

Practice research as a lens to enable a future with a FAIRer, more equitable scholarly research landscape

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What is practice research?

Practice research

“An umbrella term that describes all manners of research where practice is the significant **method** of research conveyed in a research output. This includes numerous discipline-specific formulations of practice research, which have distinct and unique balances of practice, research narrative and complementary methods within their projects.”

Research narrative

“In a practice research output, a research narrative may be conjoined with, or embodied in, practice. A research narrative articulates the research enquiry that emerges in practice.”



Non-Traditional Research Outputs don't easily fit into 'traditional' research reward and recognition systems

Assumptions

- Single, static, (often a PDF), text-based
- Retrospective capture of end product (e.g. article)
- Publications and data in different repositories
- All outputs should be made completely open
- Research is 'funded' by grants
- Author the primary contributor
- Publication via (primarily journal articles) to benefit from discoverability and interoperability

Non-Traditional Research Outputs

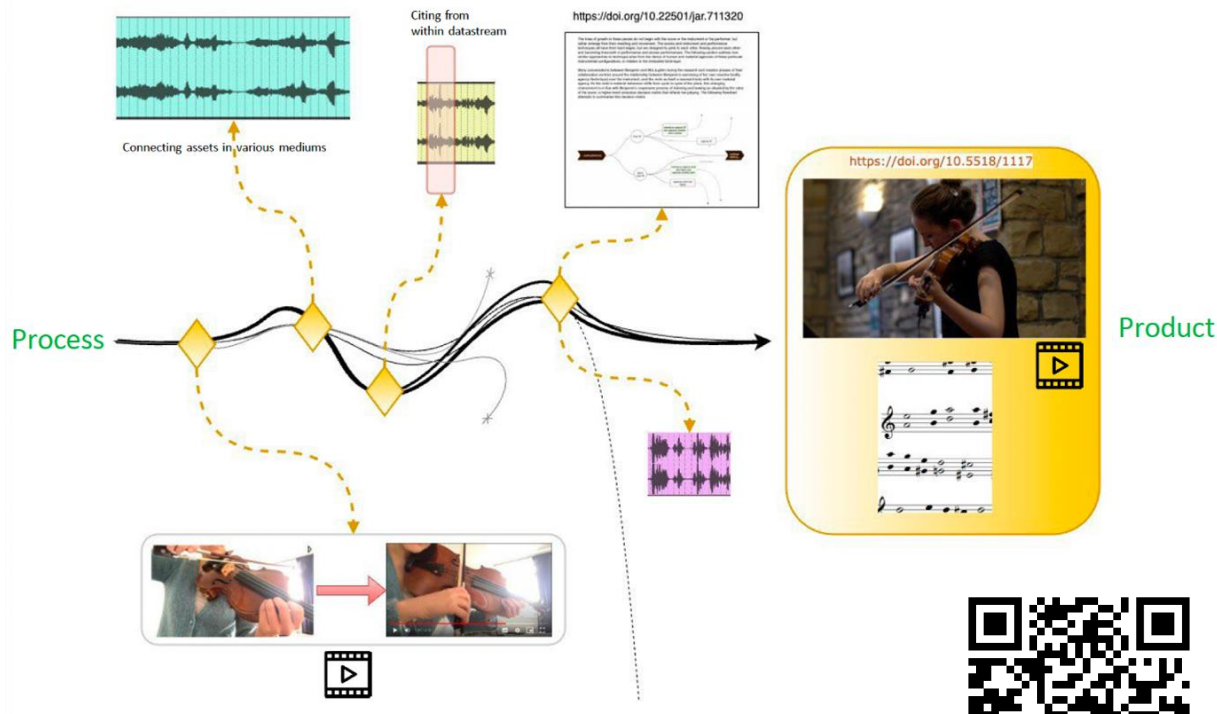
- Non-text (and focus on format e.g sound, video, audio)
- Time based and/or change over time
- Range of files which are closed and/or open
- Representation of performance or other live event
- FAIR data sharing more appropriate than Open Access
- Intellectual property and rights determine levels of open

Current repositories and open standards have limitations in this representing this research well

The Practice Research lens enabling FAIRer, more open research

What's missing?

