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Library

An examination of the application of FAIR data principles to institutional research management data

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What if we took a FAIR approach to research management data?

ategy



Data Strategy

UCL Data Strategy 09

This section outlines our desired principles for data, and the mechanisms that will enable realisation of the desired outcomes.

Principles

These principles for data help improve the quality and consistency of our behaviours around data. Testing any organisational change or desired capability against these principles will contribute to the development of our data as a valued asset.

1. Data is valued

- Our data is a vital asset, central to our mission and owned and governed in the same way as valued assets such as buildings or museums.
- Data belongs to the University, not to individuals². Therefore, it is managed on behalf of the university by everyone interacting with it.

2. Data is managed

- Data is managed according to its importance and throughout its lifecycle, to assure availability, integrity, avoidance of loss, continuity across change.
- There is clarity on who is responsible for data, and individuals are appropriately skilled.

3. Data is fit for purpose

- Data is the right quality. It is not perfect, but its quality characteristics are pragmatic, appropriate and transparent.
- This quality is regularly monitored with simple to understand data quality measures. Interventions ensure the data remains fit for purpose.

4. Data is secure and compliant

- The integrity of data is assessed, monitored and managed. Effective information security procedures allow the right people to use and update data and restrict inappropriate use.
- Availability of personal data is considered in terms of ethics, proportionality and need, while

