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

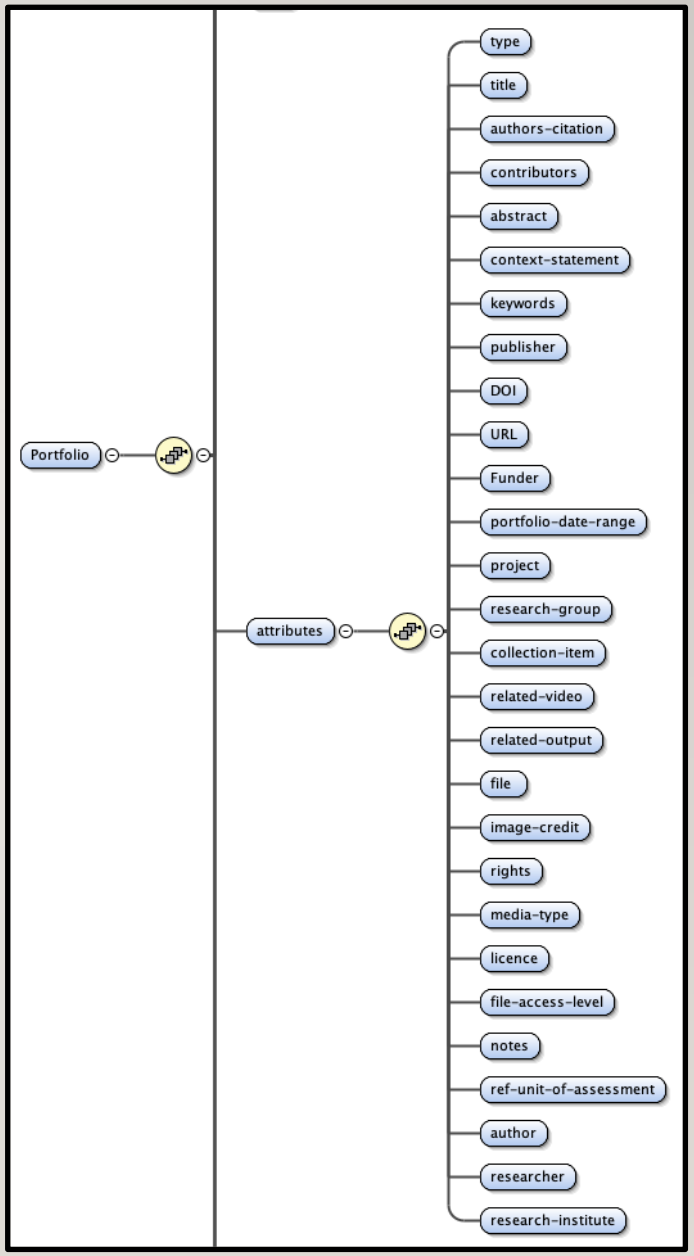
Arts & Humanities Research Council
Grant number: AH/W007622/1

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

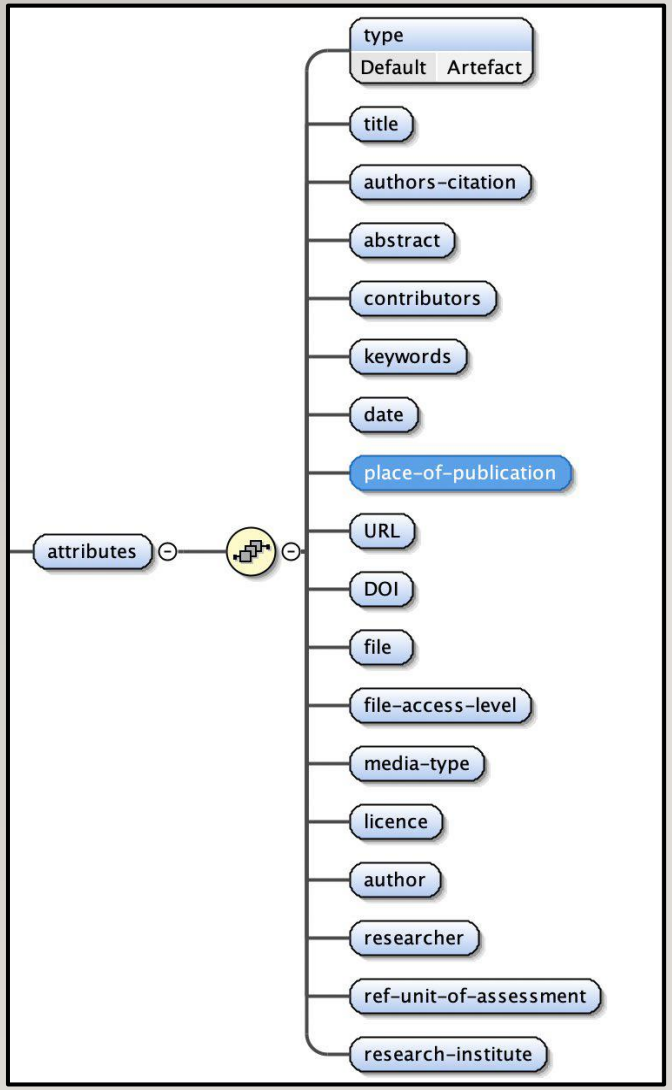
- Repositories
- Metadata and Persistent Identifiers
- Creating a Practice Research Community of Practice