- Process as significant as end product
- Can be linear or non-linear
- Research element embodied in the work or needs evidencing by a narrative
- Remediation of an event
- Context and relationships need describing
- Range of contributors including collaborators (and their rights) to be recognised
- Create traditional and non-traditional outputs



Scott McLaughlin, University of Leeds

Metadata and standards that reflect the richness of practice research and its contributors will benefit all research

Brickfield Newham

Brickfield Newham is a V&A Research Institute and V&A East collaboration in partnership with UCL. Anselmi's artist-led project Brickfield and University of East London's Performing Arts department. Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Newham Heritage Month and Arts Council England. The project was created by Georgia Haseldine (V&A), Rosanna Martin (Brickfield) and Lynne McCarthy (UEL).

Creator: Georgia Haseldine

Collaborators: Lynne McCarthy (Curator) and Rosanna Martin (Curator)

Summary

Brickfield Newham is a community research project that questions clay and its importance to the urban landscape by connecting people literally to the earth beneath their feet. Communities from across the borough are coming together to make bricks, build and fire a kiln on a construction site in the Royal Docks. They are investigating themes of dwelling, living and claiming the earth through performance and brickmaking. Rooted in Newham's history of industrialisation and habitation, Brickfield Newham will provide a hearth to share experiences of living in Newham and to listen to each person's vision of its future.

Website/online resource

<https://www.newhamheritagemonth.org/newcastle/brickfield-newham/>

Funding

Newham Heritage Month
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Arts Council England

Portfolio items

- 250 Fired Bricks
- About the project on Newham website
- Blog post: Brickfield Newham photo essay
- Brickfield Newham display

Extract from PR Voices simple portfolio
<https://doi.org/10.34737/wx8w1>

Works

Work details

Work type*

Artistic output or performance

Work title*

+ Show translated title

Work subtitle

Publisher

Publication date

Year Month Day

Link

What does 'published' mean for a creative work - or any 'piece' of process?

Contributors

Your contributions to this work

No Specified Role

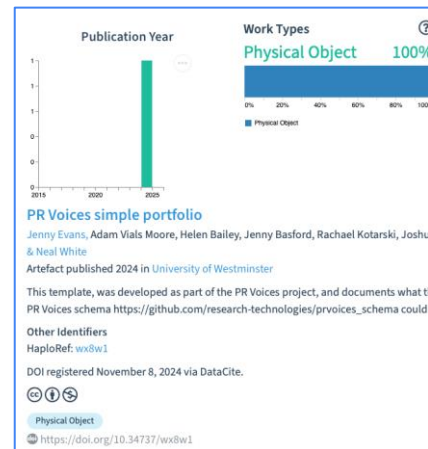
Conceptualization

Data Curation

Formal Analysis

Funding Acquisition

How can we better capture a broader range of contributorship?



How can we improve capture and mapping to benefit all forms of knowledge?

Priority: Expanding existing open standards

- The concept of a portfolio enables capture of narrative and extends beyond mere collection of files
- Artefacts and events become equal to literature and data sets
- Incorporates range of contributors, including creators, collaborators and participants
- Open standards are underpinned by transparent governance

The screenshot displays the documentation for the **PortfolioItem** class in the PR Voices schema. The page is titled "PortfolioItem" and shows the following details:

- Occurrences:** 0-n
- Definition:** Information about a resource(s) within the Portfolio.
- Allowed values, examples, other constraints:**
- Can be used to provide series information or a text citation where the related resource does not have an identifier. However, it is also optional to provide an identifier here.**
- Sub-properties:**
 - [portfolioItemType](#)
 - [relationType](#)
 - [portfolioItemIdentifier](#)
 - [portfolioItemIdentifierType](#)
 - [creator](#)
 - [creatorName](#)
 - [nameType](#)
 - [givenName](#)
 - [familyName](#)
 - [title](#)
 - [titleType](#)
 - [date](#)
 - [dateType](#)
 - [dateInformation](#)

