eosc | FAIR-IMPACT
Expanding FAIR solutions across EOSC

# Developing Guidelines for Metadata Collection and Curation for Research Software

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eosc | FAIRCORE4EOSC

Funded by
the European Union

# Housekeeping

👇

https://rb.gy/u5e04

Or
https://tinyurl.com/2023-05-23-RSMD-webinar

- Please be aware that the session is being recorded and will be made publicly available
- You can add yourself to the list of participants

**Version 1.0**
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**Contributions during the RDA-P20 Research Software workshop**

# Agenda

- Research Software in the FAIR-IMPACT project
- Preparing the guidelines - a large community effort
- The Research Software MetaData (RSMD) guidelines proposal
- How to contribute after this webinar?

**Goal: Review and discuss the proposed RSMD guidelines**

# FAIR-IMPACT in a nutshell

**Coordination & Support Action**

Budget: 10 million EUR
Time plan: 36 months
Starting date: June 2022
6 Core Partners

*Strategic cooperation with the EOSC Partnership, ESFRI Clusters, the FAIRCORE4EOSC project*

*…and many others*

## Consortium Partners

Universität Bremen

Trust-IT Services
Communicating ICT to markets

cnrs

cessda

DCC

Software Sustainability Institute

Software Heritage
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

Task 4.3

Inria

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

DataCite

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

POLITÉCNICA

Ontology Engineering Group

SURF

INRAE

EMBL-EBI

Data Archiving and Networked Services
DANS

CSC

Science & Technology Facilities Council

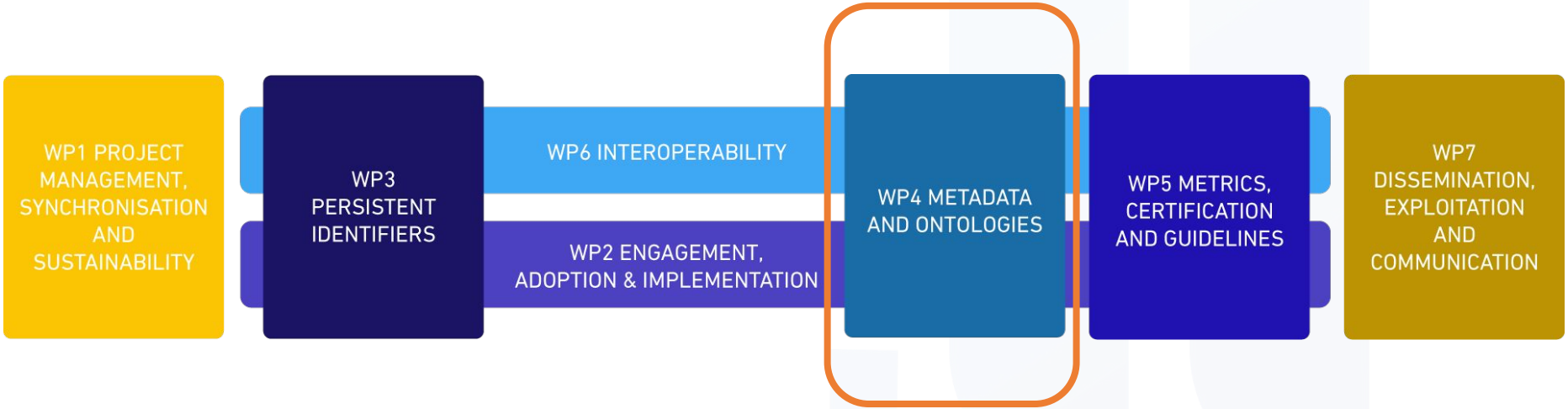
esciencedata FACTORY

LifeWatch ERIC

DeiC

# FAIR-IMPACT: Expanding FAIR solutions across EOSC

FAIR-IMPACT will identify *practices*, *policies*, *tools* and *technical specifications* to guide researchers, repository managers, research performing organisations, policy makers and citizen scientists towards a FAIR data management cycle. The focus will be on **persistent identifiers (PIDs)**, **metadata**, **ontologies**, **metrics**, **certification** and **interoperability**,



# #RSMD_guidelines timeline

June 2022
FAIR-IMPACT
Launch

March 2023
#RS_Workshop
Co-located
RDA P20

RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

Research Software
Metadata Guidelines

**May 2023**
**#RSMD_guidelines**
**Community**
**consultation**

**Due**: June 2023
D4.4 submission

**2024-2025**
Dissemination
& adoption

October 2023
SSC IG session
RDA P21

May 2023
CodeMeta
V3.0 release

Sept. 2023
CodeMeta
webinar

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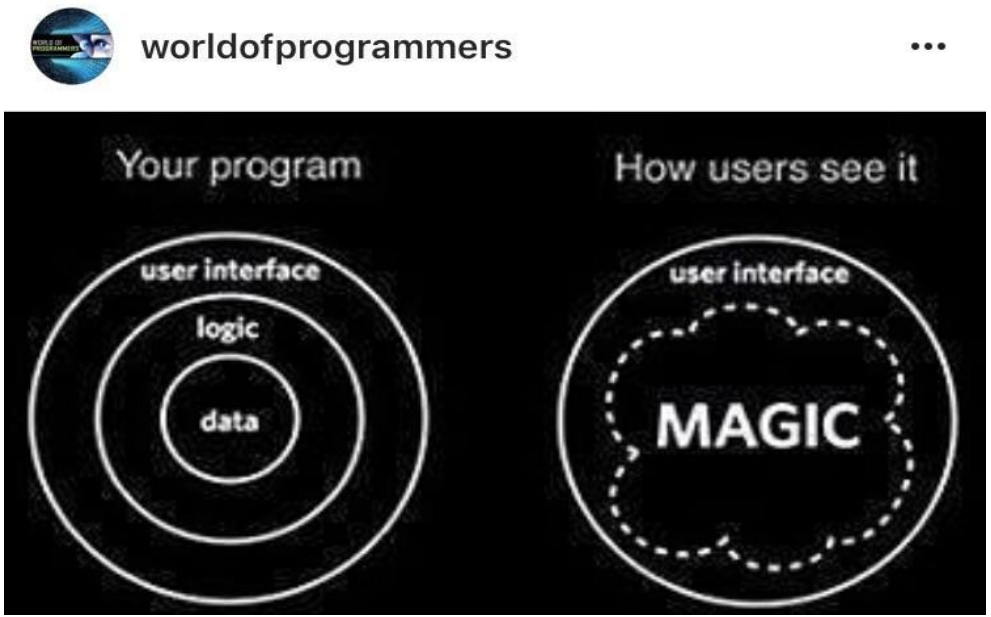
# Clarifying the magic




https://www.reddit.com/r/ProgrammerHumor/comments/70fuamp/programming_is_magic/

**Software as a concept**

- **project** or entity
- the **community** around the project
- the software **idea** / algorithms / solutions