REPOSITORY PORTFOLIO SCHEMA

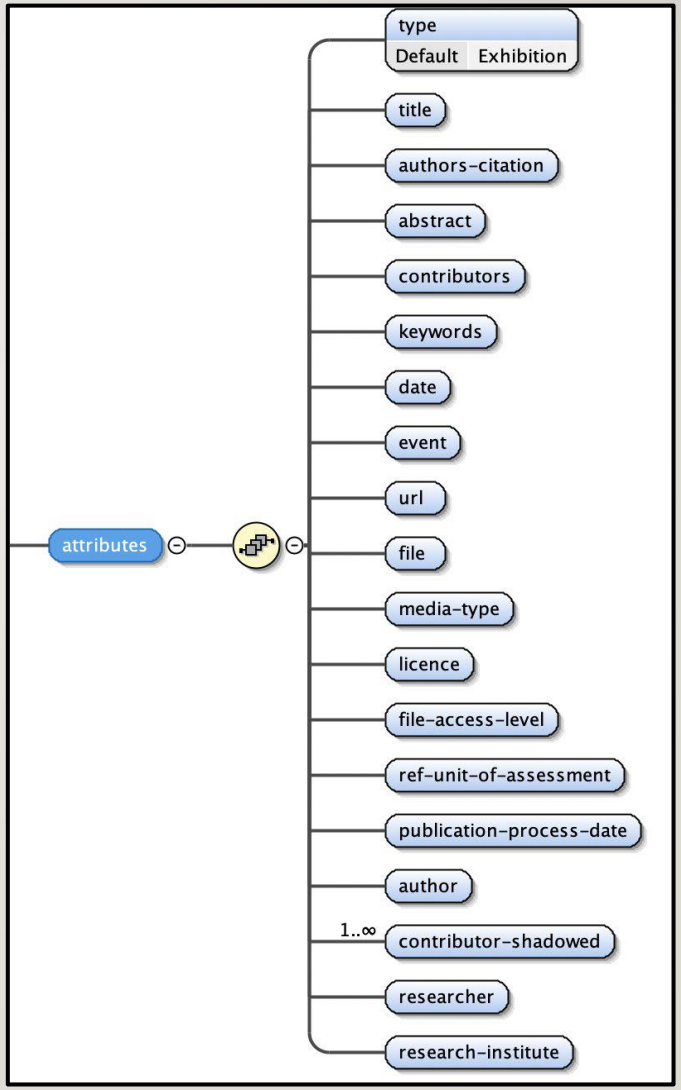
1) captures individual objects in the repository on an ongoing basis;
2) brings these objects together in a collection;
3) overlays narrative and context.