Example XML

```
<portfolioItems>
  <portfolioItem relationType="hasPart" portfolioItemType="Artefact">
    <portfolioItemIdentifier portfolioItemIdentifierType="DOI">10.1234/d2ghgfr</portfolioItemIdentifier>
    <creators>
      <creator>
        <creatorName nameType="Personal">Garcia, Sofia</creatorName>
        <givenName>Sofia</givenName>
        <familyName>Garcia</familyName>
        <nameIdentifier schemeURI="https://orcid.org/" nameIdentifierScheme="ORCID">0000-0001-5727-2427</nameIdentifier>
        <affiliation affiliationIdentifier="https://ror.org/03efmqc40" affiliationIdentifierScheme="ROR"></affiliation>
      </creator>
      <creator>
        <creatorName xml:lang="en" nameType="Organizational">California Digital Library</creatorName>
        <nameIdentifier schemeURI="https://ror.org/" nameIdentifierScheme="ROR">https://ror.org/03ymc</nameIdentifier>
      </creator>
    </creators>
    <titles>
      <title xml:lang="en">Example title</title>
    </titles>
  </portfolioItem>
</portfolioItems>
```

The right sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items:

- Pages (30)
- Find a page...
- Home
- Alternate Identifier
- Artefact
- Article
- Book
- Context Statement
- Contributor
 - Contributor
 - contributorType
 - contributorName
 - nameType
 - givenName
 - familyName
 - nameIdentifier
 - nameIdentifierScheme
 - schemeURI
 - affiliation
 - affiliationIdentifier
 - affiliationIdentifierScheme
 - schemeURI
- Creator
- Current Research Institute
- Date
- Date Range of Outputs
- Description
- Exhibition
- Files
- Funder

At the bottom of the sidebar, it says "Show 15 more pages..."

PR Voices schema based on PR Voices
project work and informed by SPARKLE

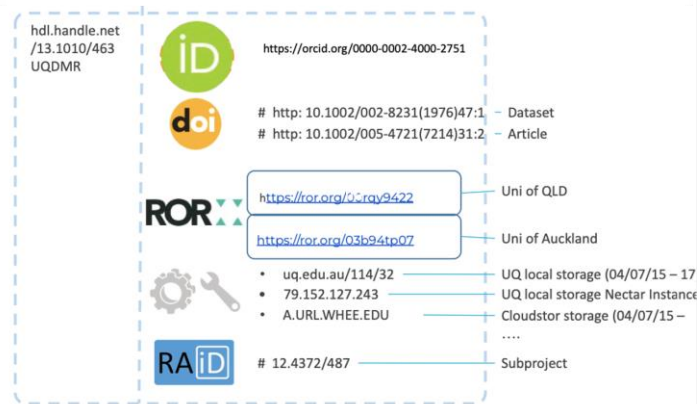


The Research Activity Identifier (RAiD)

RAiD allows the collection of other persistent identifiers and output objects by acting as an “envelope” identifier.

Each object connected to the RAiD also has a date-stamp for the beginning and end of the connection.

This allows the RAiD to encapsulate narrative, chronological view of activity.



CoSECTOR UNIVERSITY OF LONDON Jisc Bridging the Gap: A Standardized Schema for Practice Research Outputs UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER Arts and Humanities Research Council

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Mykeell Riley Bass Culture

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34737/rjprg>

MyRites | Rights | Researcher contact | Research questions | Overview of research outputs | **Metadata entry** | Research history



Article | Dissertation and theses | **Supervisory metadata** | **Research history**

Project narrative

The project narrative is a summary of the project's purpose, objectives, and outcomes. It is a key component of the project's documentation and is used to provide context for the research outputs.

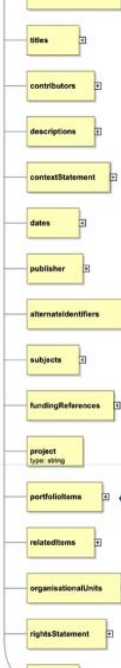
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Traditional vs. Practice Research

Traditional Research	Practice Research
Journal articles Conference papers	Artefacts Performance
Linear, text-based format	Portfolio-based, multiple items
Standard bibliographic metadata	Rich, customizable fields



Practice Research?

