



**A DOI IS NOT ENOUGH:
IMPROVING THE DISCOVERABILITY AND
RE-USABILITY OF PRACTICE-BASED ARTS
RESEARCH AND DATA**

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT OFFICER
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

WHAT IS 'PRACTICE RESEARCH'?

“all manner of research where practice is the significant method of research conveyed in a research output”

(Bulley & Sahin 2021: 1)

- Multi-component outputs of non-text file formats...
- ... that must be aggregated in relation to each other;
- non-tangible research outputs (time-based and ephemeral);
- durational, processual;
- complex contributor relationships;
- accompanied by a research narrative (not necessarily text-based).

PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES: SCOPING THE OPEN LIBRARY OF PRACTICE RESEARCH



Arts & Humanities Research Council
Grant number: [AH/W007622/1](#)

Call: Scoping Future Data Services (National Infrastructure for Digital Innovation and Curation for Arts and Humanities (iDAH) programme)



Repositories



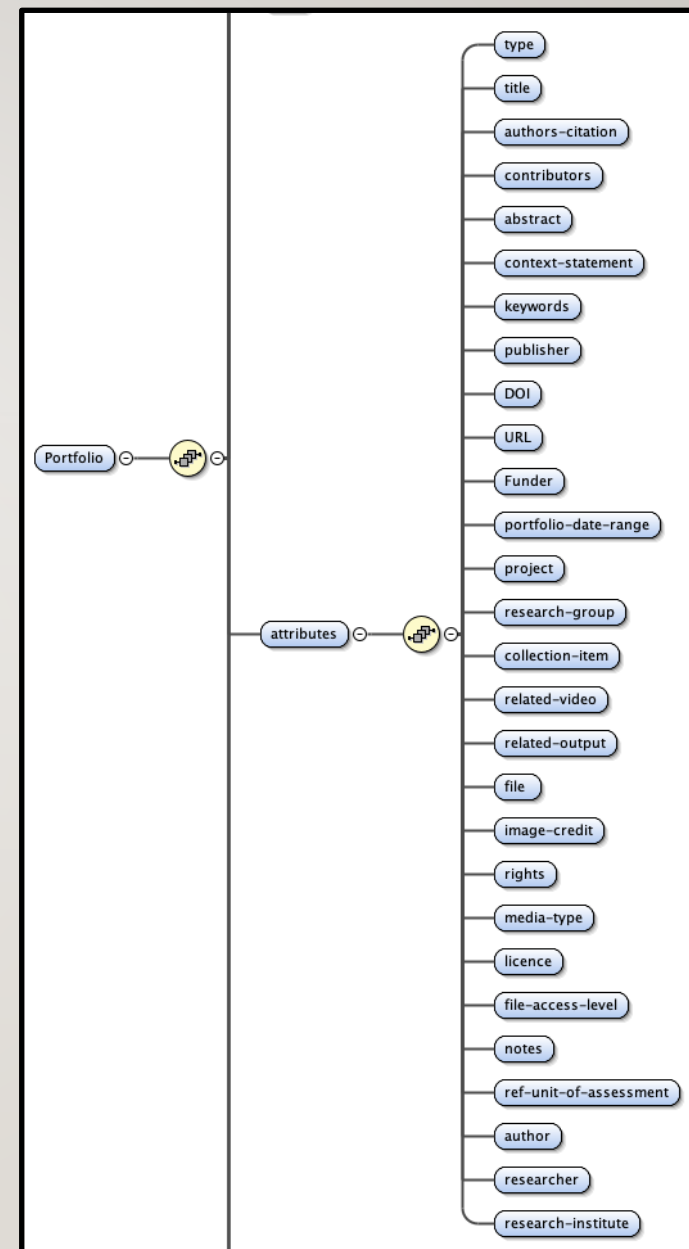
Metadata and Persistent Identifiers



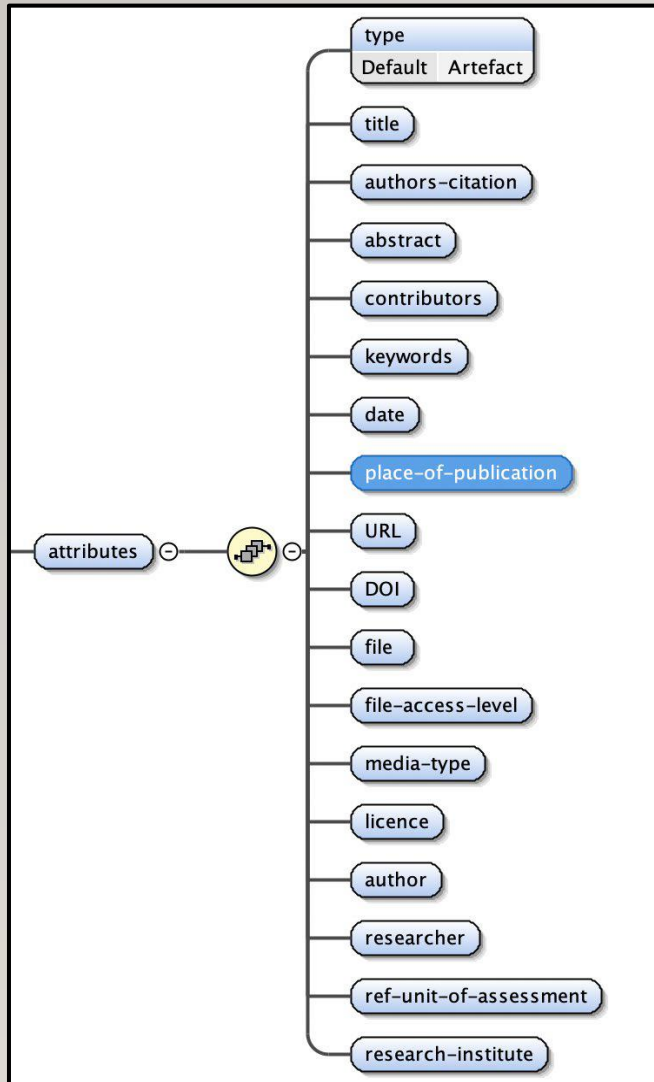
Creating a Practice Research Community of Practice

REPOSITORY PORTFOLIO SCHEMA

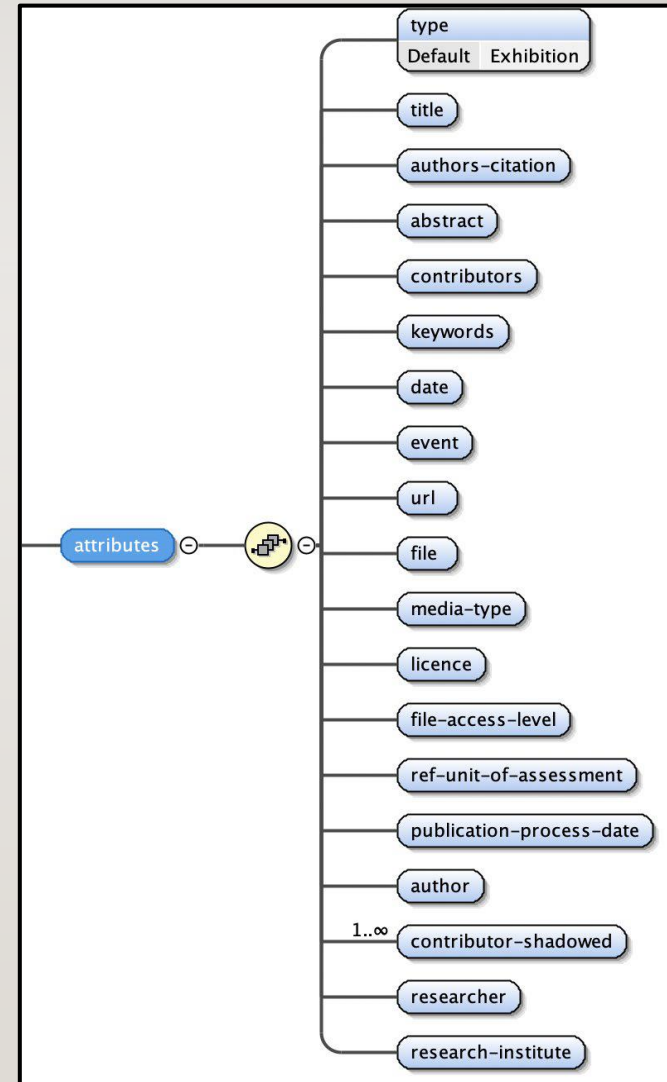
- 1) captures individual objects in the repository on an ongoing basis;
- 2) brings these objects together in a collection;
- 3) overlays narrative and context.