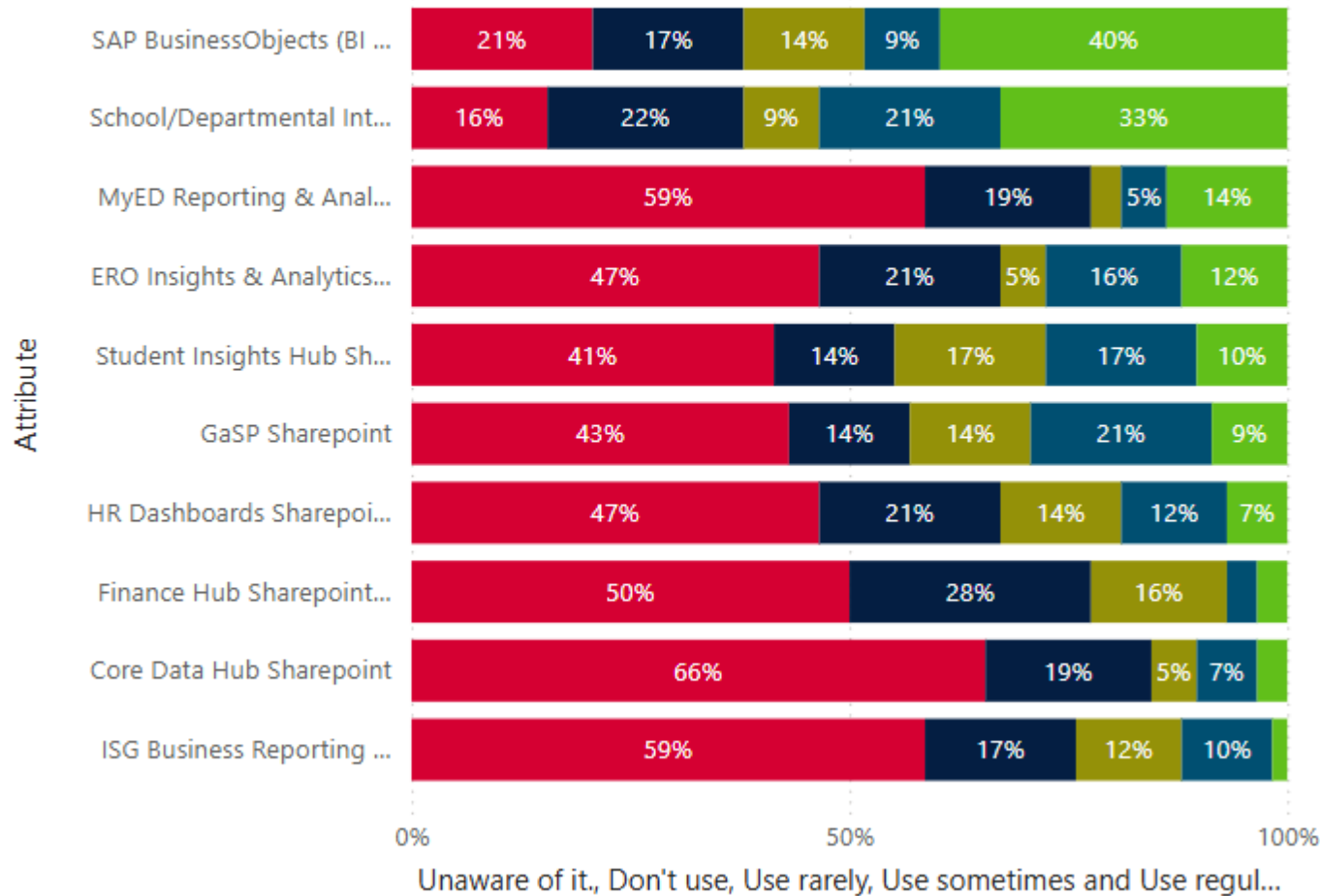
5. Data meets the FAIR principles³

- **Findable** – data should be easy to find.
- **Accessible** – data should be accessible through organisational authorisation and authentication.
- **Interoperable** – data should be standardised and easy to work with.
- **Reusable** – data is reusable for many purposes, because it is findable, accessible and interoperable.

