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Persistent Identifiers and DOIs

Persistent identifiers are a way of maintaining a permanent link to a digital object. They should be persistently actionable, and unlike hyperlinks or permalinks they should continue to provide access to the object, even if the object moves servers, or moves to the responsibility of a different organisation. The use of persistent identifiers allows researchers and scholars to cite digital objects in their work, and ensures that these citations remain correct and accessible. Persistent identifiers facilitate easy dissemination and reuse of data, allow the use and impact of data to be tracked, and create a structure that recognises and rewards data producers. In the Digital Repository of Ireland, the digital object which is referred to by the persistent identifier includes both the descriptive metadata and the asset file (for example text, image, video or audio files).

The DRI uses the DataCite service to both mint and store the DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for ingested digital objects (1). Once a digital object is

published in the Repository a DOI is minted, and represents a persistent global identifier for that object (2). The DOI will be of the form 10.7486/XXXXX, where 10.7486 is the DRI prefix, and the suffix represents the item identifier (3).

A DOI is actionable, which means it takes the form of a link that connects to the object. This is done through a DOI resolver service. An actionable link for a DOI is in the form: <https://doi.org/10.7486/XXXXX>

In order to mint a DOI, DataCite requires a set of mandatory metadata fields to be included in the request. These fields map to the mandatory DRI metadata fields (see below).

When minted, these DOI metadata fields will be available and searchable in the DataCite Metadata Store. The DOI will also be clickable and must resolve to an open, web-accessible page. For DRI this will normally be the object's display page in the Repository. In the unlikely event of a digital object being removed from public view, a landing page is still accessible from the DOI and the metadata associated with the DOI remains publicly available.

DataCite Property	DRI Data Model
Identifier	DOI
Creator	Creator
Title	Title
Publisher	"Digital Repository of Ireland"
Publication Year	Year of publication in the Repository

If you change any of these fields, a new DOI will be minted. If you go to the original landing field, it will direct you to the new DOI, see for example <https://doi.org/10.7486/DRI.rj43ck402> and <https://doi.org/10.7486/DRI.rj43ck402-1>. You should ensure that these metadata fields are correct before you publish, to avoid unnecessary DOI changes.

¹ <https://www.datacite.org> (accessed 21 April 2021)

² <http://doi.org> (accessed 21 April 2021)

³ <https://mds.datacite.org> (accessed 21 April 2021)