"An umbrella term that describes all manners of research where practice is the significant method of research conveyed in a research output"

<https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>

Portfolio concept groups related outputs meaningfully

Supports narrative and contextual elements

Flexible metadata structure accommodating diverse content types

Integration with existing repository systems and standards

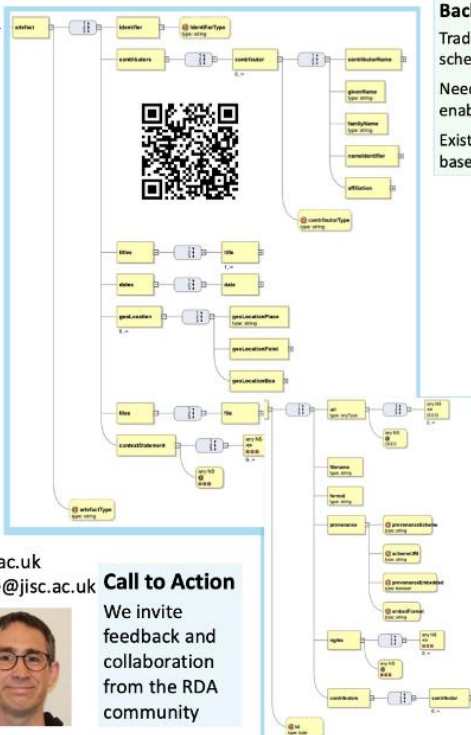
Support for multiple contributor roles and relationships

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Call to Action

We invite
feedback and
collaboration
from the RDA
community



Background & Motivation

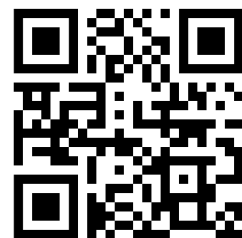
- Traditional repositories and metadata schemas don't effectively support
- Need for standardized approach to enable flexible, non-linear presentation
- Existing infrastructure designed for text-based outputs

Implementation Benefits

- Enhanced visibility and recognition for practice research
- Improved discoverability through standardized metadata
- Better support for non-traditional research outputs
- Seamless integration with existing repository infrastructure
- Flexible structure supporting diverse documentation needs

Future Directions

- Community-driven refinement and expansion
- Integration with metadata standards
- International adoption and standardization



<https://doi.org/10.34737/wxy2x>

PR Voices in Practice



- Repository agnostic schema
 - Highlighting relationships
 - Eliminating 'other'
 - Foregrounding context
-

Schema Fundamentals

Structure, not substance

- Decisions left to implementers

Modelled on existing DataCite schema

- Familiar
- Interoperable
- Already supported



Example XML

```
<portfolioIdentifier identifierType="RAiD">10.80390/180ef9c4</portfolioIdentifier>
```



Based on [DataCite Identifier](#)

Expansive Controlled Lists

Westminster Haplo	Datacite	Schema.org	crossref	CREDIT ROLES	LOC
Actor	ContactPerson	accountablePerson	author	Conceptualization	Abridger [abr]
Animator	DataCollector	acquiredFrom	chair	Data curation	Actor [act]
Author of introduction	DataCurator	actor	editor	Formal Analysis	Adapter [adp]
Author of screenplay	DataManager	agent	reader	Funding acquisition	Addressee [rcp]
Calligrapher	Distributor	alumni	review-assistar	Investigation	Analyst [anl]
Choreographer	Editor	artist	reviewer	Methodology	Animator [anm]
Cinematographer	HostingInstitution	athlete	reviewer-extern	Project administration	Annotator [ann]
Composer	Other	attendee	stats-reviewer	Resources	Announcer [anc]
Conductor	Producer	author	translator	Software	Appellant [apl]
Conference organizer	ProjectLeader	awayTeam		Supervision	Appellee [ape]
Costume designer	ProjectManager	bccRecipient		Validation	Applicant [app]
Curator	ProjectMember	bookingAgent		Visualization	Architect [arc]
Dancer	RegistrationAgency	borrower		Writing – original draft	Arranger [arr]
Designer	RegistrationAuthority	broker		Writing – review & editing	Art copyist [acp]
Director	RelatedPerson	buyer			Art director [adi]
Exhibitor	Researcher	byArtist			Artist [art]
Film editor	ResearchGroup	candidate			Artistic director [ard]
Illustrator	RightsHolder	ccRecipient			Assignee [asg]
Instrumentalist	Sponsor	character			Associated name [asn]
Librettist	Supervisor	children			Attributed name [att]
Lighting designer	WorkPackageLeader	claimInterpreter			Auctioneer [auc]
Lyricist		coach			Audio engineer [aue]
Musician		colleague			Audio producer [aup]
Performer		colorist			Author in quotations or text abstracts [aqt]
Photographer		competitor			Author of afterword, colophon, etc. [aft]
Printmaker		composer			Author of dialog [aud]
Producer		contributor			Author of introduction, etc. [aul]
Production personnel		copyrightHolder			Author [aut]
Programmer		creator			Autographer [ato]
Recording engineer		creditedTo			Bibliographic antecedent [ant]
Reviewer		critic			Book reviewer [brv]



