
EDITOR'S NOTE**FUNDING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ON GREY LITERATURE**

GreyNet International seeks to explore the value of persistent identifiers (PIDs) in furthering research and education on grey literature. It is widely accepted that persistent identifiers enable and implement the FAIR data principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. However, it is also considered that persistent identifiers can provide new avenues for research and education – both of which rely on funding.

Until now, GreyNet has focused on three persistent identifiers as they apply to the field of grey literature. First with the ORCID, a persistent digital identifier that is owned and controlled by the individual author/researcher and distinguishes each from every other one. It was to this end that GreyNet established a campaign to bring awareness to the value of the ORCID for content providers and to collect and enter their ORCIDs in the metadata of their biographical records.

This then led to the DOI, Digital Object Identifier used to permanently identify an article or document. To this end, GreyNet applied for and became a DOI minting service for the research outputs within its community of practice. Currently, its entire collection of conference papers and published research data have been assigned a digital object identifier.

This was then followed by the ROR ID, an open, sustainable, usable, and unique identifier for every research organization. To this end, GreyNet used the ROR Registry to access the ROR IDs of those organizations and institutions to which its authors and researchers are affiliated. These persistent identifiers were then entered in the metadata of the biographical records of authors/researchers in the same way as with their ORCIDs. GreyNet then also took the opportunity to apply for a ROR ID and was assigned one. GreyNet's newly assigned ROR ID was then further entered in the metadata field of its own DOI research outputs.

Recently, GreyNet's attention has turned to yet another identifier, the Funder ID – an identifier for an organization that funds research. GreyNet considers that part of the associate membership fees it receives from organizations is used to fund its annual research projects. To this end, GreyNet carried out a search in order to identify those organizations with a ROR ID that also had an assigned Funder ID. This resulted in a list of both current and past member organizations.

What GreyNet has come to understand is that the value and potential uses and applications of persistent identifiers do not stand alone but rely on a number of fundamentals: (1.) an infrastructure integrating PID services, such as minting digital object identifiers, (2.) a dedicated Repository that serves as landing pages for PIDs, such is the case with the GreyGuide Repository, and (3.) a longstanding community of practice that provides a guarantee for continuity. GreyNet with its near three decades of service to the international grey literature community will continue to explore ways of using persistent identifiers including the Funder ID in an effort to identify financial support needed for research and education in the field of grey literature.

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