ARTEFACT OBJECT

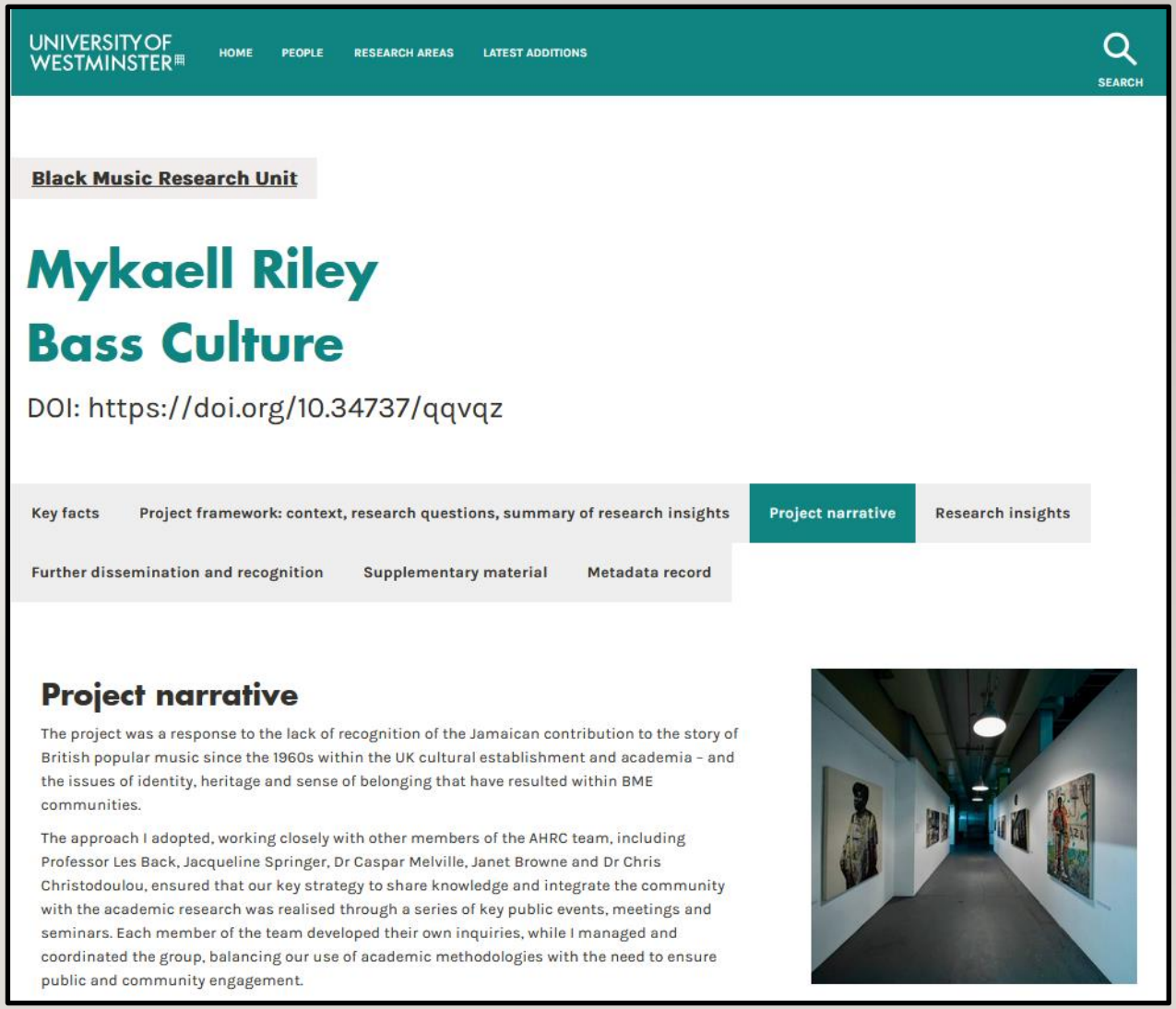


EXHIBITION OBJECT



PORTFOLIO IN THE PUBLIC REPOSITORY

https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz



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

- x ‘resourceTypeGeneral’
- ? relation type
- ? creator type
- ? contributor type
- ✓ active community

CRediT

- ✓ recognises range of contributions
- x STEMM-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