*Not a digital artifact*

**Software artifacts**

- Executables
- Source code

*A very large collection of digital artifacts*

# Defining Research Software

***Research Software***

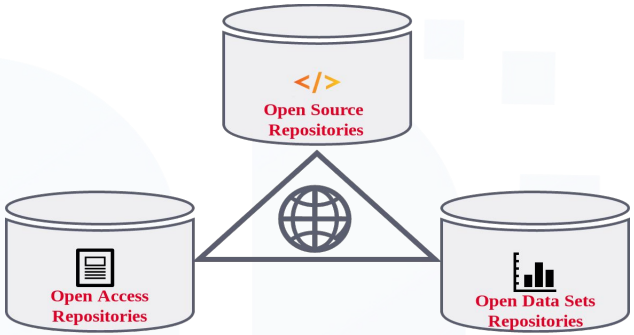
➔ created

- **during the research process**
- **for a research purpose**

***Software in research***

➔ used for research

FAIR4RS output: Gruenpeter et al. Defining Research Software: a controversial discussion (Version 1). Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5504016




*Three pillars of Open Science*
*Software Heritage CC-By 4.0 2019*

**Software has multiple facets:**

- a **tool**
- a research **outcome** or result
- **the object** of research

# Why are we here? A plurality of needs

## Researchers

- **archive and reference** software used and created in articles
- **find** useful software
- **get credit** for developed software
- **verify/reproduce/improve** results

## Laboratories/teams

- **track** software contributions
- **produce** reports
- **maintain** web page

## Research Organization

know its **software assets** for:

- technology transfer,
- impact metrics,
- Strategy

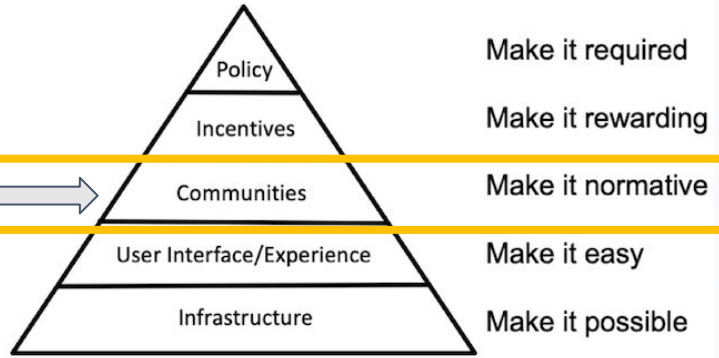
## Curators

- **verify** and **curate** software metadata
- **provide** documentation on software curation
- **monitor** research teams' production

# The RSMD guidelines:

## Make it normative

FAIR-IMPACT RSMD guidelines




Pyramid from Strategy for Culture Change: **Brian Nosek** (2019) https://www.cos.io/blog/strategy-for-culture-change

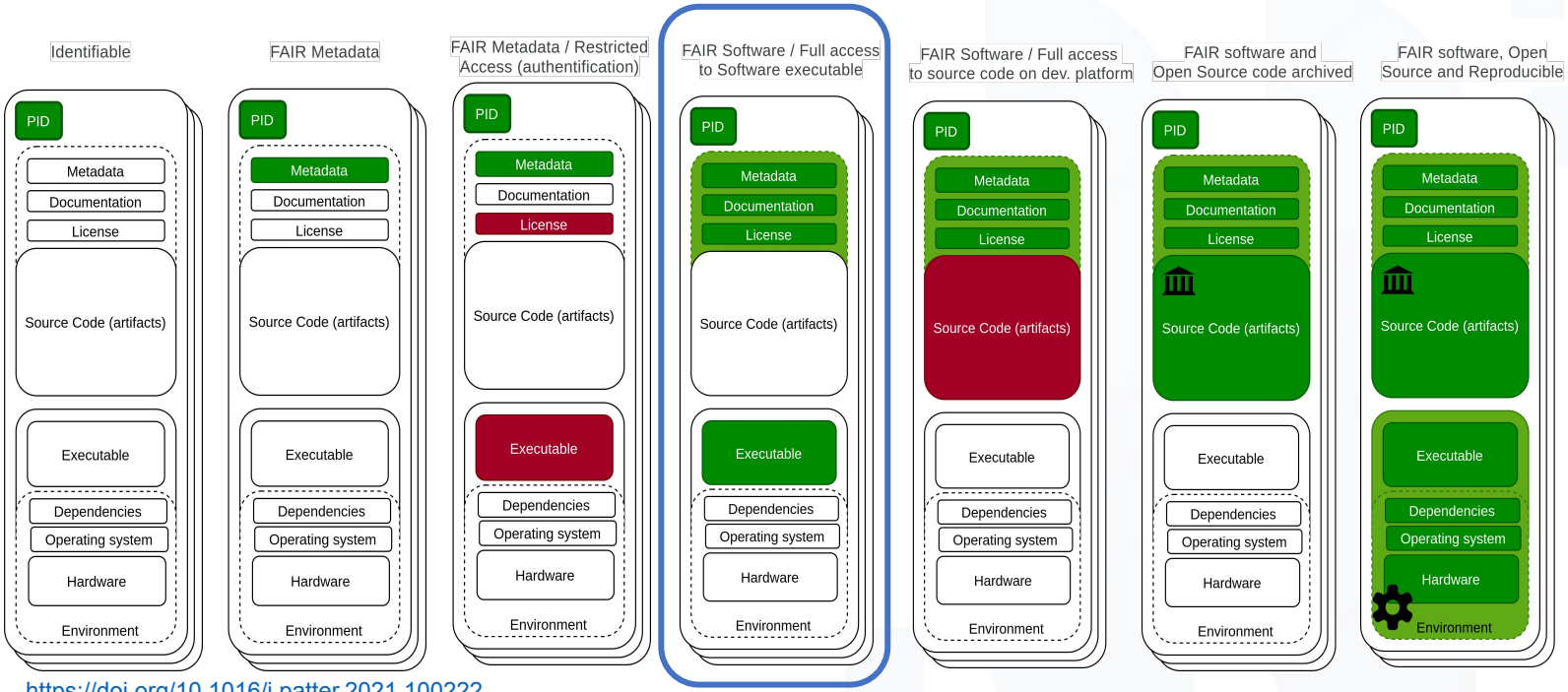
# The Research Software MetaData guidelines (RSMD)

