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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."

Bulley, James and Şahin, Özden. *Practice Research - Report 1: What is practice research?* P1. London: PRAG-UK, 2021. https://doi.org/10.23636/1347

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

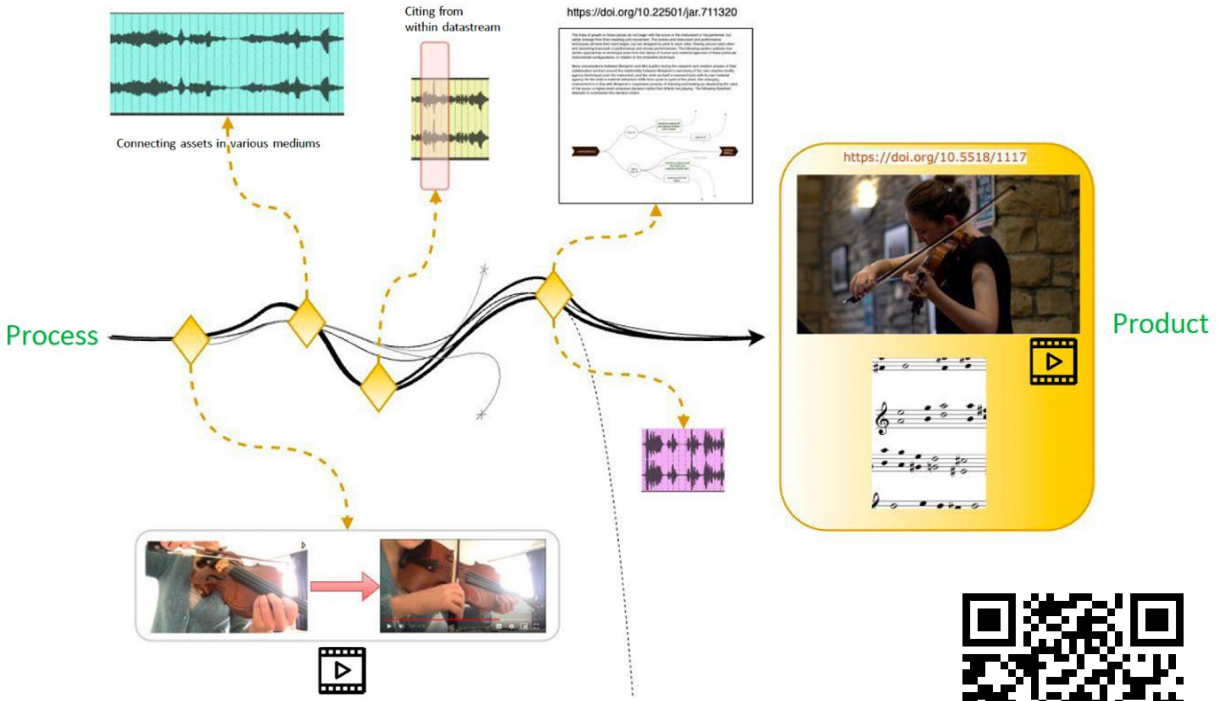
- Non-text (and focus on format e.g sound, video, audio)
- Time based and/or change over time
- Range of files which are closed and/or open
- Representation of performance or other live event
- FAIR data sharing more appropriate that Open Access
- Intellectual property and rights determine levels of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

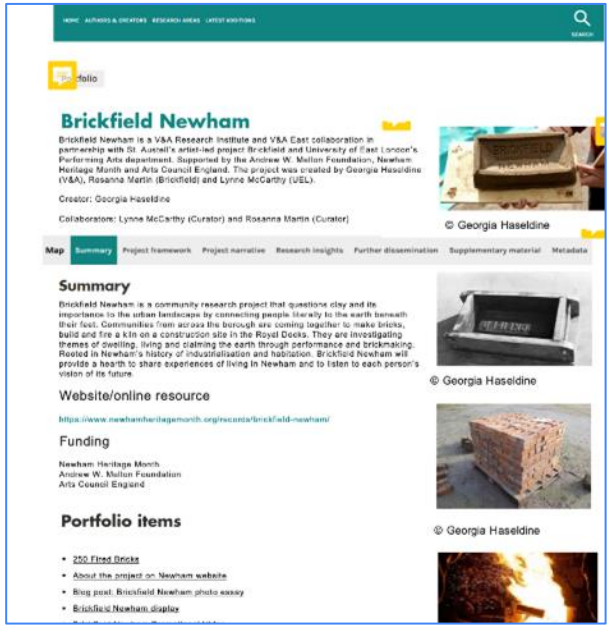
- Process as significant as end product
- Can be linear or non-linear
- Research element embodied in the work or needs evidencing by a narrative
- Remediation of an event
- Context and relationships need describing
- Range of contributors including collaborators (and their rights) to be recognised
-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