ARTEFACT OBJECT



EXHIBITION OBJECT



PORTFOLIO IN THE PUBLIC REPOSITORY

<https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz>

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER HOME PEOPLE RESEARCH AREAS LATEST ADDITIONS SEARCH

Black Music Research Unit

Mykaell Riley Bass Culture

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz>


Key facts Project framework: context, research questions, summary of research insights **Project narrative** Research insights

Further dissemination and recognition Supplementary material Metadata record

Project narrative

The project was a response to the lack of recognition of the Jamaican contribution to the story of British popular music since the 1960s within the UK cultural establishment and academia – and the issues of identity, heritage and sense of belonging that have resulted within BME communities.

The approach I adopted, working closely with other members of the AHRC team, including Professor Les Back, Jacqueline Springer, Dr Caspar Melville, Janet Browne and Dr Chris Christodoulou, ensured that our key strategy to share knowledge and integrate the community with the academic research was realised through a series of key public events, meetings and seminars. Each member of the team developed their own inquiries, while I managed and coordinated the group, balancing our use of academic methodologies with the need to ensure public and community engagement.



PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS

RAiD

- ✓ records PIDs of related research activities for a particular project in a metadata envelope
- ✓ facilitates narrative, chronological view of activity



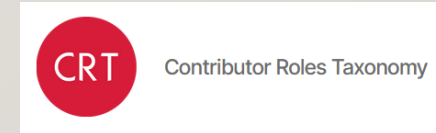
DataCite DOIs

- ✗ 'resourceTypeGeneral'
- ? relation type
- ? creator type
- ? contributor type
- ✓ active community



CRedit

- ✓ recognises range of contributions
- ✗ STEM-focused taxonomy



BARRIERS TO REUSE



Culture



Infrastructure/
technology



Expertise/ skills



Complexity/
time



Intellectual
Property



Metadata

HANDBOOK FOR PRACTICE RESEARCH PHDS

- ✓ Relevant terminology and vocabulary
- ✓ Understand/ explain why data are collected
- ✓ Encourage good data documentation practices
- ✓ Relevant example file naming schema ('organising and labelling your digital material')
 - ✓ 20231023_ Untitled (1)_ Final show_ Ambika P3_ oil on canvas_ Kevin Cummings copyright
 - ✓ 20220203_ MS 69060_ CC-BY-NC-ND_ British Library
- ✓ Instructions on capturing metadata ('captions list')

Available at: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/academic-programme>

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD METADATA

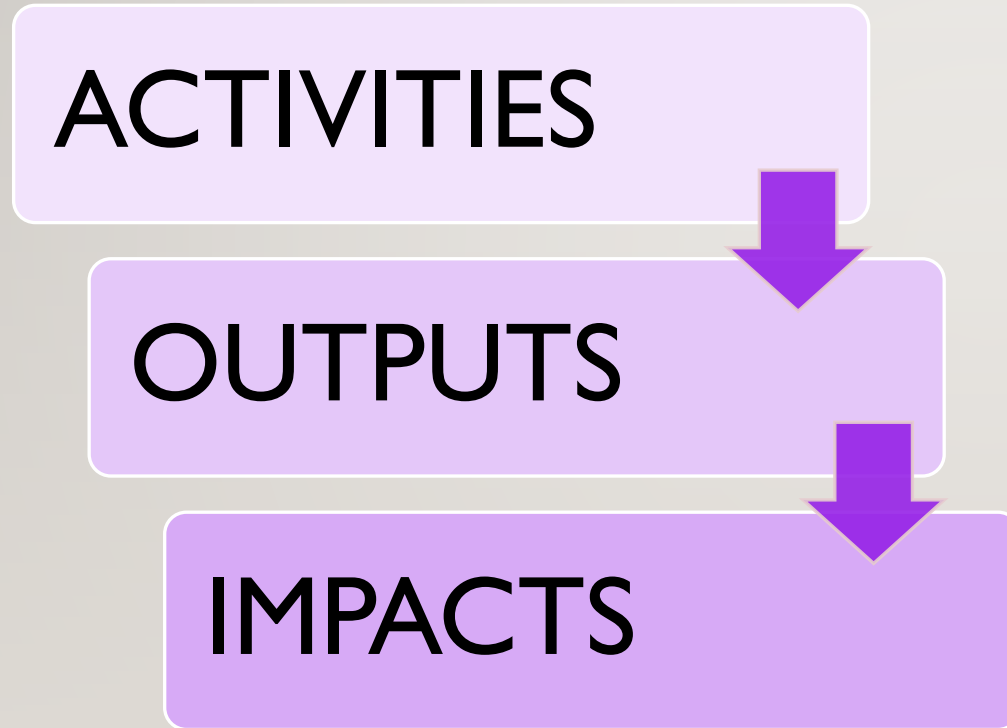


Alt text: Close-up image of a red plastic material.