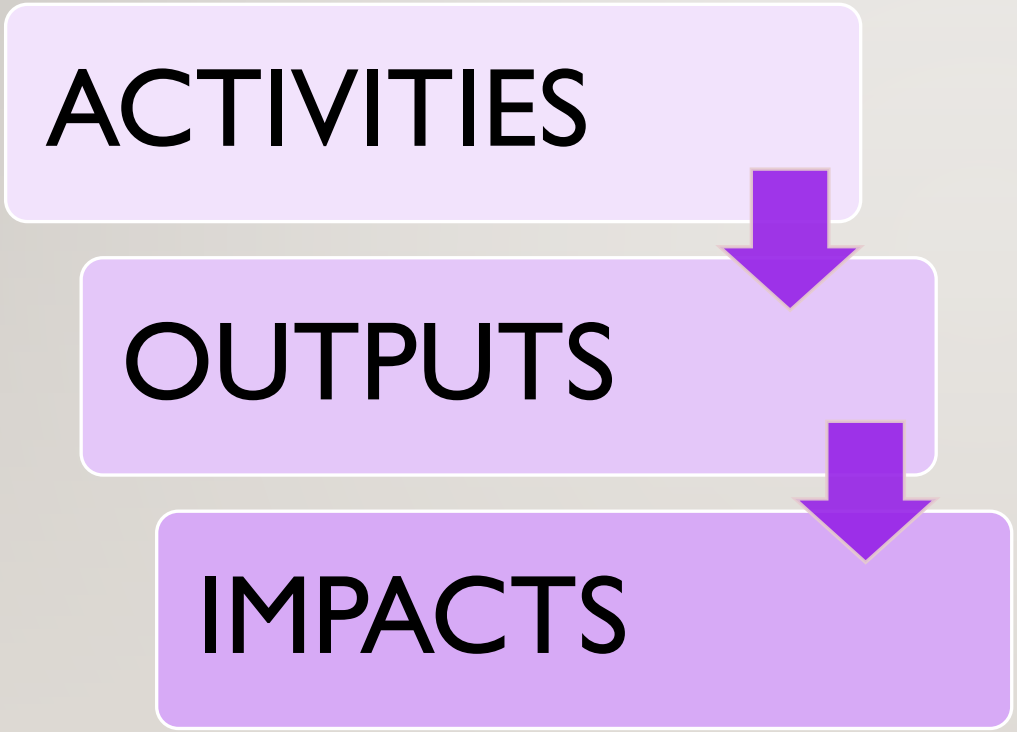
THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD METADATA

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.

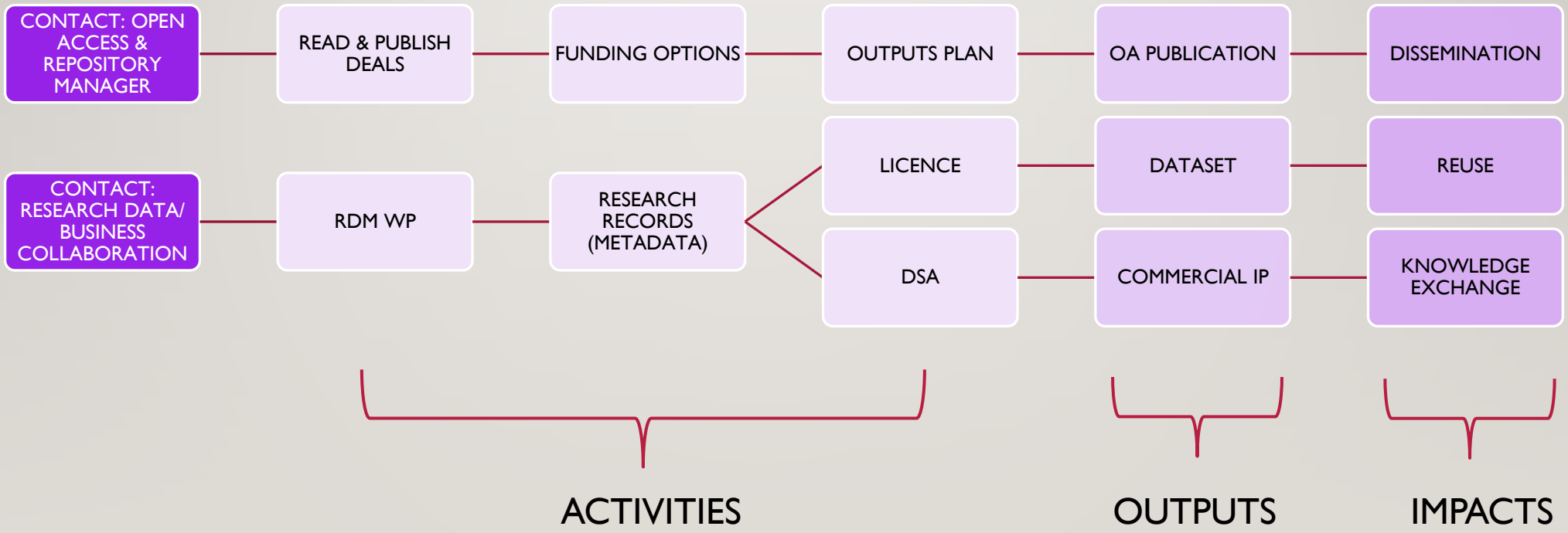
Plastic Red Texture by shaire productions is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

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



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REFERENCES

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