- Introduction
  - Scope & Goals
    - Why are we Here?
    - Who is the intended audience of this document?
  - Methodology
  - Use cases overview
- State of the art
  - Existing practices & guidelines
  - Metadata analysis
  - Curation workflows
- The **RSMD Guidelines** proposal for end-users
- Limitations & challenges
- Conclusion & next Steps
- Appendices
  - RSMD Checklist (only after the recommendations are stable)
  - Use cases collection
  - Infrastructure Using Codemeta

**Link to full deliverable will be shared at the end of the webinar…**

Zotero Library for software guidelines
https://www.zotero.org/groups/5018631/fair-impact_t4.3/library

# FAIR4RS principles published in 2021



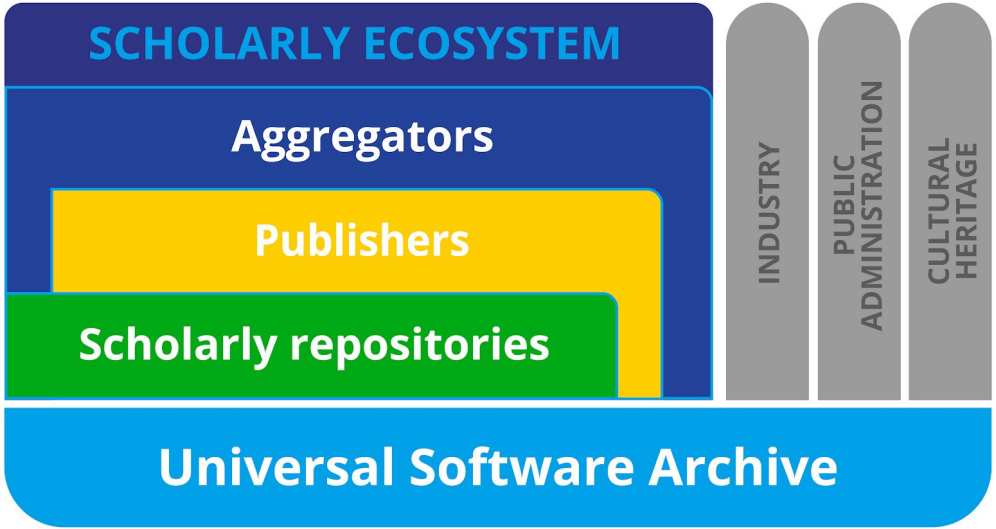

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2021.100222

# EOSC SIRS report published in 2020

## Scholarly Infrastructures for Research Software

- Four Pillars
  - **Archive, Reference, Describe, Credit**
- State of the Art
  - Best Practices & Open Problems
  - Cross Cutting Concerns
- Participants
  - Representatives from 9 infrastructures:
  - Archives
    - HAL, **Software Heritage, Zenodo**
  - Publishers
    - **Dagstuhl**, eLife, IPOL
  - Aggregators
    - **OpenAIRE**, scanR, **swMATH**

**FAIRCORE4EOSC is turning the SIRS report into a reality**
**WP6 creating the component called RSAC -** EOSC Research Software APIs and Connectors




**SIRS report:** European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Scholarly infrastructures for research software : report from the EOSC Executive Board Working Group (WG) Architecture Task Force (TF) SIRS*, Publications Office, 2020, **https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/28598**
Video: EOSC Software Infrastructures for Research Software: J. B. Gonzalez Lopez (CERN)

# The guidelines for software archival

## Software Heritage

1 Prepare your public repository
README, AUTHORS & LICENSE files

2 Save your code
http://save.softwareheritage.org/

3 Reference your work
(full repository, specific version or code fragment)

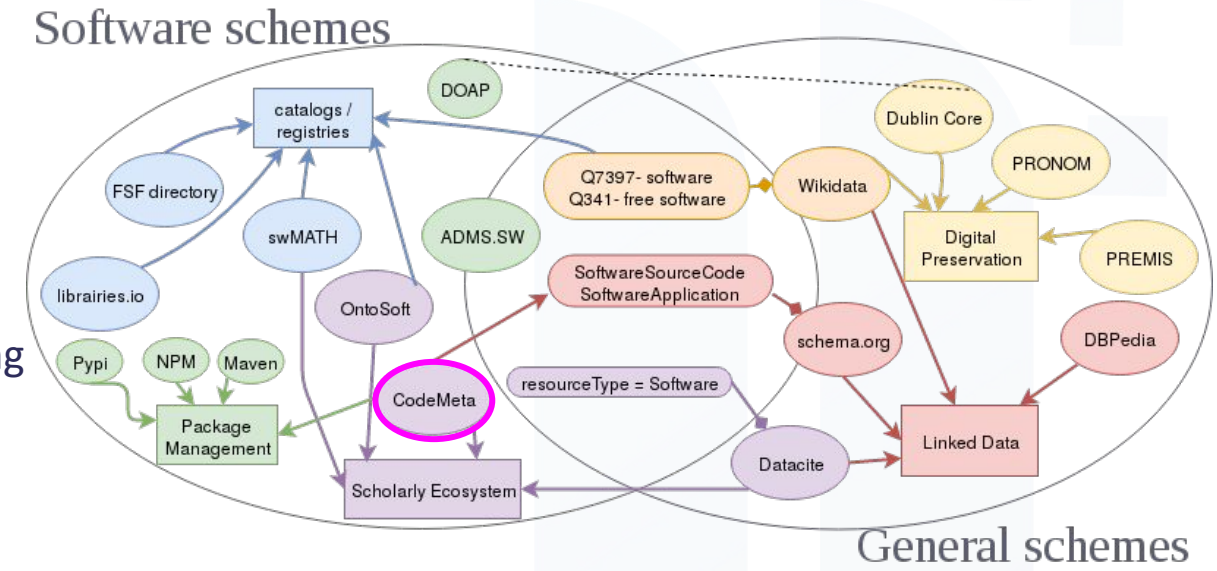
https://www.softwareheritage.org/save-and-reference-research-software/

# CodeMeta initiative - V1.0 released in 2017

- A subset of schema.org
- An academic community discussing software metadata
- A crosswalk table - mapping the metadata landscape

V2.0 released in 2020,

**V3.0 is expected soon!!**




Gruenpeter M. and Thornton K. (2018) Pathways for Discovery of Free Software (slide deck from LibrePlanet 2018). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pathways-discovery-free.pdf

