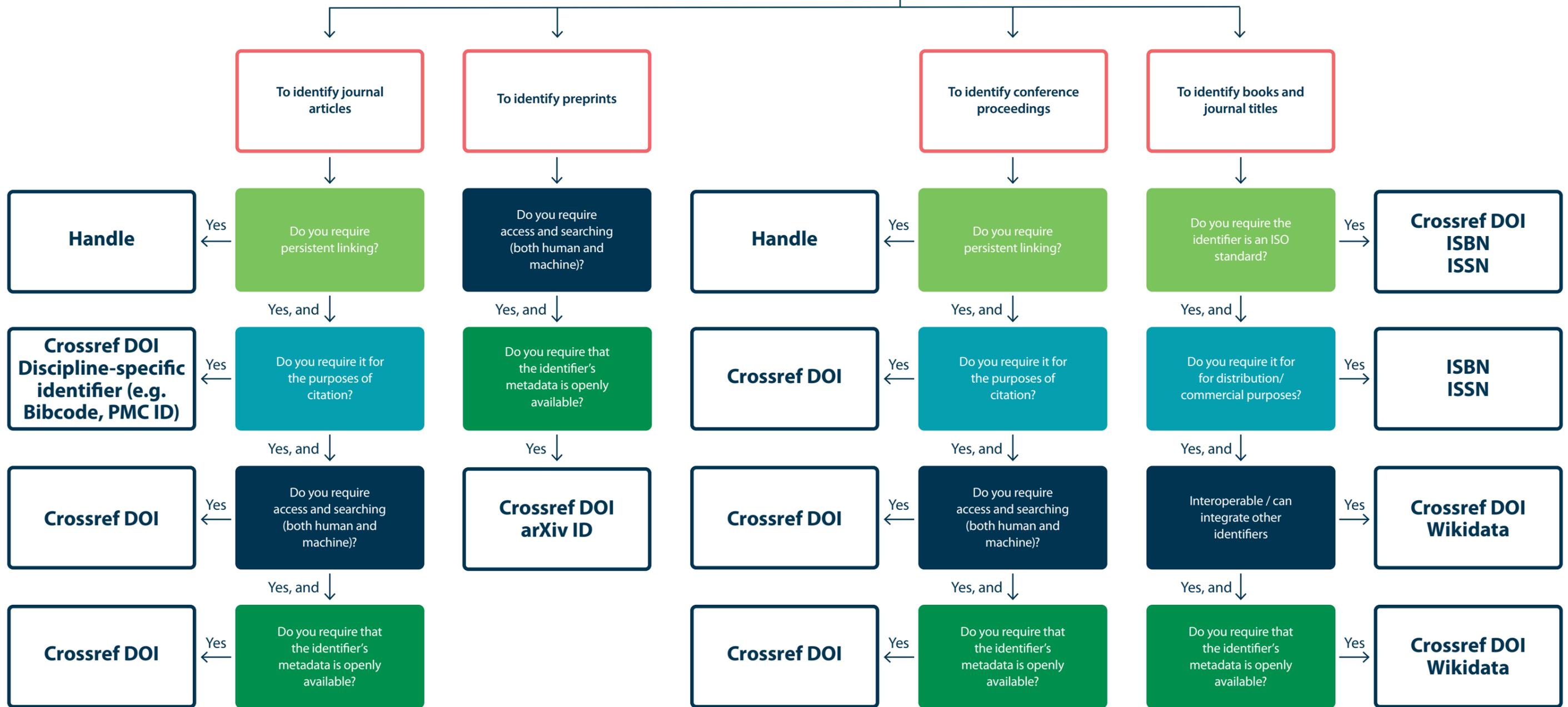


# Publication Identifiers

A decision tree to distinguish between the different types of publication identifier to use for different types of published content such as journal articles, books, conference proceedings. The tree covers various considerations which were identified by FREYA partners as affecting their choice of identifier. Some identifiers are suitable for more than one purpose and some identifiers can be implemented in a very similar way and have similar coverage therefore some of these options appear more than once.



## Why do you want a publication identifier?



# Publication Identifiers

A decision tree to distinguish between the different types of publication identifier to use for different types of published content such as journal articles, books, conference proceedings. The tree covers various considerations which were identified by FREYA partners as affecting their choice of identifier. Some identifiers are suitable for more than one purpose and some identifiers can be implemented in a very similar way and have similar coverage therefore some of these options appear more than once.



## Crossref DOI

Crossref is a not-for-profit membership organization that works with over 12,000 organizations. Crossref's content registration service allows members to assign Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and register metadata for scholarly content like journal articles, books, conference proceedings and preprints. Content registration at Crossref supports other member services such as reference linking (using the DOI) and Similarity Check (to help member organizations screen for plagiarism). A DOI is a persistent identifier, used to identify objects uniquely. It is an ISO standard.

*Format: <https://doi.org/10.8080/123456>*

## Wikidata item

Wikidata is a central storage repository that can be accessed by others, such as the wikis maintained by the Wikimedia foundation.

The Wikidata repository consists mainly of items, each one having a label, a description and any number of aliases. Items are uniquely identified by a Q followed by a number.

*Format: [Q821542](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q821542)*

## ISBN

The International Standard Book Number is a numeric commercial book identifier which is intended to be unique. Publishers purchase ISBNs from an affiliate of the International ISBN Agency. An ISBN is assigned to each separate edition and variation of a publication.

*Format: [978-3-16-148410-0](https://www.isbn.org/978-3-16-148410-0)*

## Discipline-specific identifier

Some academic disciplines have their own discipline-specific identifiers. For example:

- bibcode/refcode in astronomy which is used by some astronomical data systems to specify literature references.

*Format: [1924MNRAS...84..308E](https://ui.adsabs.org/abs/1924MNRAS...84..308E)*

- PMID is the unique identifier number used in PubMed. They are automatically assigned to each article record when it enters the PubMed system.

*Format: [32335169](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32335169/)*

## Handle

The Handle System was designed as a resolution system for digital objects. It provides a way to use DNS and URLs for identifiers, which simultaneously provides an identifier that can be resolved without using DNS and URLs. The DOI system uses the Handle System, but adds additional functionality on top of Handles for the communities it works with e.g. content-specific metadata and services.

*Format: [20.1000/100](https://www.handle.net/)*

## ISSN

ISSN stands for International Standard Serial Number. An ISSN's role is to identify a publication and is linked to the title of a publication. It can be used for print or online materials such as newspapers, magazines, journals, websites, annual publications, databases, collections, blogs etc. In many countries, an ISSN is mandatory for all publications subject to the legal deposit. The ISSN takes the form of the acronym ISSN, followed by two groups of four digits, separated by a hyphen e.g. ISSN 0986-6751.

*Format: [0986-6751](https://www.issn.org/)*

## arXiv identifier

arXiv is an open access repository of electronic preprints (known as e-prints), predominantly in the fields of mathematics and physics. Each e-print posted on arXiv receives an arXiv ID.

*Format (from 2015): [YYMM/NNNNN \(English\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2015.01234)*

## For more information on Publication Identifiers

- FREYA Knowledge Hub page on Identifiers for Publications and Data  
<https://www.pidforum.org/t/pids-forpublications-and-data/297>
- D3.1 Survey of Current PID Services Landscape  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3554254>

Copyright of Members of the FREYA Consortium. Created by members of the FREYA Consortium. This work is made available under a Creative Commons CC BY License <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>  
The FREYA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 777523.