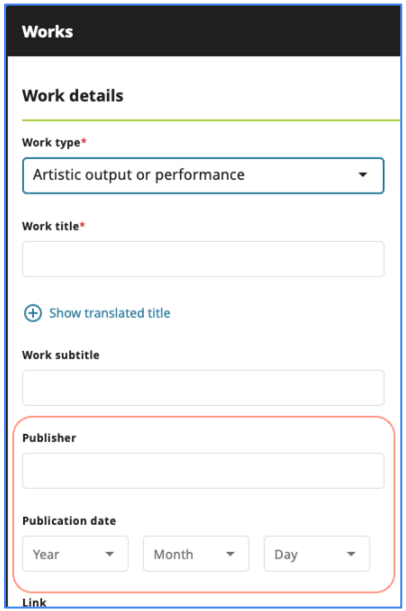
Scott McLaughlin, University of Leeds

https://doi.org/10.25398/rd.northumbria.22269343.v1

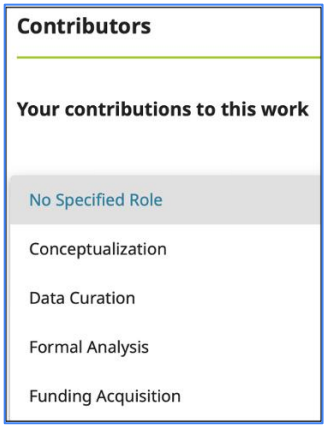
Metadata and standards that reflect the richness of practice research and its contributors will benefit all research



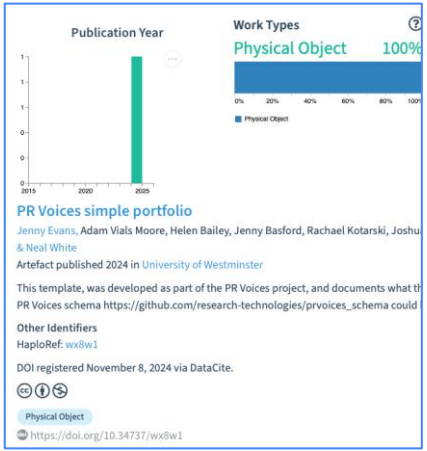
Extract from PR Voices simple portfolio
https://doi.org/10.34737/wx8w1



