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Persistent Identifiers and DOIs

Persistent identifiers are a way of maintaining a permanent link to a digital object. They should be persistently actionable, and unlike hyperlinks or permalinks they should continue to provide access to the object, even if the object moves servers, or moves to the responsibility of a different organisation. The use of persistent identifiers allow researchers and scholars to cite digital objects in their work, and ensures that these citations remain correct and accessible. Persistent identifiers facilitate easy dissemination and reuse of data, allow the use and impact of data to be tracked, and create a structure that recognises and rewards data producers. In the Digital Repository of Ireland, the digital object which is referred to by the persistent identifier includes both the descriptive metadata and the asset file (for example text, image, video or audio files).

The DRI uses the DataCite service to both mint and store the DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for ingested digital objects. Once a digital object is published in the Repository a DOI is

minted, and represents a persistent global identifier for that object. The DOI will be of the form 10.7486/XXXXX, where 10.7486 is the DRI prefix, and the suffix represents the item identifier.

A DOI is actionable, which means it takes the form of a link that connects to the object. This is done through a DOI resolver service. An actionable link for a DOI is in the form: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7486/XXXXX>

In order to mint a DOI, DataCite requires a set of mandatory metadata fields to be included in the request. These fields map to the mandatory DRI metadata fields (see below).

When minted, these DOI metadata fields will be available and searchable in the DataCite Metadata Store. The DOI will also be clickable and must resolve to an open, web-accessible page. For DRI this will normally be the object's display page in the Repository. In the unlikely event of a digital object being removed from public view, a landing page is still accessible from the DOI and the metadata associated with the DOI remains publicly available.

DataCite Property

Identifier
Creator
Title
Publisher
PublicationYear

DRI Data Model

doi
creator
title
"Digital Repository of Ireland"
Year of publication in the
Repository

[1] <https://www.datacite.org> (accessed 18 June 2015)

[2] <https://dx.doi.org> (accessed 18 June 2015)

[3] <https://mds.datacite.org> (accessed 18 June 2015)