Portfolio Items

Artefact

- A non-text output - often the representation of a physical object.

Event

- ... An event (e.g. an exhibition).

Literature

- A text-based output.

Collection

- An *ordered* list.
-



New/Expanded Fields

Provenance

- Inspired by C2PA
- “An open technical standard providing publishers, creators, and consumers the ability to trace the origin of different types of media.”

Context Statement

- Applies to both portfolio *and* portfolio items
- HTML available for capturing rich content, media, and linking



New/Expanded Fields

Organisational Unit

- Record different types. E.g. school + institution
- Variety of PIDs

Rights

- Portfolio items may have different rights from each other *and* the portfolio metadata



Creator/Contributorship

Current approaches

- Hierarchies of contributorship
- Implicit primacy e.g creator vs contributor

Proposed approach

- Removes implicit primacy
- Allows the complex contributorship to be represented without implicitly or inferred hierarchy or dynamics



Next Steps

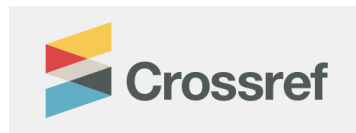
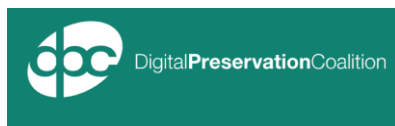
- User-friendly schema docs
- Living example



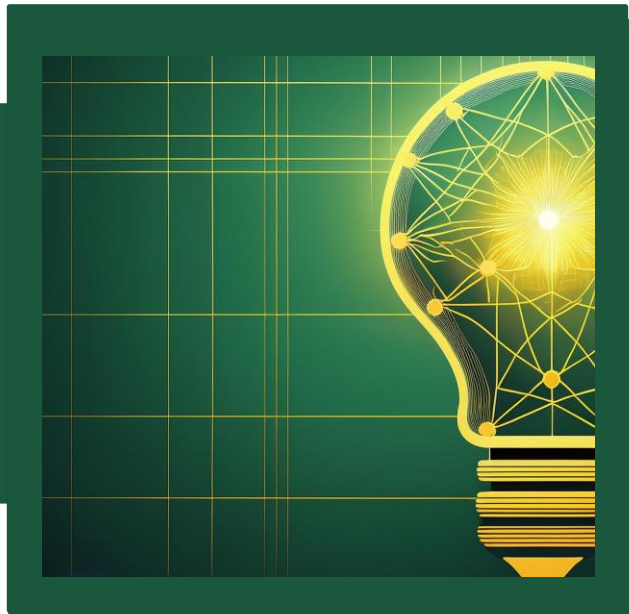
Co-design with (not at) communities

Each has their own focus and mission

Digital Curation Centre



Call to Action: Join us at RDA



BoF: Infrastructure for Non Traditional Research Outputs (NTROs) and Process Interest Group



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE
24th Plenary Meeting
VIRTUAL

Data for Emerging Technologies

Jenny Evans, University of Westminster, UK
Andrew S. Hoffman, Leiden University, NL
Robin Burgess, Australian Research Data Commons
Adam Vials Moore, Jisc, UK



Thank you!

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