

# Opening repositories to practice research: sharing the findings of the Practice Research Voices (PR VOICES) and Sustaining Practice Assets for Research, Knowledge, Learning and Education (SPARKLE) projects

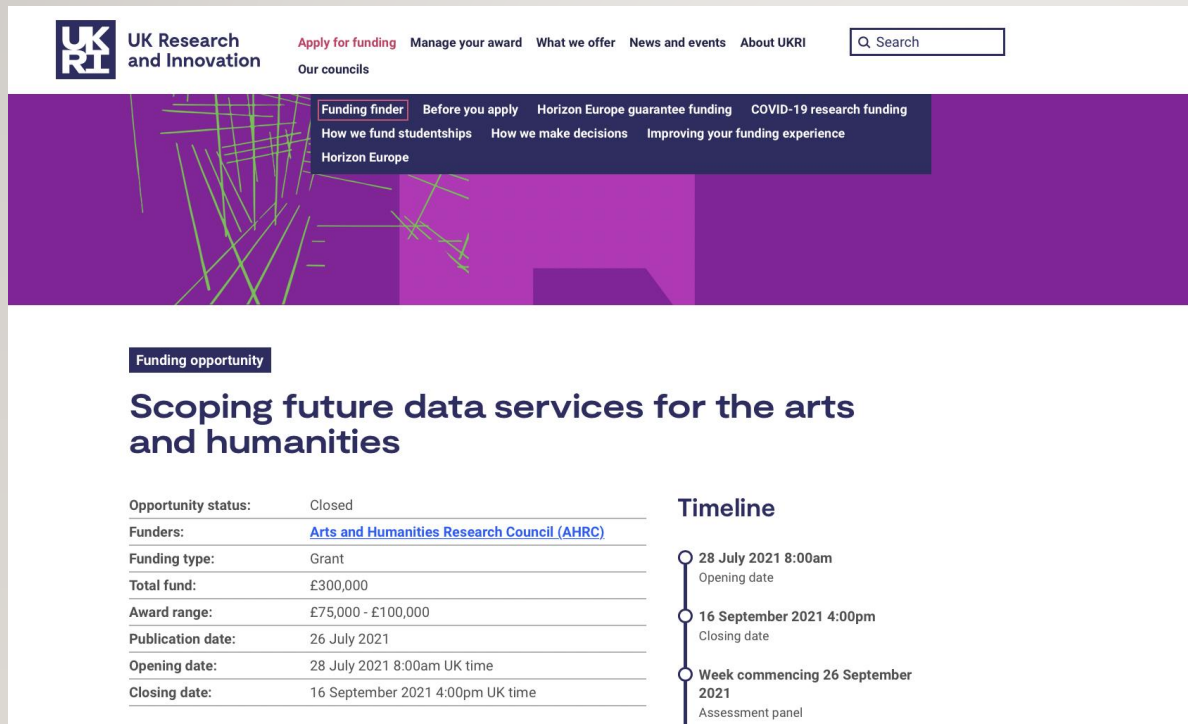
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**Jenny Evans<sup>1</sup>, Claire Knowles<sup>2</sup>, Rachael Kotarski<sup>3</sup>, Adam Vials Moore<sup>4</sup>, Alan Stone<sup>5</sup>**

1: University of Westminster, United Kingdom; 2: University of Leeds, United Kingdom; 3: British Library, United Kingdom; 4: Jisc, United Kingdom; 5: Cayuse, United Kingdom



# ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (AHRC) FUNDING CALL



The screenshot shows the UKRI website header with navigation links: 'Apply for funding', 'Manage your award', 'What we offer', 'News and events', and 'About UKRI'. A search bar is also present. Below the header, a purple banner contains links to 'Funding finder', 'Before you apply', 'Horizon Europe guarantee funding', and 'COVID-19 research funding'. The main content area features a 'Funding opportunity' section for 'Scoping future data services for the arts and humanities'.

