain an **OAuth2 access token**

Auth Endpoint

```
1 'https://access.identity.elsevier.com/realms/research-public/protocol/openid-connect/token
2 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
```

Request Body (form-encoded)

```
1 grant_type=client_credentials
2 client_id=YOUR_CLIENT_ID
3 client_secret=YOUR_CLIENT_SECRET
```

ELSEVIER

Datasets

Example Response

```
1 {
2   "access_token": "eyJhbGciOiJSUzI1NiIsInR5cCIg...\"",
3   "expires_in": 3599,
4   "token_type": "Bearer"
5 }
```

✓ Save the access-token – you'll need it for all API requests

Access

You will only be able to retrieve documents that your organizations subscribe to. The collections will be assigned when setting up the account.

The following collections are available:

- Corporate Edition ALL
- Agricultural & Biological Science
- Arts & Humanities
- Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Business, Management and Accounting
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Decision Sciences
- Earth and Planetary Science
- Economics, Econometrics and Finance
- Energy
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Immunology & Microbiology
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Neuroscience
- Nursing and Health Professions
- Psychology
- Physics and Astronomy
- Social Sciences
- Lancet Titles
- Cell Titles
- Seminars
- Clinics
- Premium Society Journals (title by title)

Datasets

REQUEST

Step 1: Create a bundle

Submit a DOI list (up to 1000) to request articles – if you require more than 1000 articles, please submit multiple requests.

Request

```
1 POST /data/journals/bundles
2 Authorization: Bearer YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN
3 Content-Type: application/json
```

Request Body

```
1 {
2   "query": {
3     "dois": [
4       "10.1016/j.cell.2020.04.017",
5       "10.1016/j.neuron.2020.01.012"
6     ]
7   }
8 }
```

Expected Response

```
1 HTTP/1.1 202 Accepted
2 Location: /bundles/123e4567-e89b-12d3-a456-426614174000/status
```



Save the **Location Header** to track status

Step 2: Check Bundle Status

Use the UUID to check if the bundle is ready

Request

```
1 GET data/journals/bundles/123e4567-e89b-12d3-a456-426614174000/status
2 Authorization: Bearer YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN
```

Datasets

Example Response

- In progress

```
1 {
2   "status": "IN_PROGRESS"
3   "archiveManifestUri": ""
4 }
```

- Completed

```
1 {
2   "status": "COMPLETED",
3   "archiveManifestUri": "https://example.com/archive/manifest.xml"
4 }
```

- Failed

```
1 {
2   "status": "FAILED",
3   "archiveManifestUri": ""
4 }
```

Step 3: Retrieve Archive Manifest

Once completed, fetch the archive manifest.

Request

```
1 GET https://example.com/archive/manifest.xml
```

✓ This manifest lists all the downloadable article files

The manifest contains a list of zip archives that contain XML files (Note – the documents returned will be identified using PII not DOI). More details of the XML schema can be found in the following document: [Journals Data XML](#)

Datasets

Error handling

- **Bad Request**

If the bundle identifier is found not to conform to the expected pattern you will see the following

```
1 {
2   "errors": [{
3     "message": "ECMA 262 regex \"^[a-zA-Z0-9]{8}-[a-zA-Z0-9]{4}-[a-zA-Z0-9]{4}-[a-zA-Z0-9]{4}-[a-zA-Z0-9]{12}$\" does not match input string \"abcde\""
4   }]
5 }
```

- **Not Found**

If the bundle identifier does not exist, you will receive a 404 response

API SUMMARY

Setup	Method	Endpoint
Get access token	POST	/realms/research-public/protocol/openid-connect/token
Create Bund	POST	/data/journals/bundles
Get Bundle Status	GET	/data/journals/bundles/{id}/status
Retrieve archive manifest	GET	{archiveManifestUri} (from completed status response)

RESPONSE

The response to a request is returned in XML format and consists of a list of records that match the query parameters of the request.

Datasets

The Journals API should not be used for large-volume data downloads as these cause stability and performance issues (for bulk downloads we suggest using the flat file delivery). Initially response downloads will be limited to a total of 1,000 records per request.

Response messages

HTTP Status Code	Reason
200	COMPLETED, IN_PROGRESS or FAILED
202 (POST only)	Success
400 (POST only)	The array is too long – can only accept up to 1000 elements The array is empty – there must be at least one element
404	Bundle identifier does not exist

RATE LIMITS AND RESPONSE TIMES

All requests will time out after 24 hours if not complete.

Once a request has been completed, users have up to an 1 hour to access the URL to download the documents.

The number of requests is limited to 10 requests per second, and 500 requests per week