

*Pitching for PIDs:*

## European support for a sustainable PID infrastructure

### Avoiding a PIDfall

As librarians we know how important persistent identifiers are. We want open linked and relevant content in dynamic infrastructures. We want to know who is the creator, contributor, curator, or author of these resources, and we want to know at which institute (s)he resides, who funded the project etc..

Preferably we want to make especially visible our “own” output (i.e., from creators and contributors of our own institute), and as a true library we want our students, research and teaching staff to be able to find what they need seamlessly, and with the lowest cost or effort possible.

The more open and interlinked our scientific and scholarly content is, the easier everybody, whether citizen, student, researcher or in industry, may access and interact with the content, improve their own knowledge, innovate and help address the challenges of our societies and planet.

To create this open FAIR world, we need trusted and persistent identifiers at the global level. This is why the TechLib group of technical libraries helped DataCite grow from seven founding members representing their countries to become a global membership organisation with members in more than 40 countries.

Likewise ORCID was launched as membership organisation for research institutions. For an open FAIR world, more PIDs are needed: Research organisations, research infrastructures, instruments, research events/conferences etc.. We strongly believe that these PID-services should remain rooted in the research community. However, there’s little chance that every library or datacentre or institute will be able to become a paying member of so many PID-organisations. The membership-based organisations ORCID and DataCite are already experiencing financial challenges, therefore more memberships do not seem to be the way forward.

Since most big publishers have a strong financial position, it is relatively easy for them to extend the CrossRef services and economy. Reversely the community-controlled initiatives suffer from fragmentation and a difficulty in obtaining the necessary economic basis.

Thus, we suggest the creation of an overarching European PID sustainability initiative. We think this is well aligned with the mission of the EOSC, of Plan S, and other EU initiatives to facilitate truly FAIR and Open Science.

Therefore, we ask the EOSC to support this and ask all European participants in the PID initiatives to work together and with EOSC to avoid a scattered and unsustainable landscape of PIDs.

Let’s avoid a PIDfall, and work towards a joint European action for a sustainable and global PID infrastructure.

TechLib libraries

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