# The Research Software MetaData guidelines

**The RSMD seven Aspects**

| | SIRS report | FAIR4RS |
|---|---|---|
| 1. General Metadata Requirements | | |
| 2. Accessibility & preservation | A = Archive | A = Accessible |
| 3. Reference & identification | R = Reference | F = Findable |
| 4. Description & classification | D = Describe | I = Interoperable |
| 5. Attribution & credit | C = Cite | |
| 6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects | | R = Reusable |
| 7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment | | |

# Each aspect has a high-level objective with a series of recommendations

High-level objective

Actionable, detailed recommendations

Description & classification

| Objective | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective**:<br>Software is properly described with name, purpose and functionalities alongside other software specific metadata properties (programming language, domain, etc.) to ensure software findability. | | |
| **ID** | **Recommendation** | **Priority** |
| RSMD-4.1 | Add **software name** and **description** of the software's functionality and purpose, using a README file in the root directory of the source code or other intrinsic metadata file (e.g codemeta.json with the properties *name* and *description*). | Essential ☆☆☆ |
| RSMD-4.2 | Add **descriptive metadata** for classification purposes on metadata record (extrinsic metadata), which can be available in a scholarly infrastructure. This includes, but is not limited to:<br>• Name<br>• Description<br>• Domain<br>• Programming language<br>• Date created | Essential ☆☆☆ |

# Validating the guidelines

We'll answer these questions by writing in parallel in the document. **Please comment on others' answers by using the Google Doc commenting function.**

For each aspect we will review its objective and each recommendation by answering the following questions in the table:

- Is this recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?
  - 👍 / 👎 or +1 / -1

**1. General Metadata Requirements**

**2. Accessibility & preservation**

**3. Reference & identification**

**4. Description & classification**

**5. Attribution & credit**

**6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects**

**7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment**

## Objective:

To ensure the collection, curation, and maintenance of research software metadata, the following general requirements are recommended for end users, including researchers, software engineers, curators, and institution staff.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
3. Reference & identification
4. Description & classification
5. Attribution & credit
6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects
7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

# Where is the metadata available ? Extrinsic

**Catalogs and registries**

- ASCL
- swMath
- OpenAire
- libraries.io
- Research Software Directory - escience center
- …

**Scholarly repositories**

- Zenodo (InvenioRDM)
- HAL
- …

**Software development platforms (on platform page)**

- GitHub
- Bitbucket
- SourceForge
- …

**Package manager platform (not intrinsic file)**

- NPM
- PyPI
- …

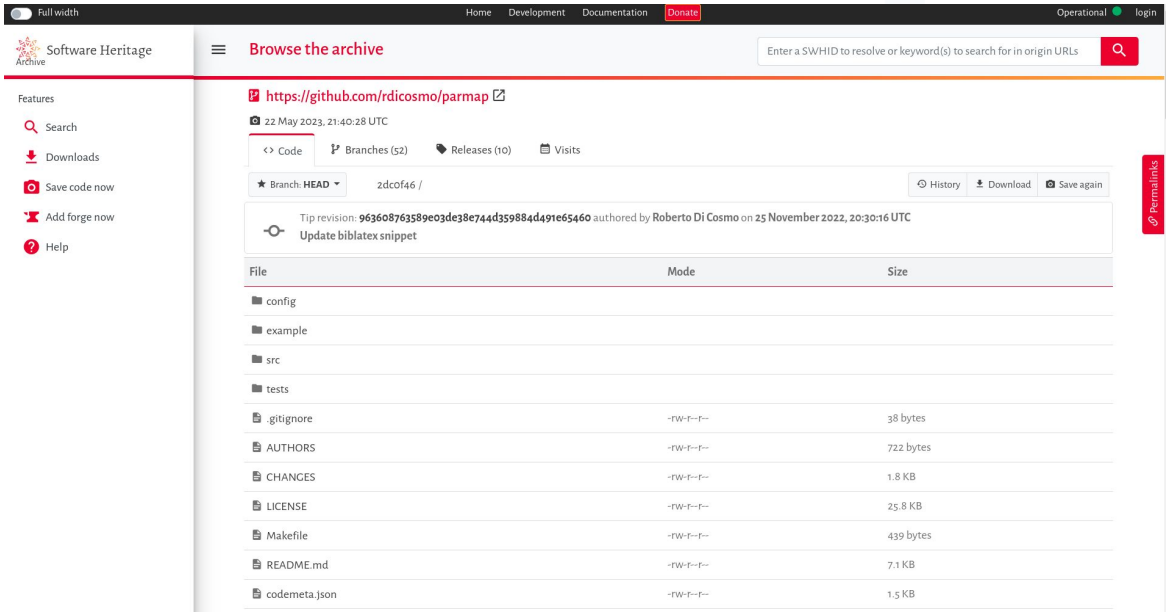
**Scholarly publishers**

- IPOL
- eLife
- Dagstuhl
- Episciences
- …

# The case of intrinsic metadata

## In the *software source code* itself

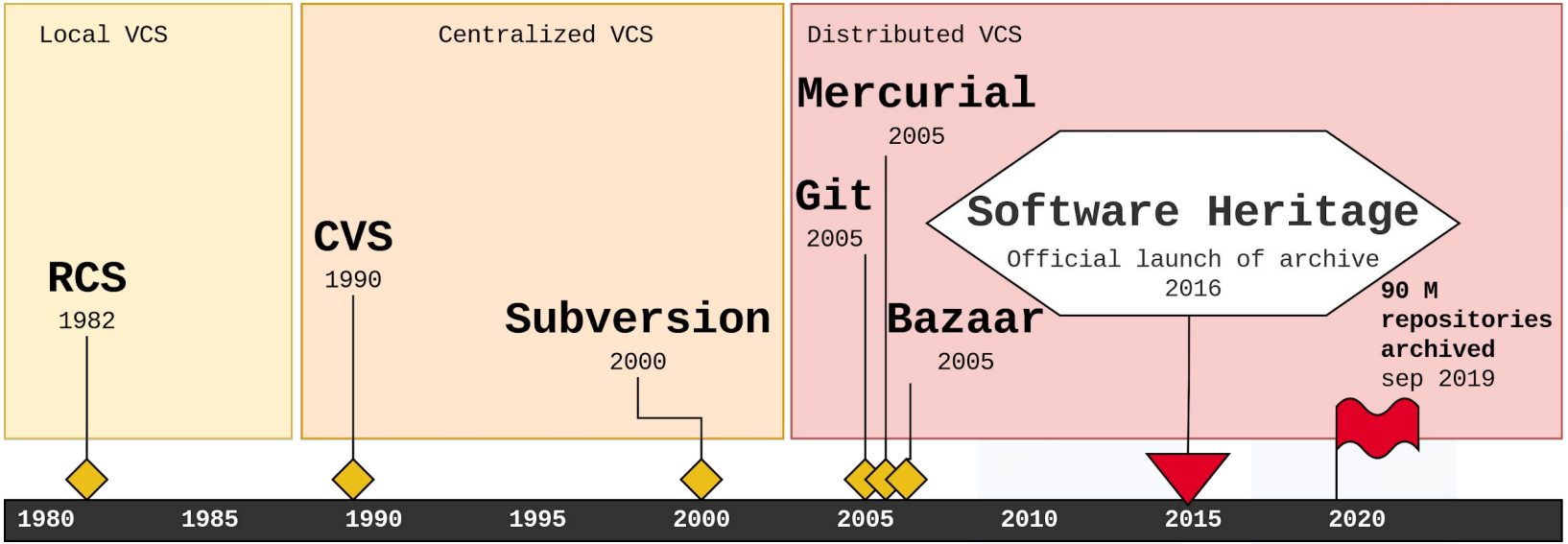
- README
- LICENSE
- AUTHORS
- **codemeta.json**
- package management
  - pom.xml
  - package.json
  - …
- CITATION.cff
- .About
- …




