Use Established and Sustainable PID Systems

Recommendation to use established, sustainable and interoperable PID systems for the identification of frequently referenced entities in research metadata.

Description

Status: 2026/08/14 09:30 Under development

Persistent Identifiers used in metadata should be selected according to transparent technical, organisational and community-related criteria. Where an established PID system exists for a particular entity type, this system should be used instead of locally defined identifiers or unstructured textual descriptions.

The recommendation supports the consistent identification of entities such as research outputs, people, organisations, instruments and physical samples. It thereby facilitates the exchange, aggregation and linking of metadata across repositories and other research infrastructures.

[1] European Commission: A Persistent Identifier (PID) policy for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Motivation for this Recommendation:

[shortened from below]

Recommendation

[shortened from below]

[Format: Wer! macht was! wo! wann! unter welchen Voraussetzungen!]

Binding Convention:

	mandatory	conditional	optional
Helmholtz FAIR Principle			

Precondition for Implementation:

Related Recommendations

Parent:

Dependent:

Other: none

Contributors

Names of contributors to this recommendation

Content

1. Explanation of the Background and Benefits of the Recommendation

About

Defintion of PIDs

- A persistent identifier (PI or PID) is a long-lasting reference to a document, file, web page, or other object (from Wikipedia).
- PID registers typically store core metadata with the PID
- PIDs are used in data infrastructures to link to common information
- Harmonizing the use of PIDs may improve interoperability of datasets between data repositories

Criteria for the evaluation of PID Systems

1. PID is globally unambiguously registerable
2. PIDs are widely used, e.g. recommended by national and international organizations
3. PID registrar has a transparent governance
4. Handle system has stable funding
5. PID system is reliably available and maintained
6. PIDs have an adequate metadata set
7. PID registration is open to all (vs. paying users only)
8. PID is machine readable via API
9. Further developments are downward compatible (with previous updates, content and technical)
10. Also: What other PID systems capture the same types of data?

History and structure

Current Use of …

Motivation

2. Possible alternative solutions

3. Consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of implementing the recommendation

(quality of content, limitations, interoperability, sustainability: expected future dissemination / technical availability / funding)

4. The Recommendation

[Format: Wer! macht was! wo! wann! unter welchen Voraussetzungen!]

5. Naming of communities that have already implemented the recommendation

6. Documentation of the test to validate correct implementation

7. Examples of Instances

8. Further Information

References

[1] European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, EOSC Executive Board, Hellström, M., Heughebaert, A., Kotarski, R. et al., A Persistent Identifier (PID) policy for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), Publications Office, 2020, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/926037

Relevant Community Recommendations

9. History of this document

Subnamespaces:

U

- Use CrossRef for Literature Publications
- Use DataCite for Data Sets

U cont.

- Use IGSN for Samples
- Use ORCiD for Persons

U cont.

- Use PIDInst for Instruments
- Use ROR for Organizations

Pages in this namespace:

O

- Other PID Types

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Last update: **2026/08/14 09:30**