² Data generated by researchers during their research
³ The FAIR principles seek to optimise the reuse of data

Awareness of Existing University Online Data and Reporting Resources

● Unaware of it. ● Don't use ● Use rarely ● Use sometimes ● Use regularly



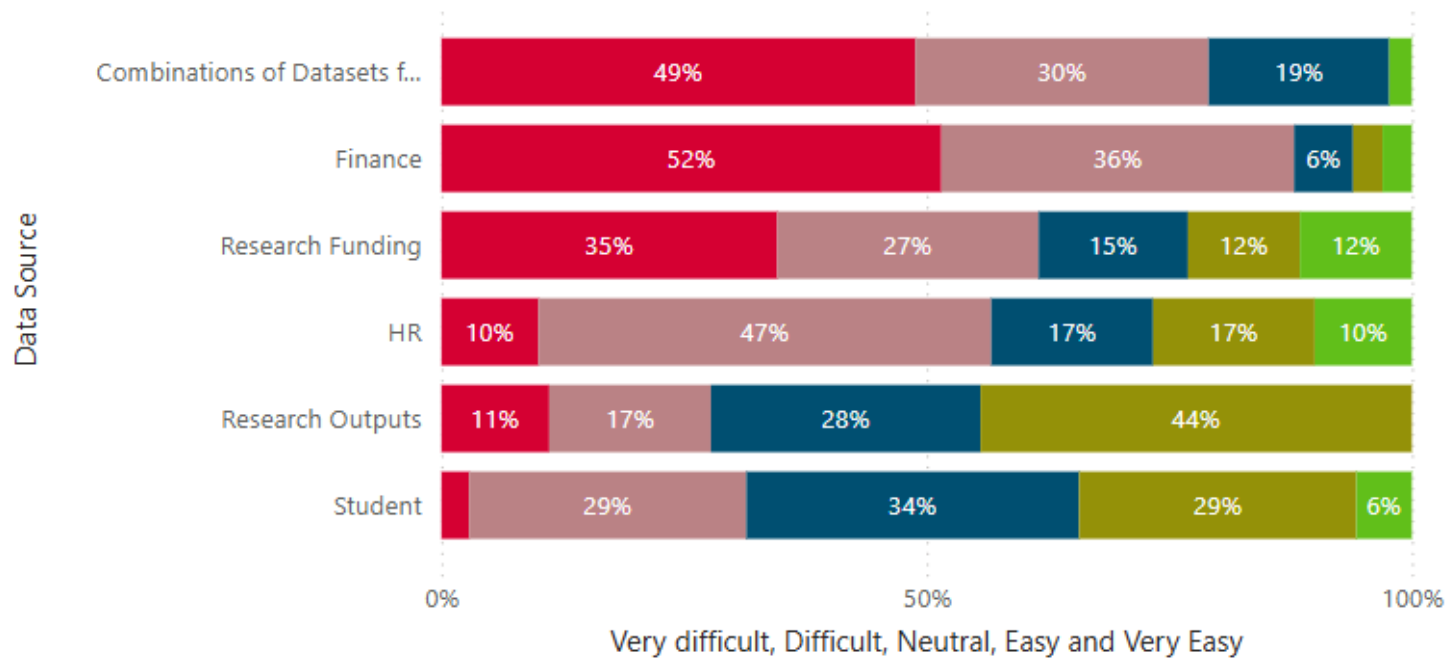
**Findable:
Poor levels
of awareness
of existing
data and
reporting
resources**