**Funding opportunity**

**Scoping future data services for the arts and humanities**

Opportunity status:	Closed
Funders:	<a href="#">Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)</a>
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£300,000
Award range:	£75,000 - £100,000
Publication date:	26 July 2021
Opening date:	28 July 2021 8:00am UK time
Closing date:	16 September 2021 4:00pm UK time

**Timeline**

- 28 July 2021 8:00am  
Opening date
- 16 September 2021 4:00pm  
Closing date
- Week commencing 26 September 2021  
Assessment panel

Practice Research Voices (PR VOICES)

Sustaining Practice Assets for Research, Knowledge, Learning and Engagement (SPARKLE)

# FEATURES OF 'NON- TRADITIONAL' RESEARCH OUTPUTS?

- Often (not always) non-text
- Changes over time
- Can include multiple files (of different formats) which are closed and/or open
- Representation of performance or other live event (remediation)
- Research element can be embodied in the work or needs evidencing by a narrative
- Process as significant as product
- Can be linear or non-linear
- Time-based
- Often involve a range of contributors that deserve acknowledgement and recognition

# PRACTICE RESEARCH: SOME DEFINITIONS

## **Practice research**

“An umbrella term that describes all manners of research where practice is the significant method of research conveyed in a research output. This includes numerous discipline-specific formulations of practice research, which have distinct and unique balances of practice, research narrative and complementary methods within their projects.”

## **Research narrative**

“In a practice research output, a research narrative may be conjoined with, or embodied in, practice. A research narrative articulates the research enquiry that emerges in practice.”

Bulley, James and Şahin, Özden. *Practice Research - Report 1: What is practice research?* P1. London: PRAG-UK, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>.

# PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES (@PRVOICES)

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- **Scoping a national practice research repository using** (as a foundation) the Haplo (now Cayuse) **repository** that **embedded practice research (primarily in art and design) from the beginning.**
- Moving to a **repositories, discoverability and interoperability landscape** in which **practice research disciplines** are **embedded** rather than an afterthought (OTHER).
- **Bringing together voices** from many interested communities to form the **PRVoices Choir** and working with them to identify what **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable (FAIR) and transparent** research (which may also be **open**) looks like for these disciplines and which respects all contributors and their intellectual property.



# BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR PR VOICES

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Development of the Haplo (Cayuse) repository at Westminster **built in art and design and architecture practice research outputs from the beginning** (in co-design with community) <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.582>

Worked with Jisc (and then the British Library) to raise awareness that practice research outputs were not adequately reflected in the open standards landscape

FORCE11 2022 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5767094>

NISO Plus 2022 <https://doi.org/10.34737/vv0z9>

**PRAG-UK reports published** – included definitions of practice research and research narrative and made recommendations <https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>



# PR VOICES PROJECT TEAM



Jenny Evans: Research Environment and Scholarly Communications Lead, University of Westminster

Prof Neal White: Co-Director of the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media, University of Westminster

Prof Helen Bailey: Deputy Vice President Global Business Development, Kings College London

Dr Adam Vials Moore: Product Specialist for Persistent Identifiers, Jisc

Rachael Kotarski, Head of Research Infrastructure Services, British Library

Nina Watts, Repository and Open Access Manager, University of Westminster

Dr Holly Ranger, Research Data Management Officer, University of Westminster

Dr Jenny Basford, Repository Services Lead, British Library

Taylor Mudd, Senior Software Engineer and Product Owner, Cayuse

Joshua Mead, Researcher Development Officer, University of Westminster



# PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES (PR VOICES)

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1. Define the technical & academic challenges of an open library of practice research that will effectively share and disseminate practice research to academic and non-academic audiences
2. Determine the most efficient and successful route by building on existing open-source technology and open standards



