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Do researchers need to care about PID systems?

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Our lineup

1. Opening: Survey & Lessons Learned (view of a PID agency)

2. Main act: Researchers & PIDs

3. Fireworks: What is your opinion?

TIB Survey

1400 scientists in the natural sciences & engineering (across Germany)

- → 73% of the researchers are using DOIs for journal articles
- → 11% use DOIs for research data

Have a look: data available at https://doi.org/10.22000/54

Why only journal articles?

- 56% answered that they don't know about the option to use DOIs for other publications (datasets, conference papers etc.)
- 57% stated no need for DOI counselling services
- 40% need more information
- 30% cannot see a benefit from a DOI

With the new digital age: new possibilities & struggles!

Have a look: https://www.re3data.org/search

Out of more than 2000 repository systems listed in re3data.org, only 767 (less than 38%!) state to provide a PID service, with 493 of them using the DOI system (as of 23rd Jan 2019)

Lessons learned from 14 yrs DOI registration services

Communities: Variety of scientific & technical research objects

- → Unique characteristics & life cycle
- → Varying capability of accepting & managing new media formats
- **→**Essential: Trust

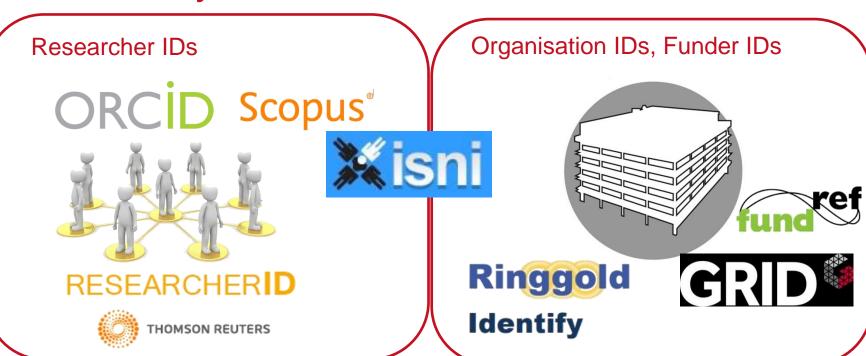
Roles of infrastructure providers:

- Provide assurance & support for institutions on PID issues
- Upgrade! & facilitate workflows for indexing, cataloguing, digital preservation, PIDs, licensing
- Check provenance & provide data curation services
- Link PIDs to other research information such as project sites & CRIS
- Engage in communities, provide training & open educational resources



→Now: what do researchers need to know about PIDs?

PIDs are everywere:









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ARK (Archival Resource Key)

PICHE – Persistent Identifiers for Cultural Heritage Entities

And even more new PIDs...

- Projects IDs
- Instrument IDs
- Ship cruise IDs
- Physical sample IDs,
- DMP IDs...

Answer: Do researchers need to care about PIDs? → YES!

But what do they need to KNOW about PIDs?

- → Remember: For a scientist, it is about the project, equipment, DMP, researcher, funder, resource ...
- → It is not about the PID. PIDs are infrastructure.
- → In order to use PIDs, scientists do not need to know all about their whereabouts. A basic knowledge should be enough.

A PID is

- Provenance
- Metadata
- Policies & Guarantees
- Machine readability
- Metrics



Researchers should know that...

Provenance means validation & credibility – a researcher should comply to good scientific practices and be sure about what should get a PID (and what not).

Metadata is central to visibility and citability – metadata behind a PID should be provided with consideration.

Policies behind a PID system ensure persistence in the WWW - point. At least metadata will be available for a long time.

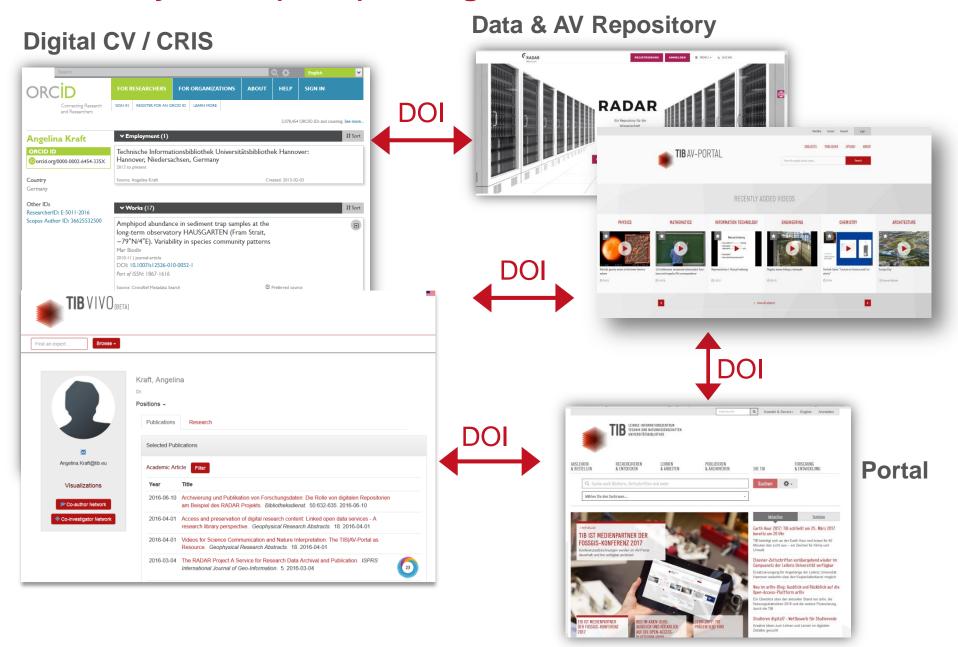
Machine readability will be an essential part of future discoverability – resources should be checked and formats should be adjusted (as far possible).

Metrics (e.g. altmetrics) are supported by PID systems.

PID 101 for Researchers (or: Resolving some PID myths)

- 1. A PID is a "long lasting reference to a digital resource"*
 - 2. There are different sorts of PIDs & different uses, (e.g. for articles, data, persons, organizations, ...)
- 3. PIDs are offered by organizations Ask your institute/library
 - 4. You do NOT have to pay for PIDs (by yourself)!
- 5. PIDs are mostly used for (persistent) citation All published resources should have one
- 6. A correct citation always includes a PID \rightarrow look in your citation manager
 - 7. Metadata behind a PID are most important please take care when providing them
 - 8. PIDs are not perfect (they are issued by organizations, aka humans!)
- 9. PIDs are really useful & fun they make yourself & your work more visible!

Summary: PIDs (DOIs) = the glue!



And what researchers do NOT need to know... (although some may want to know)

- Total number of PIDs registered
- Names of the agencies
- How persistence works
- How PID providers struggle
- How (and why) PID providers fight each other
- How perfect a PID (system) is (it is certainly not)
- → Researchers care about their research (= their passion)
- → As long as researchers are not information scientists themselves, PID providers should focus on communicating the practical points
- → Citeability & visibility; the benefit for the researcher should be crystal clear

More suggestions (what researchers may need to know) ...

- Schema: PID metadata schemes
- Versioning: may or may not be a part of the PID
- Referencing: a PID may apply to the whole resource, or individual files, or collections, or ...
- For the publication of research data: Repositories that offer PID services (re3data.org)

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What is YOUR opinion?

Festival rules

- 1. Catch the PID ball
- 2. Introduce
- 3. Fire away!



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Thank you!

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