Accessible: Difficulty accessing data

Ease of Access to Data (N/A excluded)

● Very difficult ● Difficult ● Neutral ● Easy ● Very Easy



Object	Scope	Name	Description	Reference	HRID Key
People	External	ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID - unique ID for those involved in research, scholarship, and creative activities	https://orcid.org/	Person (ORCID)
People	External	ResearcherID	A Web of Science ResearcherID is a unique identifier that connects you to your publications across the Web of Science ecosystem (i.e., lists of Science, Politics, and Social, and provides the global research community with an immediate link to author information.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
People	External	Scopus Author ID	Identifier used to identify contributors on outputs in Elsevier's Scopus database	https://www.sciencedirect.com/scopus/authors/	Person (ORCID)
People	External	ResearcherID	This part of a person record in Web of Science but sometimes it might no longer exist as an external identifier service.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	HEA ID	This field records a unique code allocated to staff when they are first entered onto the HEA staff record. The code remains with the member of staff for the whole of their career within higher education.	https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	UoE ID	University User Name	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	Staff Number	Staff Number from HR record, may also include assignment numbers, and contingent worker	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	UoE ID	Vendor Registration System/Value Management System - possibly links to contingent worker record above	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	UoE ID	Linked Email address for research email address for individuals within the University	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	UoE ID	Record ID for people in Pure	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	Worldwide	Worldwide person record ID	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
People	Internal	Student Number	Registration number from HEA ID	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ROR ID	Research Organization Registry (ROR) is a global, community led register of research organizations for research organizations.	https://ror.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	Funder ID	The Open Funder Registry (OFR), formerly FundRef and associated funding register, allows everyone to have transparency into research funding and its outcomes. It is an open and unique register of funder identifiers for grant-giving organizations around the world.	https://www.funderid.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	Global Research ID	Global Research Identifier Database (GRID) is a database of educational and research organizations worldwide, created and maintained by Digital Science & Research Business Unit, part of the technology company Digital Science. In 2021 public releases of the database were discontinued in favour of Research Organization Registry (ROR) as the leading open organization identifier.	https://www.grid.ac/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ResearcherID	ResearcherID is a unique identifier for researchers in ResearcherID. It is given to all grant holding researchers in ResearcherID.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	Journal ID	Shorpy is a searchable database and single point of up-to-date information concerning research in human sciences and other requirements on open access, publication and data anything.	https://www.shorpy.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	Registered ID	A Registered Identifier (RID) or RID is a persistent numeric unique identifier for organizations in the publishing industry supply chain.	https://www.rid.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	The UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP) is a website which collects and disseminates information about learning providers in the United Kingdom. Each organization is given a UK number reference number (UKRN). The UKRN is a unique number allocated to providers after successful UKRLP registration. This is a 10-digit number that identifies the provider.	https://www.ukrlp.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	The Open Funder Registry (OFR), formerly FundRef and associated funding register, allows everyone to have transparency into research funding and its outcomes.	https://www.funderid.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	Worldwide is a central data source for the structured data of its Wikimedia sister projects including Wikipedia, Wikisource, Wikiversity, Wikispecies, and others.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	Worldwide also provides support to many other sites and services beyond Wikimedia project. The content of Wikimedia is available under a free license, exported using standard formats, and can be referred to other open data sets on the linked data web.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	Contact email address for an organization.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	External	ORCID	Web address for an organization.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	Internal	ORCID	University have an entry in the architecture.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	Internal	ORCID	Staff, including faculty, ResearcherID	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Places	Internal	ORCID	Record ID for organizations in Pure	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	A digital object identifier (DOI) is a persistent identifier or handle used to uniquely identify various objects, standardized by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).	https://www.doi.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	DOI are an implementation of the Handle System.	https://www.doi.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is a numeric commercial book identifier that is intended to be unique.	https://www.isbn.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is an eight-digit serial number used to uniquely identify a serial publication (periodical), such as a journal or newspaper.	https://www.issn.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	The Handle System is the Corporation for National Research Initiatives' proprietary registry assigning persistent identifiers, or handles, to information resources, and for resolving those handles into the information necessary to locate, access, and otherwise make use of the resource.	https://www.handle.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Persistent Identification of Scientific Research Instruments	https://www.pids.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Global open databases, view part of original Science. Can be used to things like Science (DOI) with grants.	https://www.pids.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Research Activity Identifier (RAID) is a persistent identifier (PID) dedicated to research projects and activities.	https://www.pids.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	International Patent Classification (IPC)	https://www.pids.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	The International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) is a numeric system for uniquely identifying the public identities of contributors to media content such as books, television programmes, and newspaper articles.	https://www.isni.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Worldwide is a central data source for the structured data of its Wikimedia sister projects including Wikipedia, Wikisource, Wikiversity, Wikispecies, and others.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Worldwide also provides support to many other sites and services beyond Wikimedia project. The content of Wikimedia is available under a free license, exported using standard formats, and can be referred to other open data sets on the linked data web.	https://www.wikimedia.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Pushed is a free database including primarily the MEDLINE database references and abstracts on the sciences and biomedical topics.	https://www.pushed.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Pushed Central (PMC) is a free digital repository that archives open access full-text scholarly articles that have been published in journals and in the research journal.	https://www.pmc.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) is an open access repository that contains millions of biomedical research works.	https://www.europepmc.org/	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	Identifier used to identify output in Elsevier's Scopus database.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	A Web of Science ID is a unique identifier that identifies publications across the Web of Science ecosystem.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Objects	External	ORCID	The Researcher Identification Portal was created in support of the Researcher Identification Initiative, which aims to promote research resource identification, discovery, and reuse. The portal offers a central location for obtaining and reporting Researcher Resource Identifiers (RRIDs) - persistent and unique identifiers for research resources.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Objects	Internal	ORCID	Contact ID used to uniquely identify contract records in Worldwide.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Objects	Internal	ORCID	Project ID and Subject ID is used to uniquely identify award/grant records in Worldwide.	https://www.elsevier.com/locate/ResearcherID	Person (ORCID)
Objects	Internal	ORCID	Record ID for various objects in Pure.	https://www.ed.ac.uk/	Person (ORCID)