1. Repositories



2. Metadata & Persistent Identifiers



3. Creating a Practice Research Community of Practice



# PR VOICES:WORKSTREAM I - REPOSITORIES

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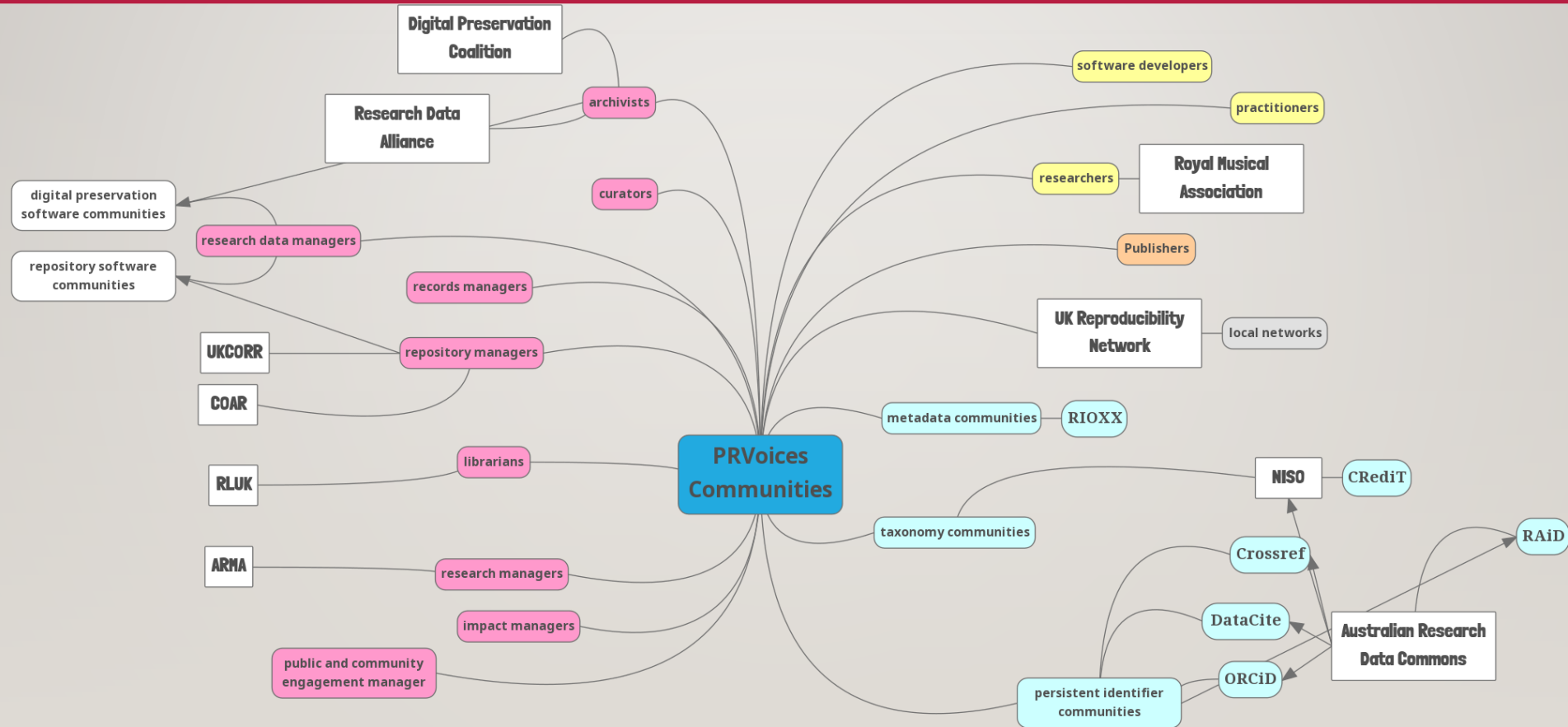
- Started with the Haplo (by Cayuse) Repository at Westminster which was developed to capture portfolios submitted to the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 in creative arts
- Used a test instance of this repository to iterate changes based on feedback throughout the scoping project
- Did some work to illustrate the schema
- Carried out a validation exercise against the British Library's Shared Repository for Cultural Heritage Organisations

# PR VOICES WORKSTREAM 2: METADATA AND PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS (OPEN STANDARDS)

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- Work with existing open standards (rather than creating new ones)  
Prioritised DataCite, Research Activity Identifier (RAiD) and the Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT)
- Held a workshop which included a presentation from a practice researcher and from representatives of each community
- Identified where further work needed doing

# PR VOICES WORKSTREAM 3: BUILDING THE INTERSECTIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



# SPARKLE PROJECT TEAM

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Tom Jackson, Lecturer in Digital Media, University of Leeds (PI)

Scott McLaughlin, Associate Professor in Composition and Music Technology, University of Leeds (Co-I)

Rachael Kotarski, Head of Research Infrastructure Services, British Library (Co-I)

Claire Knowles, Associate Library Director: Research and Digital Futures, University of Leeds (Co-I)

Alex De Little, Post Doctoral Research Associate, University of Leeds

Matthew Warren, Post Doctoral Research Associate, University of Leeds

Andrew Horne, Project Manager, Edina





# SPARKLE – Our Focus

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- Establish a greater understanding of practice research community needs for a data infrastructure.
- Build a blueprint for development of a national practice research infrastructure backed by the practice research community.
- Establish a deeper recognition of the skills gap in practice research, for both practice-researchers and repository managers, and a plan to overcome these gaps.
- Strengthen the practice research community.
- Highlight the importance of practice research beyond research assessment (REF).