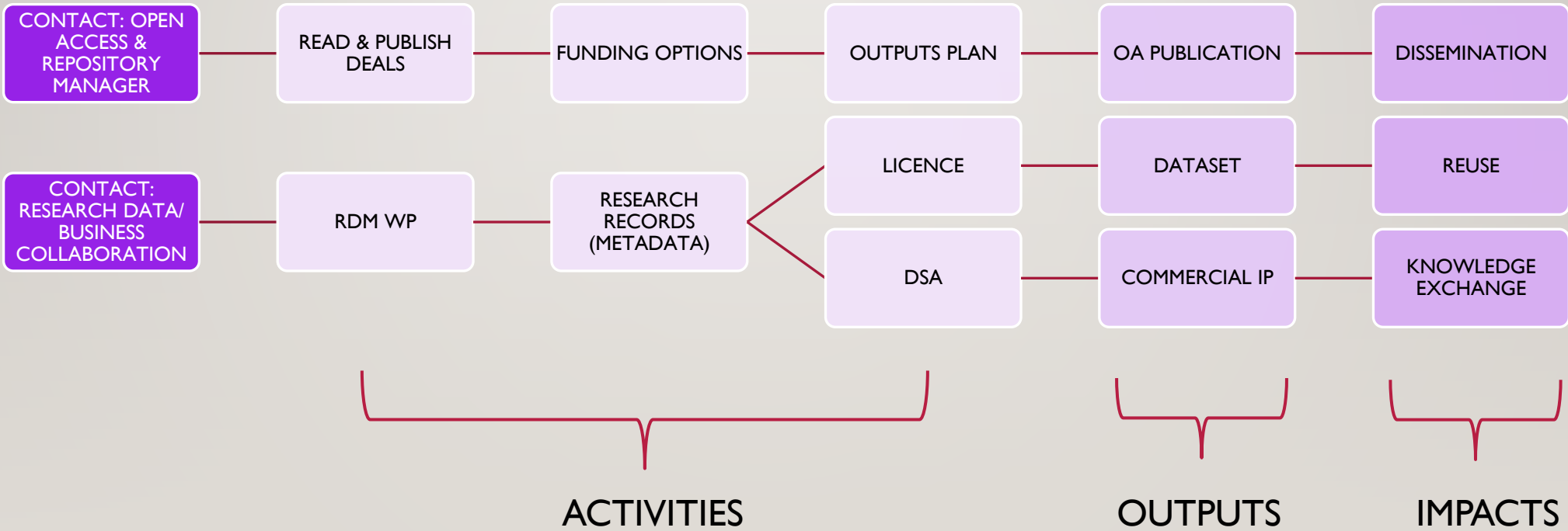
Caption: Halfway through the process, I experimented with potential materials for the final exhibition piece. This image represents the moment that I realised that light scatter from the surface of the material was going to be important.

THEORY OF CHANGE FOR RESEARCH DESIGN



- ✓ Methodology for planning desired outcomes
- ✓ Useful for culture change
- ✓ Starts with motivations: impacts
- ✓ Explains WHY as well as HOW
- ✓ Starts from the researcher's point of view, rather than the trainer's

THEORY OF CHANGE FOR RESEARCH DESIGN



PR VOICES

Scoping the Open Library of Practice Research

an AHRC funded project

(Scoping future data services for the arts and humanities)



CONTACT US

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REFERENCES

- Bulley, James and Şahin, Özden (2021). *Practice Research – Report 1: What is practice research?* London: Practice Research Advisory Group UK. <https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>
- Ranger, Holly (2022, June 16). ‘Working with a research community to identify barriers to reuse in practice research’. *International Digital Curation Conference 2022 (IDCC22)*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6652239>
- Evans, Jenny et al. (2023) *Practice Research Voices (PRVOICES): Final Report and Recommendations*. University of Westminster, London. <https://doi.org/10.34737/w3803>
- Evans, Jenny et al. (2023) ‘Telling a Story with Metadata, or, Always Drink Upstream from the Herd: What If Your Metadata Isn’t Properly Represented in the Stream?’, *Information Services & Use*, vol. 43, no. 3-4, pp. 257-267. <https://doi.org/10.3233/ISU-230208>