
Persistent identifiers: comparing schemes for their use in the CIARD Framework

Hugo Besemer

Applying the CIARD values implies that more digital objects will become available on the web. These objects may have relations. For example datasets may underly research publications, or preprint versions are related to publisher's versions of journal articles. ("Green Route to Open Access") If we want to make full use of these relations and create enriched documents we need to establish stable links between objects. Therefore we cannot go on characterizing many of these objects only by their URL, indicating its temporary location. One of the first challenges for those wanting to set up data repositories is choosing an identifier scheme and make sure that there is a resolver service that will redirect the user who wants to access a resource to its current location. The need to identify digital objects uniquely, independent of their location, has been recognized early when the architecture of the web was developed - the Uniform Resource Name was meant to go side-by-side with the URL. A few years later a successful real life implementation of an identifier scheme with a resolver service we developed by the publishing industry, i.e. the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) This paper discusses the most appropriate identifier schemes that could be used in the CIARD framework (URN, Purl, DOI, ARK, Handle) as well as the Handle resolution protocol. Suggestions will be made for a role that CIARD can play.

Contact:

Hugo Besemer

Email: hugo@besemer.org