# SPARKLE – Our Approach

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- Collaborative, in partnership with the PR community
- Civic, in partnership with PRVoices
- Identified 9 stakeholder categories
- Post Doctoral Research Associates undertook 32 interviews
- Interview findings were validated at a face-to-face workshop
- Technical partners (Edina) provided a target technical plan and roadmap

# SPARKLE – Our top 3 Findings

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## **1. Use**

Practice based researchers require features and functionality purposefully designed to accommodate the ways they conduct their research, and data they produce. The system needs to feel authentic and targeted towards helping them address the specific challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.

## **2. Presentation**

The system must allow them to present their data in a way that communicates their research journey, the complexity and entangled nature of their research and clearly illustrates how they have generated contributions to knowledge.

## **3. Access and Reuse**

More effective methods of searching for relevant projects and data. A system that stores data in future-proof formats and with appropriate metadata would aid access and reuse, generating greater impact.



# SPARKLE – Our technical recommendation

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The creation of an open infrastructure that consists of three layers:

- the technical layer (with store, preserve, discover, and access components);
- the human-computer layer (with re/use and analysis capability);
- the skills layer (learning resources and skills development for researchers, repository managers, library staff).



# SPARKLE – Our 5 recommendations

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- The proposed infrastructure must, through the implementation of evidence-based features and functionality, become an indispensable **companion to practice research** that users want to engage with throughout the process.
- The proposed infrastructure must present practice research data in a way that is **meaningful**, rather than simply *hosting* practice research data.
- The design and development of the proposed infrastructure must **embody the principles** and **approaches** of practice research.
- The features and functionality of the proposed infrastructure must **facilitate and engender** best practice approaches but without being **overly prescriptive**.
- The success of the proposed infrastructure is completely dependent upon appropriate provision for **advocacy, training and support**.

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# PR VOICES FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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# PR VOICES FINDINGS

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Ongoing community engagement is key to success



Platform needs to be interactive (capture alongside the project not retrospectively), embedded in community, respect form and function, enable discoverability, citation and preservation, recognize contributors, process AND product



Open standards must underpin this work



Challenges include sustainability, expertise, preservation

# PR VOICES RECOMMENDATIONS

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CO-DESIGN WITH  
COMMUNITY



EMBED PRACTICE  
RESEARCH IN OPEN  
STANDARDS



MORE THAN  
RETROSPECTIVE  
ARCHIVE



NEED FOR TRAINING  
PROGRAMME



INVESTMENT IN  
CAPACITY, PEOPLE AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE



# BENEFITS & CHALLENGES

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Benefits

# THE PR VOICES FRAMEWORK: IS PORTFOLIO THE SAME AS COLLECTION?

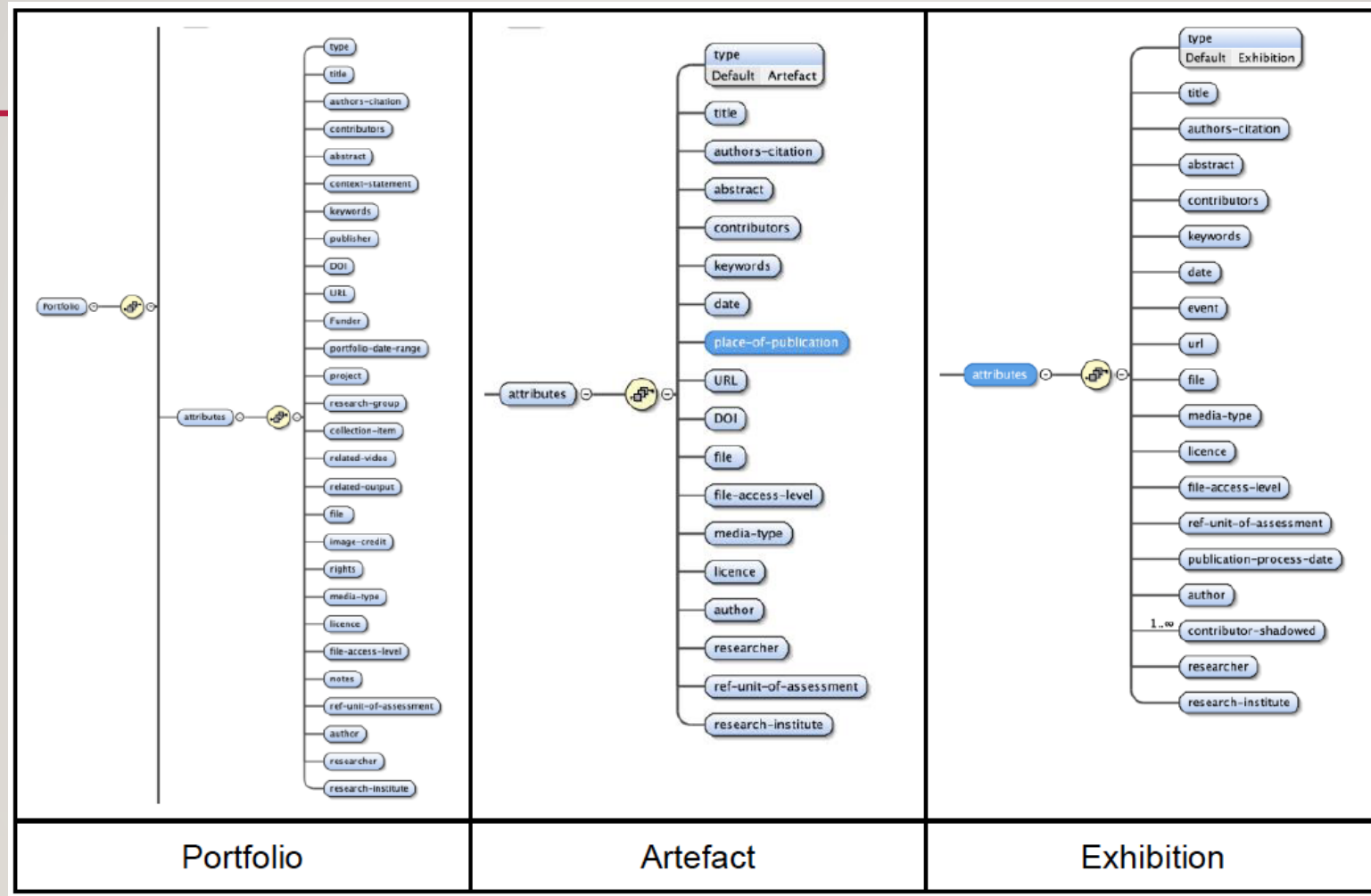
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We investigated the suggestion recommended by the PRAG-UK 2 Report: *How can practice research be shared of a project item type - also known as a collection or portfolio* (p15).

We have identified the need to (1) capture individual objects on an ongoing basis (2) bring those together (collection) and that (3) a portfolio (theme) builds on the idea of a collection, and overlays narrative and context.



# HAPLO (BY CAYUSE) SCHEMA: PORTFOLIO, ARTEFACT, EXHIBITION



# METADATA AND PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS PRIORITIES

## Work with existing open standards (rather than creating new ones)

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### Resource types: DataCite

resourceTypeGeneral has 28 permitted values plus Other.

Exhibition maps to Event?

Does Portfolio/Collection map to Collection?

How does the portfolio record evolve over time? Is RAiD more appropriate?

Creator vs Contributor - where does collaborator map? Work with CRediT on this?



### Project item type: Research Activity Identifier (RAiD)

RAiD allows the collection of other persistent identifiers and output objects by acting as an “envelope” identifier.

Each object connected to the RAiD also has a date-stamp for the beginning and end of the connection.

This allows the RAiD to encapsulate narrative, chronological view of activity.



### Contributors: Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT)

Founded in scientific research  
Embedding the practice research voice in CRediT discussions.  
Potential to work with CRediT community on contributor roles that reflect practice research.



**Metadata, Persistent Identifiers and a Taxonomy workshop: researcher/practitioner perspective plus presentations from all three communities**

<https://blog.westminster.ac.uk/prvoices/workshop-metadata-persistent-identifiers-pids-and-a-taxonomy/>



# THE POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE / VISTA / PANORAMA

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Creating an equitable  
opportunity where we  
are all part of the same  
landscape



Image by Image by [ferienwohnungen\\_de](#) from [Pixabay](#)

# QUESTIONS

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# THANK YOU

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