Innovation > Projects

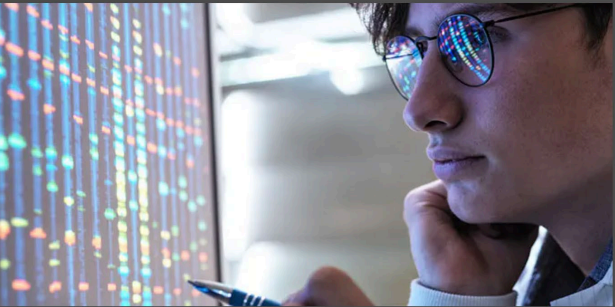
R & D project

A national persistent identifier research strategy

Delivering sector-wide cost savings through improved automation and technical integration.

Archived

This project was archived on 15 October 2024



5 years and 3 months

Ended 15 Oct 2024

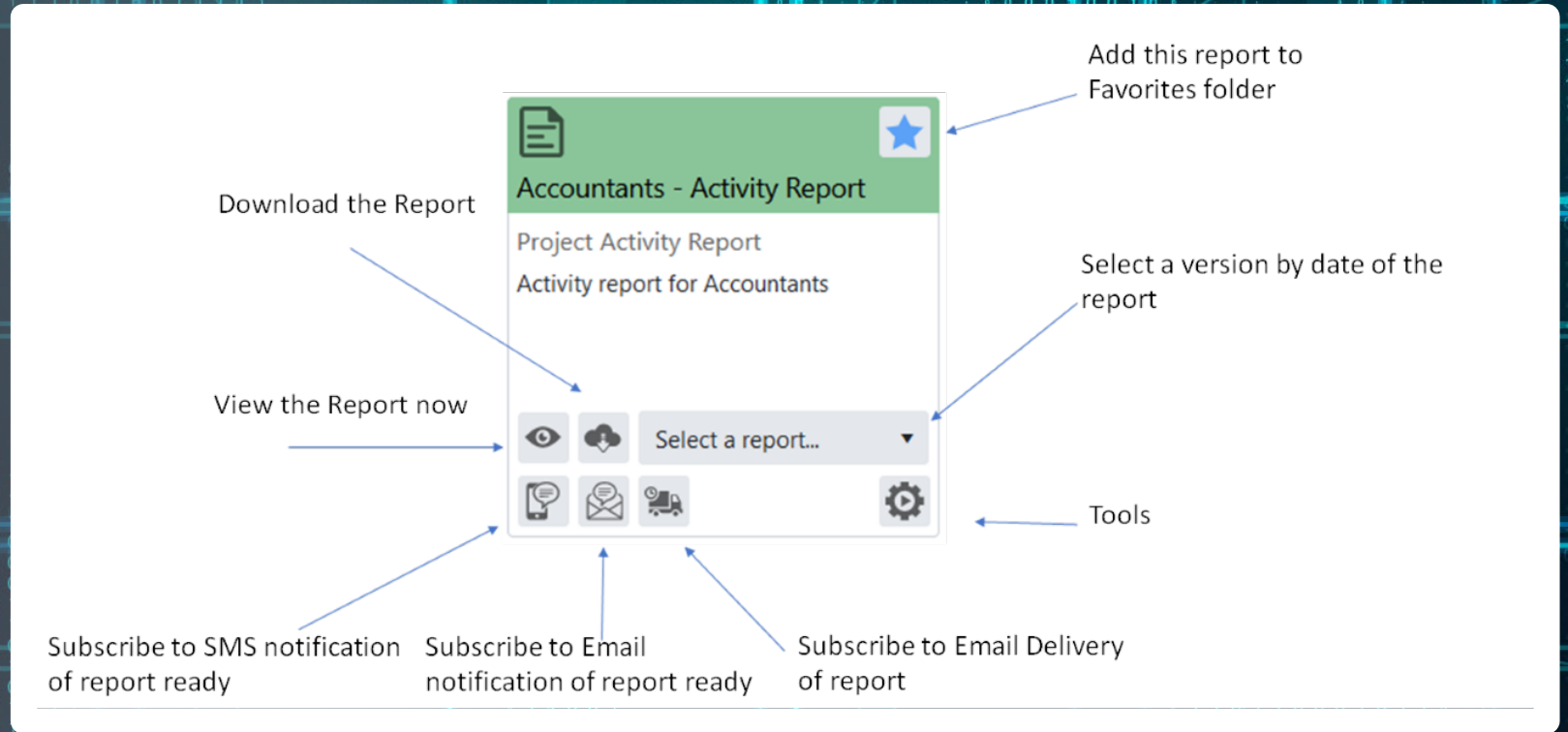
Expected outcome: Advice

A strategy coordinated across the UK academic research community to promote wider adoption of persistent identifiers by institutions, funders, and researchers, as well as improved reporting mechanisms to better assess the impact of research.

Why are persistent identifiers (PIDs) important?

Interoperable:
Inconsistent
approach to use
of identifiers

Reusable: Reporting as a Service



Where next . . . ?

Standards for all

Produce a list of common identifiers all systems are expected to hold.

Think about data use/reuse early

Introduce some guidance for use as part of procurement processes which encourages service owners/providers to think about questions of data use and reuse early in the process.

Use cases

Be clear about why this is important and what can be achieved by adhering to a set of principles which make data more useable.

Clearly signpost

If there's a well established central point data can be acquired from this may help people to not hoard data unnecessarily.

Bake in access protections

Ensure that data are only accessible by those who have permissions to access it. And ensure use/reuse is appropriate in all cases.

Describe the data carefully

Create institutional standards for how data are described. Build data literacy by creating data models and data dictionaries.

References

1 | University College London
Data Strategy

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/strategic-plan-2022-27/supporting-strategies/ucl-data-strategy-2023-27>

2 | FAIR Principles

<https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

3 | University of Leeds Data
Strategy

[https:// data.leeds.ac.uk/](https://data.leeds.ac.uk/)

4 | University of Cambridge
Data Strategy

[https:// www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/about-us/bulletin/item/help-enhance-universitys-new-business-data-strategy](https://www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/about-us/bulletin/item/help-enhance-universitys-new-business-data-strategy)

5 | University of Durham Data
Strategy

[https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9JGbx63Y2E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9JGbx63Y2E)

6 | University of Nottingham
Data Strategy

[https:// www.nottingham.ac.uk/Governance/Documents/Data-Governance-and-Quality-Policy.pdf](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/Governance/Documents/Data-Governance-and-Quality-Policy.pdf)

7 | University of Oxford Data
Strategy

[https:// governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-strategy](https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-strategy)

8 | Survey

Ker, Louise–Data & Reporting Activities in Professional Services Survey December 2024

9 | Identifier Audit

Querry, Damon–Audit of unique identifiers related to research management processes

10 | Jisc PID Research Strategy 11 | Reporting as a Service

[https:// www.jisc.ac.uk/innovation/projects/a-national-persistent-identifier-research-strategy](https://www.jisc.ac.uk/innovation/projects/a-national-persistent-identifier-research-strategy)

[https:// www.reportingxpress.com/](https://www.reportingxpress.com/)





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