**Human readable (e.g README)**

**Machine actionable (e.g codemeta.json)**

# Version control system (VCS) history



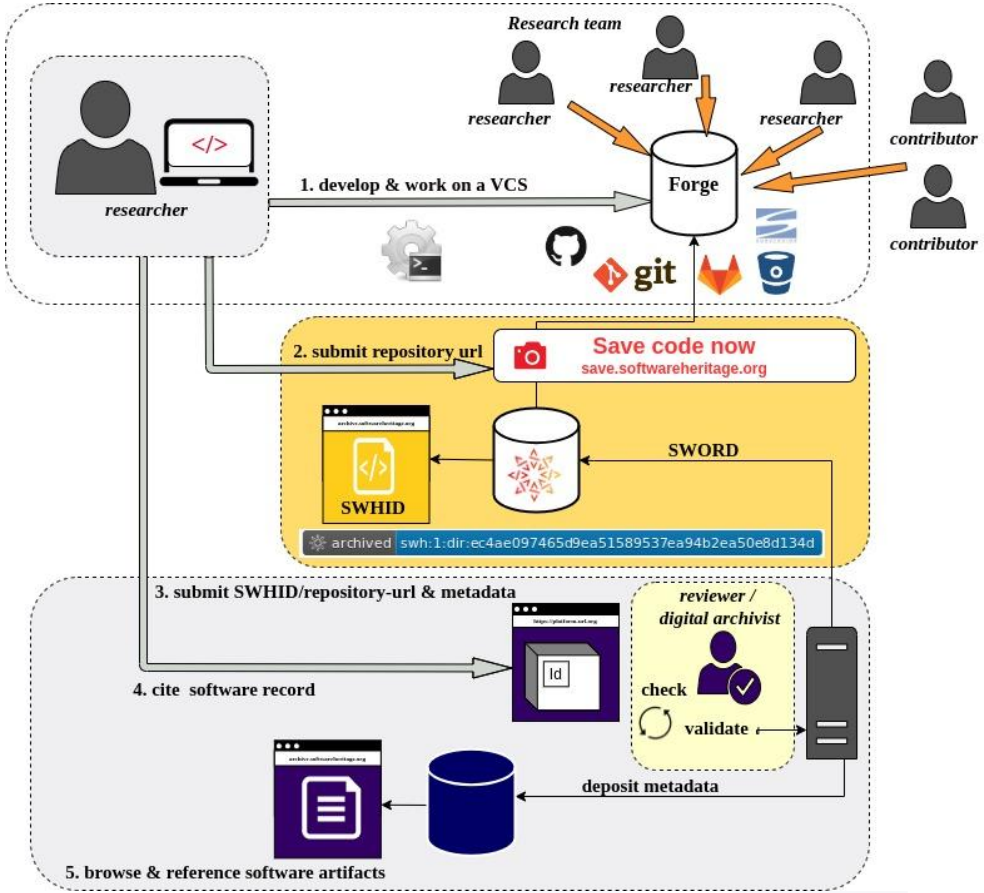

- records changes made to a (set of) source code file (s)
- allows to operate on versions: diff/merge/fork/recover etc.
- essential tool for software development

## Objective:

To ensure accessibility and preservation, researchers and software engineers are strongly recommended to follow the archival and sharing recommendations below.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
3. Reference & identification
4. Description & classification
5. Attribution & credit
6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects
7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