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



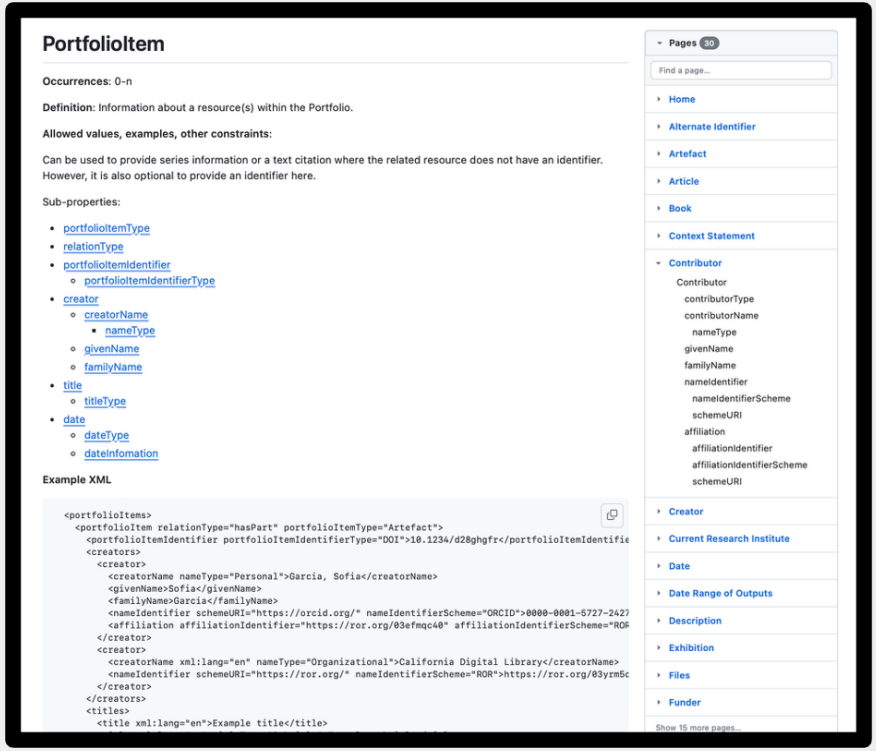
How can we better capture a broader range of contributorship?



