

Persistent Identifier Descriptions

ARK (Archival Resource Key): The ARK system is location and protocol independent and is a new approach to persistent identification. The ARK identifier is a naming scheme for persistent access to digital objects (including images, texts, data sets, and finding aids), implemented by the California Digital Library. The ARK identifier is a specially constructed, globally unique, actionable URL.

DOI (Digital Object Identifier): A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by the International DOI Foundation to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when an article is published and made available electronically.

FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology): FAST is an enumerative, faceted subject heading scheme derived from the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). The purpose of adapting the LCSH with a simplified syntax to create FAST is to retain the very rich vocabulary of LCSH while making the scheme easier to understand, control, apply and use.

Handles: The Handle System is the Corporation for National Research Initiative's proprietary registry assigning persistent identifiers, or handles, to information resources, and for resolving those handles into the information necessary to locate, access, and otherwise make use of the resources.

ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier): ISNI is an ISO identifier in the same family as ISBN, ISRC, ISSN and DOI. ISNI identifies authors, actors, singers, songwriters, photographers, filmmakers and other contributors to creative or intellectual property, as well as those active in their distribution.

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings): MeSH is the National Library of Medicine's curated medical vocabulary resource. Its main purpose is to provide a hierarchically-organized terminology for indexing and cataloging of biomedical information such as MEDLINE/PUBmed and other NLM databases.

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID): ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes one researcher from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between and individual and their professional activities ensuring that their work is recognized.

Persistent Identifier: A persistent identifier (PI or PID) is a long-lasting reference to a document, file, web page, or other object. The term 'persistent identifier' is usually used in the context of digital objects that are accessible over the Internet. Typically, such an identifier is not only persistent but actionable (you can plug it into a web browser and be taken to the identified source).

PURL (Persistent URL): PURL is a type of URL that acts as an intermediary for a real URL of a Web resource. When one enters a PURL in a browser, the browser sends the page request to a PURL server which then returns the real URL of the page. PURLs are persistent because once a PURL is established, it never needs to change. The real address of the web page may change but the PURL remains the same.

URI (Uniform Resource Identifier): A URI is a string of characters that unambiguously identify a particular resource. To guarantee uniformity, all URIs follow a predefined set of syntax rules, but also maintain extensibility through a separately defined hierarchical naming scheme (e.g. http://).

VIAF (Virtual International Authority File): VIAF combines multiple name authority files into a single OCLC-hosted name authority service. The goal of the service is to provide disambiguation and identification services by matching and linking widely-used authority files and making that information available on the Web.

Wikidata: Wikidata is a collaboratively edited knowledge base hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation. It is a common source of open data that Wikimedia projects such as Wikipedia can use, and anyone else, under a public domain license.

Wikidata is a document-oriented database, focused on items, which represent topics, concepts or objects. Each item is identified by a unique number, prefixed with the letter Q, known as a 'QID'. This provides the basic information required to identify the topic the item covers, for translation, without favoring any language.