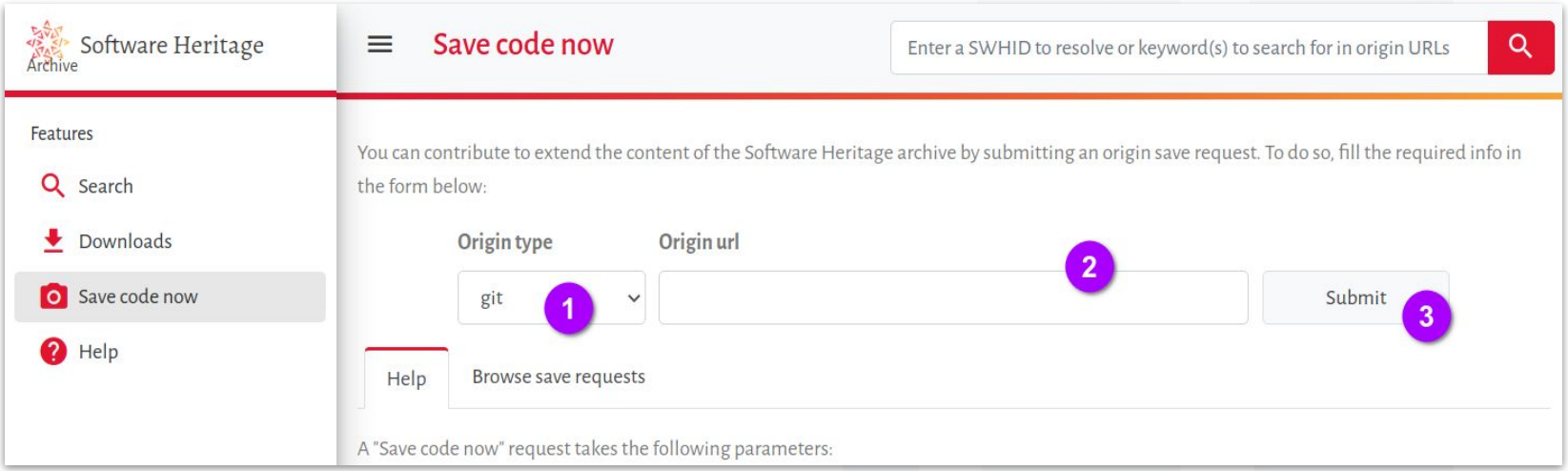

Research team
researcher
researcher
researcher
contributor
contributor
researcher
1. develop & work on a VCS
Forge
git
2. submit repository url
Save code now
save.softwareheritage.org
SWHID
SWORD
archived
swh:1:dir:ec4ae097465d9ea51589537ea94b2ea50e8d134d
3. submit SWHID/repository-url & metadata
reviewer / digital archivist
check
validate
4. cite software record
deposit metadata
5. browse & reference software artifacts

# Save any ~~your~~ code now!

Software Heritage
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

https://save.softwareheritage.org/

**Save code now**



1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
3. Reference & identification
4. Description & classification
5. Attribution & credit
6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects
7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

## Objective:

To ensure that research software projects, modules, versions and source code artifacts can be precisely identified and referenced.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

# Software source code identification

**Software concept / project / collection**

Description in registry, a homepage or any other form of metadata record

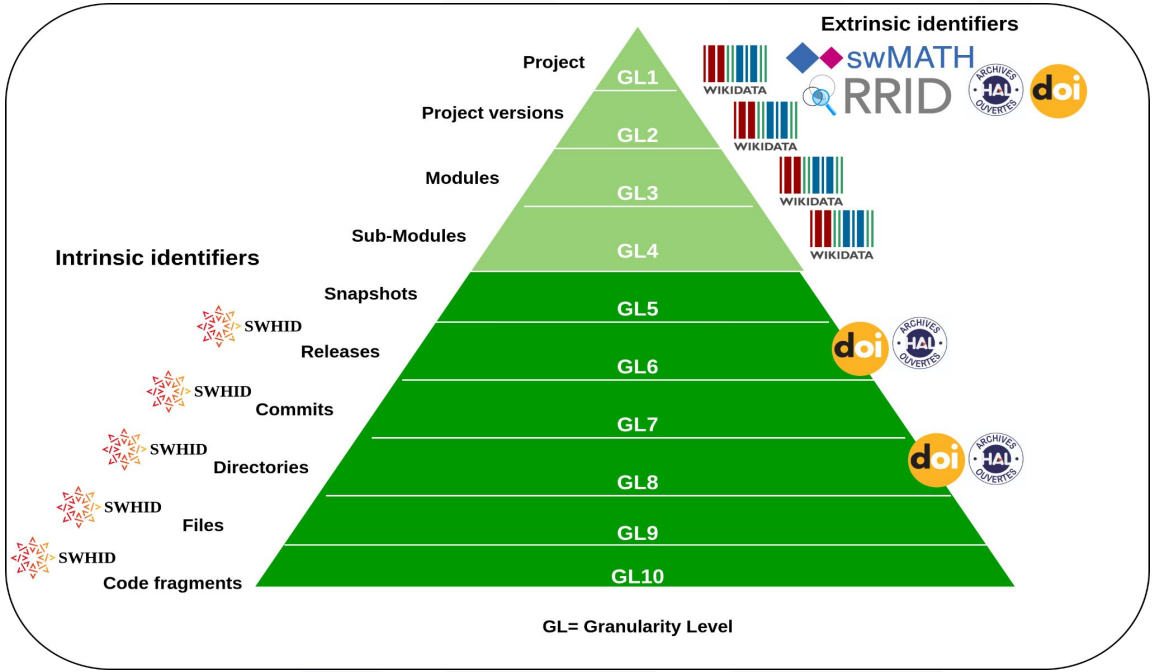
- Project versions (for example Python2 and Python3)
- Modules
- Sub-modules

**Software artifact**

- Executable (download link)
- Software source code
  - Dynamic artifact - current development code
  - Archived copy
    - Snapshot (all branches, all dev history)
    - Release / Package
    - Commit- a specific point in development history
    - Directory
    - File
    - Algorithm

**Software context**

- Complementary artifacts - Software artifacts that are external to the source code
  - the software environment, tutorial (Jupyter notebook), Data (input/output data), etc.
- Articles
- Documentation




Research Data Alliance/FORCE11 Software Source Code Identification WG et al. (2020). Use cases and identifier schemes for persistent software source code identification (V1.1). *Research Data Alliance*. https://doi.org/10.15497/RDA00053

DOI: 10.15497/RDA00053

# Granularity level summary (SCID output, 2020)

| Granularity level (GL) | ID target | Extrinsic identifiers | | | | | | | | | Intrinsic identifiers | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *ASCL* | *ARK* | *DOI* | *HAL* | *URL* | *RRID* | *SwMath* | *Wikidata* | | *Hash* | *SWH* |
| | | | | | | | | | *entity* | *property* | | |
| GL1 | project | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| GL2 | project version | | X | | | | | | X | | | |
| GL3 | module | | X | | | | | | X | | | |
| GL4 | repository | | X | | | X | | | | X | | |
| GL5 | repository snapshot | | X | | | | | | | X | | X |
| GL6 | release | | X | X** | | | | | | X | X | X |
| GL7 | commit | | X | | | | | | | X | X | X |
| GL8 | directory | | X | X** | X* | | | | | X | X | X |
| GL9 | file | | X | X** | | | | | | | X | X |
| GL10 | Code fragment | | X | | | | | | | | | X |

# DOI and SWHID on IPOL articles

- Journal Image Processing On Line (IPOL, https://www.ipol.im/)

- Research software packages are identified with:
  - The article DOI: (https://doi.org/10.5201/ipol.2021.286)
  - The software SWHID: The publisher deposits the software in Software Heritage with the DOI as an origin (https://archive.softwareheritage.org/swh:1:dir:2cb75d8c95eb61d047d89428d0ec40a2286c0311;origin=https://doi.org/10.5201/ipol.2021.286;visit=swh:1:snp:23a5f7ee209b593e9b3e60ebe2bc42f1e6b76ff3;anchor=swh:1:rel:2de235c8fc3dd527cfaaba5cbf1d8144fee14f40)

