

CESSDA ERIC Persistent Identifier Policy

22 November 2017

Version 1.0

<https://doi.org/10.18448/16.0040>



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

Introduction

The persistent identification of CESSDA Service Providers' (CESSDA SP) data holdings has been on the agenda for several years and requires on-going attention. The ability to easily locate and access digital resources and then associate them with the related metadata is essential to allow for the citation, retrieval and preservation of those data. Therefore, for research infrastructures such as CESSDA ERIC, there has to be a clear policy with respect to persistent and unique identifiers which provide value to researchers, and are practical to implement across the CESSDA SP without altering local practices significantly.

The CESSDA ERIC Persistent Identifier Policy is intended to support the aims of locating, discovering, referencing, identifying and citing CESSDA SP' data holdings. It serves as a basis for a common approach to the use of Persistent Identifier services across the CESSDA SP. The policy contains requirements regarding the use of Persistent Identifiers to which the CESSDA SP must adhere to.

The principles of the PID Policy are aligned with the CESSDA ERIC Statutes and the CESSDA ERIC Data Access Policy.

This policy framework covers the general principles for the use of Persistent Identifiers (PID) across CESSDA SP and contains Best Practice Guidelines. The Best Practice Guidelines serve to provide additional information and guidance on the use and implementation of PID (<https://doi.org/10.18448/16.0041>). It provides further guidance on key strategic issues related to the PID Policy (e.g. granularity, versioning, etc.).

CESSDA Persistent Identifier Policy

PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 – Identifying

Each CESSDA SP shall use globally unique and persistent identifiers to identify their data holdings, which are of interest to CESSDA.

Principle 2 – Locating

All data holdings of each CESSDA SP shall be findable by their global PID via the Internet.

Principles 3 – Resolving

CESSDA SP shall use global PID services that ensure 24/7 resolvability of PID.

Principles 4 – Referencing and Citation

PID need to be used to ensure referencing and citation of the data holdings of each CESSDA SP.

Principle 5 – Visibility

PID must be included in the resource-discovery metadata provided by CESSDA SP for the Product and Service Catalogue (PaSC).

Principle 6 – Flexibility

This Policy shall be reviewed at least every two years and adjusted according to the latest strategic and technological developments within and outside of CESSDA.

Definitions

Unique identifiers are unique on a global scale, allowing large numbers of unique identifiers.

Persistent identifiers resolve as HTTP URIs with support for content negotiation, and these HTTP URIs should be persistent.

Data holdings: Data collections which the CESSDA SP is responsible for.

References

Annex to the CESSDA Statutes:

<https://www.cessda.eu/content/download/316/2908/file/Annexes-to-Statutes-for-CESSDA-210213-Final-Version-brand.pdf>

CESSDA Persistent Identification Task Force.

<https://www.cessda.eu/Consortium/Communication/News/CESSDA/CESSDA-Persistent-Identification-Task-Force-established>

CESSDA Persistent Identifier Policy. Best Practice Guidelines. July 2017.

<https://doi.org/10.....>

Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives. Statutes for CESSDA. Version 1. Bergen, 18 June 2013. <http://cessda.eu/content/download/89/473/file/Statutes-for-CESSDA.pdf>

Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives. CESSDA Data Access Policy. Bergen, June 2016

<https://www.cessda.eu/content/download/963/8608/file/CESSDA%20Data%20Access%20Policy.pdf>

Background Notes

Within the framework of the pre-allocated Task on PID [Annex #6 to Statutes for CESSDA], GESIS did extensive desk research and conducted two different kinds of data collections in 2015 – a quantitative online questionnaire survey and qualitative expert interviews. They resulted in a) an overview of the CESSDA PID use, b) the needs of different CESSDA SP given the differing PID systems, as well as c) other CESSDA PID Policy aspects that need to be considered.

The survey period for the quantitative online questionnaire was from October 8th 2015 to November 30th 2015. The questionnaire of the quantitative survey built on the DASISH¹ and DwB2 projects' previous efforts and was intended to determine the current practices of PID usage within CESSDA and the demands from the CESSDA SP at that time concerning the CESSDA PID Policy and PID systems in general. The qualitative expert interviews were conducted from October 19th 2015 to November 13th 2015. GESIS interviewed three different PID experts (DANS, SND and da|ra) from CESSDA whose institutes act as a service provider for PID.

The results of the data collection served as a basis for the "Workshop on Persistent Identification within CESSDA", held on February 18th-19th 2016 in Cologne, Germany³.

Matthew Woollard (UK Data Archive / Data Service) commented on the drafted policy principles in November 2016 and again on the amended policy as well as the Best Practice Guidelines in June 2017. Those comments were integrated in the new existing documents.

The drafted policy was presented and discussed with the CESSDA SP during the webinar "The CESSDA Persistent Identifier Policy" on 29 June 2017. The participants of the webinar got the chance to ask questions and give feedback to the PID policy as well as the according Best Practice Guidelines. The feedback was considered by the PID Task Force and the documents were amended accordingly.

The policy was approved by the CESSDA ERIC General Assembly on 22 November 2017.

Acknowledgements

This document was compiled by the CESSDA PID Task Force:

Brigitte Hausstein (lead) and Kerrin Borschewski (both from GESIS),

Birger Jerlehag (SND), René van Horik and Lilian van der Vaart (both from DANS).

The work has been supported by CESSDA since 2015.

¹ <http://dasish.eu/>

² <http://www.dwbproject.org/>

³ <https://www.cessda.eu/Consortium/Communication/News/CESSDA/CESSDA-Persistent-Identification-Task-Force-established>