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

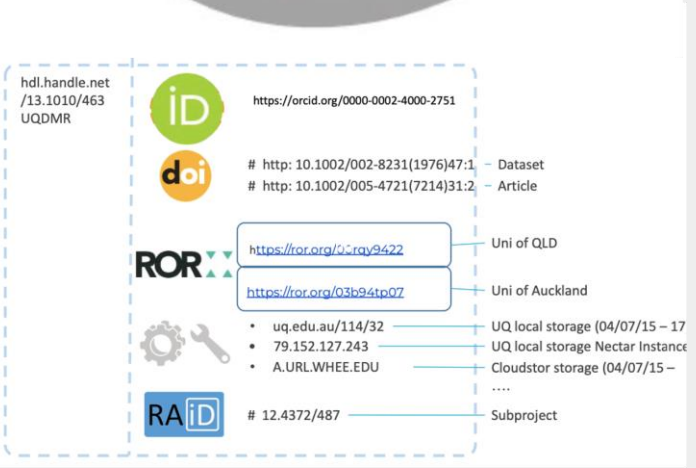


PR Voices schema based on PR Voices project work and informed by SPARKLE

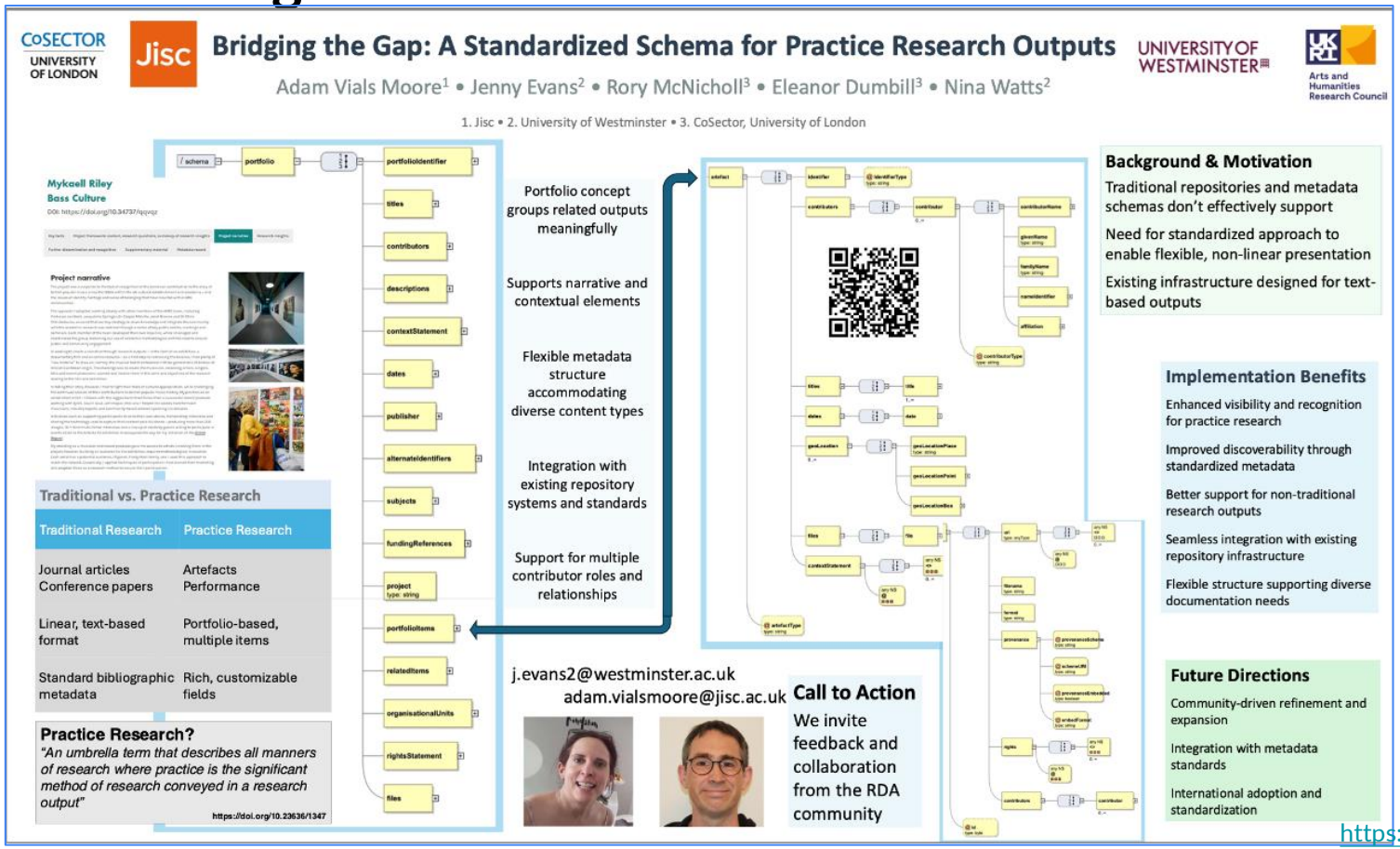
The Research Activity Identifier (RAiD)

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.



Introducing the PR Voices schema



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

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-exterr	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]
Instrumentallist	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. [aui]
Production personnel		copyrightHolder			Author [aut]
Programmer		creator			Autographer [ato]
Recording engineer		creditedTo			Bibliographic antecedent [ant]

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

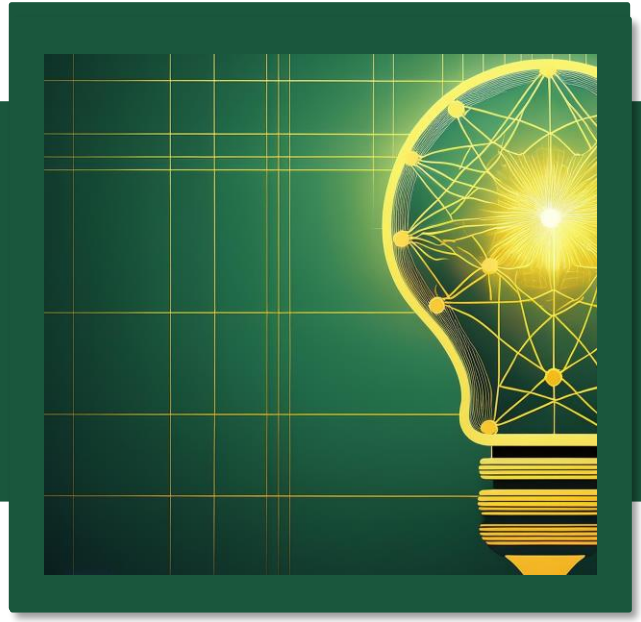
- Removes implicity primacy
- Allows the complex contributorship to be represented without implicitly or inferred hierarchy or dynamics

Next Steps

- User-friendly schema docs
- Living example

Co-design with (not at) communities
Each has their own focus and mission

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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