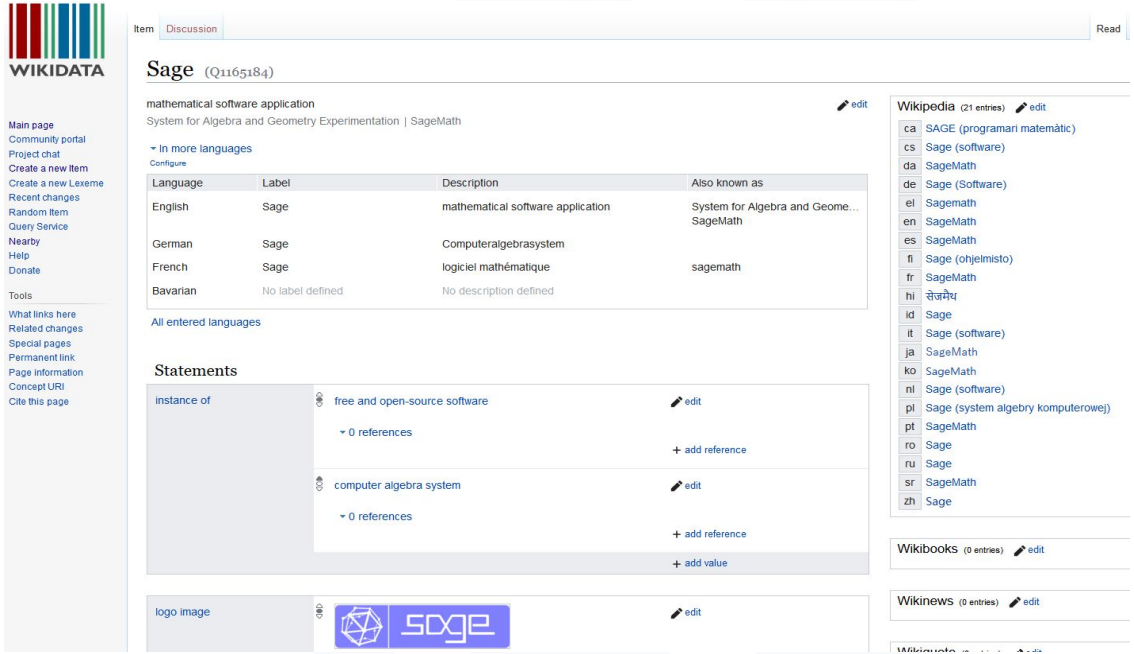
- Links from the paper and metadata DOI to:
  - the software deposit and its SWHID,
  - the live demo of the software (in the demo tab)

# Wikidata entities (Qxxx) - an extrinsic identifier

Q1165184=SageMath.

A few examples of external identifiers properties of used on software entities:

- Arch package sagemath
- Debian stable package sagemath
- Fedora package
- Free Software Directory entry
- Freebase
- Gentoo package
- Open Hub ID sage
- Quora topic
- Ubuntu Package
- swMATH work ID 825
- SWHID snapshot (15.11.2020)
- and many more



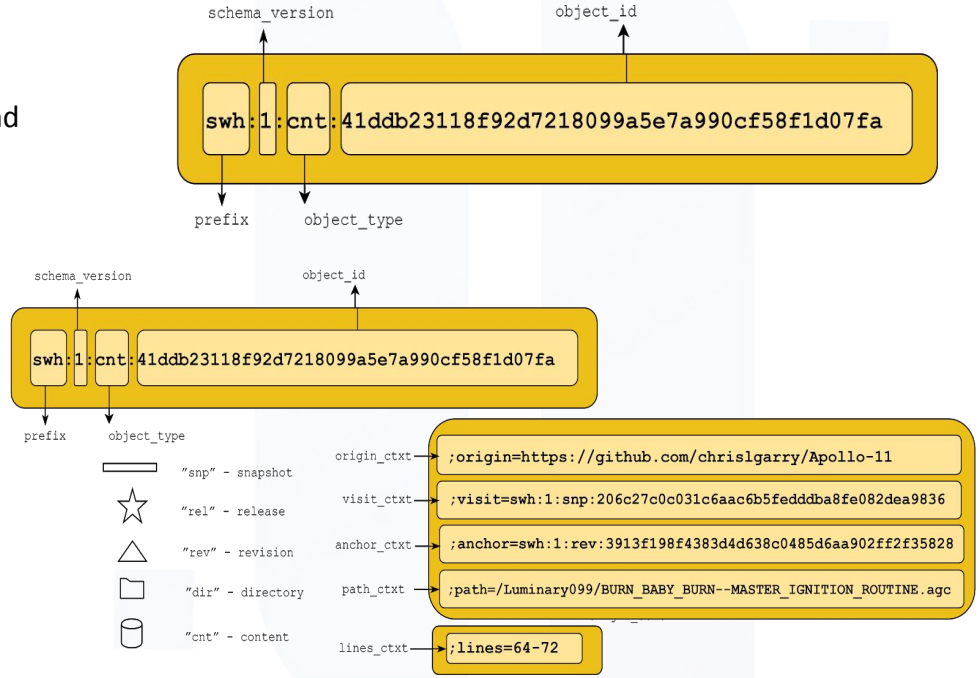
# The SoftWare Heritage ID - a.k.a SWHID

SWH provides a Persistent IDentifier (PID) that can identify each and every source code artifact with integrity, called a SWHID.

SWHIDs are **intrinsic identifiers** which are intimately bound to the designated object, they do not need a register, only agreement on a standard.

Intrinsic vs. extrinsic blog post

Go to API endpoint




Software Heritage
THE GREAT LIBRARY OF SOURCE CODE

## Objective:

To ensure software findability and comprehensibility, provide descriptive metadata (software's name, purpose, functionalities, programming language, domain, etc.). These metadata facilitate accurate representation of the software and enable users to easily discover and understand its capabilities.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
3. Reference & identification
4. Description & classification
5. Attribution & credit
6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects
7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

# Describe: What's a good README

- ★ **MUST** include:
  - Name and a description of the software.
- ★ **SHOULD** include:
  - how to run and use the source code
  - build environment, installation, requirements
- ★ **CAN** include:
  - project website or documentation pointer and recent news
  - visuals

extracted from Eric Steven Raymond and Make a README

# CodeMeta properties

## Identify

- identifier
- name
- author
- version, softwareVersion

## Execute

- codeRepository
- operatingSystem
- softwareRequirements
- buildInstructions
- **Not in CodeMeta:**
  a. Examples
  b. Compiler
  c. Executable link
  d. Other documentation

## Classify

- description
- releaseNotes
- keywords
- supportingData (in/out data)
- fileFormat
- programmingLanguage
- **Not in CodeMeta:**
  a. references
  b. algorithms

## Administrate

- maintainer
- copyrightHolder
- funder
- license
- editor
- publisher
- dateCreated
- dateModified
- datePublished
- developmentStatus

## Objective:

To ensure proper crediting and acknowledgment of software creators, authors, and contributors, it is important to follow citation recommendations.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
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1. General Metadata Requirements
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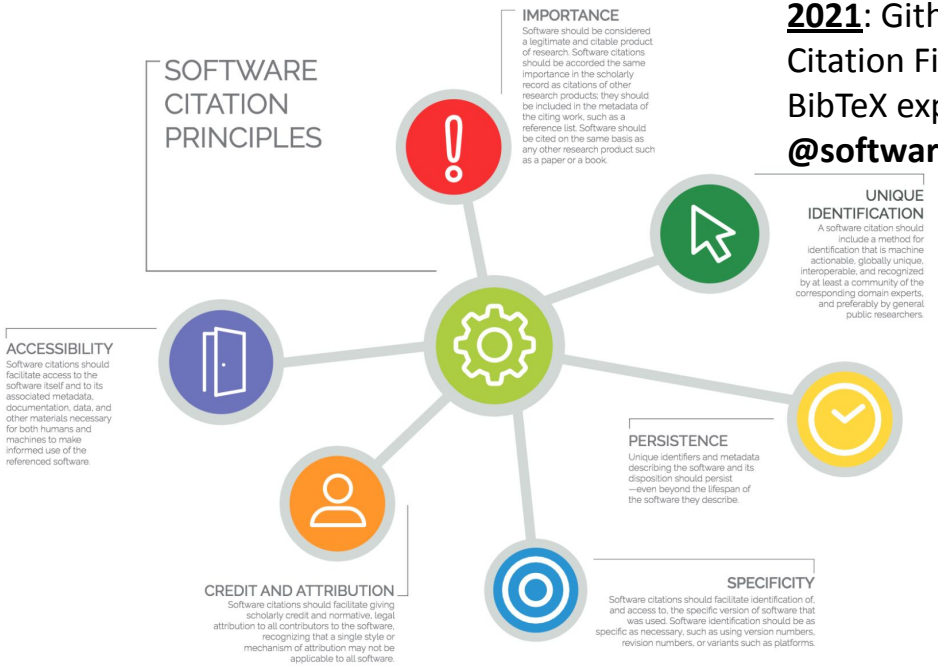
# Software citation principles - published in 2016

Software is a critical part of modern research...




... yet there is little support for its acknowledgement and citation

**2021**: Github & CFF - Citation File Format: BibTeX export with type **@software**

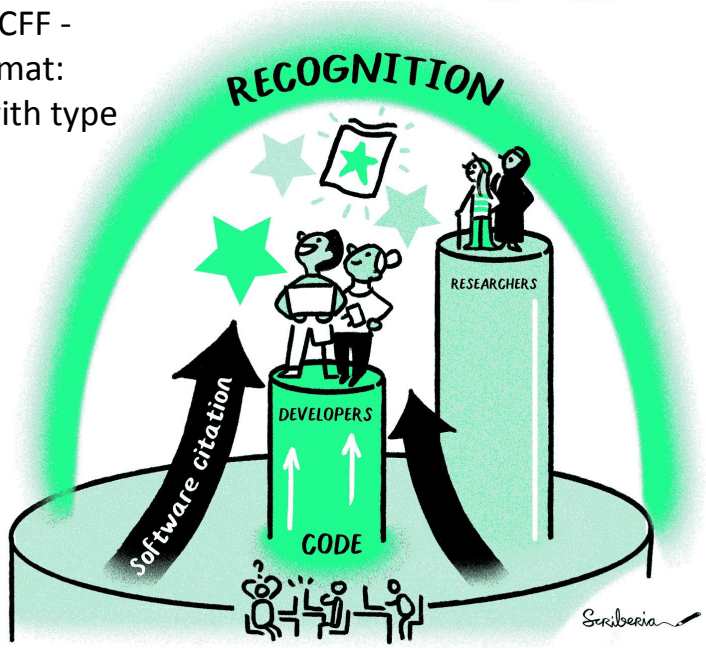



*Fig. 69* Research software developers get recognition by making software citable. *The Turing Way* project illustration by Scriberia. Zenodo. http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3332807

## Objective:

To ensure proper software reuse and license compliance, it is essential to accurately describe software licensing and legal aspects. This includes providing clear guidance on proper usage and distribution rights, clarifying the terms and conditions under which the software can be used and shared.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
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7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

REUSE SOFTWARE Get Started FAQ Developers Specification Resources Supporters API

# REUSE SOFTWARE

SPDX

Inofficial translations are available in: Deutsch, Česky, Українська

We make licensing easy for humans and machines alike. We solve a fundamental issue that Free Software licensing has at the very source: what license is a file licensed under, and who owns the copyright? **Adopting our recommendations is as easy as one-two-three**!

REUSE SOFTWARE

1. Choose and provide licenses
2. Add copyright and licensing information to each file
3. Confirm REUSE compliance

## Objective:

To ensure the usability of software and the ability to reproduce the same results in experiments, it is important that the software can be easily rebuilt and executed. This ensures that others can use the software effectively and achieve consistent outcomes.

- Is this objective/recommendation **clear**.
- Is this objective/recommendation **relevant** for research software?

1. General Metadata Requirements
2. Accessibility & preservation
3. Reference & identification
4. Description & classification
5. Attribution & credit
6. Reuse, licensing & legal aspects
7. Re-execute: Dependencies & execution environment

# Conclusion and next steps

D4.4 Research Software Metadata guidelines - deadline for the review (**May 29th at 12.00 UTC**)

- How to review and comment the deliverables?
  - Comment in the live notes
    - open until **May 25th at 12.00 UTC**
    - https://tinyurl.com/2023-05-23-RSMD-webinar
  - Review first draft of the deliverable V1.0 (which includes state of the art):
    - open until **May 29th at 12.00 UTC**
    - https://tinyurl.com/RSMD-guidelines-v1
- Contribute to CodeMeta! (participate in the community discussion)
  - V3.0 of the vocabulary is expected at the end of the month
  - A dedicated webinar will be scheduled for September 2023

# Making the RSMD guidelines useful

**How can we make the RSMD guidelines format of most value to you?**

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https://www.softwareheritage.org/newsletter/

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