

Persistent Identifiers for Facilities

24th Plenary Meeting Collaborative Notes

Group(s) name(s) organising the session: Working with PIDs in Tools IG and Persistent Identification of Instruments WG

Session link:

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/working-pids-tools-ig/plenary-participation/?application_id=174633

Session scheduled date/time/breakout session: 08.04.2025, Breakout 4, 14:00 UTC

Slides:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TqkntzRQwC3awQ_4AesGPLcjNnuRy16H?usp=sharing

Session summary (for Group co-chairs)

We will use the content in the table below to highlight your work to the RDA community as a report organised by the Technical Advisory Board.

Please complete ALL fields below by **Friday 25th April, close of business** to be included in the report & social media activities.

Summarise your session in three sentences:
<i>We continued the discussion from the last plenary on the question what PID type would be suitable for the identification of facilities. It was apparent that the term “facility” is used for different concepts in different communities. There is no one size fits all answer to the initial question, it depends on what we mean with “facility”.</i>
Key outcomes/actions/takeaways
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The answer to the appropriate PID type depends on the semantic of “facility”.</i> <i>2. Still, some guidelines might be helpful. There might be some follow-on activity to formulate them.</i>
Synergies and/or possible collaborations identified with RDA groups and other groups:

Get involved in [RDA Community](#)

This meeting will take place according to the [RDA Code of Conduct](#)

Attendee Check-in

Please complete this table to indicate your attendance (add rows as needed):

Full Name	Affiliation	Location	Email
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Francoise Genova	Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg	Strasbourg, France	francoise.genova@astro.unistra.fr
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Matt Mayernik	NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research	Boulder, CO, USA	mayernik@ucar.edu
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Rolf Krahl	Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie	Berlin, Germany	rolf.krahl@helmholtz-berlin.de

Agenda

1. Welcome and Intro – Rolf Krahl (5 min.)
2. What do we mean by a “facility”? Prepared contributions:
 - 2.1. Instruments/equipment and facilities from data management automation tools perspective – Marek Cebecauer (10 min.)
 - 2.2. FAIR Facilities and Instruments Project – Matt Mayernik (10 min.)
 - 2.3. Synchrotron Light Sources and Reactors: Large Scale Facilities for the Research with Photons and Neutrons – Rolf Krahl (10 min.)
3. Discussion – all (45 min.)
4. Conclusion: are we able to give a recommendation? – all (10 min.)

Collaborative Session Notes *(To be used by participants and chairs during the session)*

Instruments/equipment and facilities from data management automation tools perspective – Marek Cebecauer.

- Presenting experience from the Czech research environment: research infrastructures consist of facilities, which are used by researchers from different institutions. There are also core facilities in the universities and research institutes, which are not part of large research infrastructures.
- Users approach facilities in a rather administrative way. To get access to instruments in the facility.
- Facilities could be referred to with ROR id.
- But usually ROR relates to the institution hosting the facility and not the facility itself. (Marek: I did not say exactly this. ROR metadata model is probably not ideal for facilities).

Future insight:

- In case of large platforms, detectors can be considered as instruments (not the beam source). Facility operates the whole platform which includes the beam source ? (e.g., a laser, laser = facility, detector = instrument)

FAIR Facilities and Instruments Project – Matt Mayernik

- Facilities = platform carrying many instruments, in this case.
- RRID: Research Resource Identifiers (initially mostly biomedical applications)
- Use DOIs for bespoke or unique instruments.
- ROR doesn't implement traceability?

- Request to reach out to ROR to update their information.
<https://github.com/ror-community/ror-updates/issues>

Synchrotron Light Sources and Reactors: Large Scale Facilities for the Research with Photons and Neutrons – Rolf Krahl

- Organisation operate facilities, facilities has instrument components
- Detectors are instruments inside instruments.
- Facility provides services ? (or rather is it the operator organisation?)
- PIDINST should be applicable.

Marek: Scientist use “instrument” rather than “facility”

Siobhann: in some communities, instruments are people, facility are groups of people.

Baptiste Cecconi – Side note (from Space physics domain):

- SPASE model (<https://spase-group.org/data/index.html>)
 - **Instrument**: A device that is used to sense and parameterize a physical phenomenon.
 - **Observatory**: The host (spacecraft, network, facility) for instruments making observations.
 - Main conceptual difference:
 - Instrument metadata is related to the type of parameters that are measured
 - Observatory metadata is related to the location of the facility.
 - Both concepts can be grouped if needed (instrument groups are instruments, and observatory groups are observatories)
 - `spase:Observatory == facility`
 - `spase:Instrument == instrument`

Type of PID is not so important if we want to build a knowledge graph. But different metadata => interoperability issue. Possibly define an application profile ? and explain what PID should be used in which context, and how to map PID metadata.

Zoom chat message:

16:00:45 De Rolf Krahl (HZB) à Tout le monde:

Collaborative Notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10gTUhWK3umLmjGPhmUaQzMsgFmHw2dUm/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104358842683409363823&rtpof=true&sd=true>

16:10:19 De Parul Tewatia à Tout le monde:

Do we have any meeting notes?

16:10:47 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10gTUhWK3umLmjGPhmUaQzMsgFmHw2dUm/edit>

Parul Tewatia: 👍

16:15:32 De Parul Tewatia à Tout le monde:

Facilities usually are part of big institutes which have ROR id, so can these have ROR.

I.e. ROR within ROR?

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:16:04 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":
yes, departments within universities can have RORs

16:16:10 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":
This is the way we have been using them in Australia.

16:17:45 De Tristan Kuehn à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":
This is always a point of confusion for me. The ROR FAQ explicitly lists "departments within organizations" as out of scope for ROR:
<https://ror.org/about/faqs/#is-my-organization-in-scope-for-ror>

In practice that doesn't really seem to be the case, though

16:18:14 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":



16:18:22 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":
Yes, that information does seem to be out of date. We had good discussions with ROR about the Australian use and they were fine with it

Jakub Šindelář, Parul Tewatia: 👍

16:18:33 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":
But the info needs updating...

16:21:29 De Tristan Kuehn à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

The "criteria for inclusion" is a little more equivocal ("ROR is not focused on mapping departments within institutions, though some sub-units such as research institutes and laboratories are in scope."): <https://ror.org/registry/#scope-and-criteria-for-inclusion>

Would love to see more up-to-date guidance on this topic -- your info on Australian use is helpful to know

Jakub Šindelář, Parul Tewatia: 👍
Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:23:25 De Kosuke Tanabe (NIMS) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

Oh, I didn't know ROR already supported sub-organizations

<https://ror.org/blog/2023-02-27-parents-children-and-other-relationships-in-ror/>

Tristan Kuehn, Jakub Šindelář: 👍

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her), Oscar Migueles: 👍

16:23:48 De Parul Tewatia à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

@Kosuke Tanabe (NIMS) this is interesting

16:24:52 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

@Tristan Kuehn We have an Australasian best practice doc for Instrument PIDs and will look at extending it with more recommendations around facilities etc

Happy to share

16:25:36 De Parul Tewatia à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

I would love to have a look since we are now working on integrated data systems for all facilities here

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:26:31 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Q: how have funders responded to these recommendations?

Kosuke Tanabe (NIMS): 👍

16:27:08 De Tristan Kuehn à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Facilities usually are part of big institutes whic...":

Yes, I'd be interested in seeing that. My email is in the meeting notes if you need it.

Thanks!

16:27:19 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

same question with publishers ? so they plan to implement PID for instruments in the DOI metadata they produce ?

Tristan Kuehn: 👍

16:28:46 De matt mayernik à Tout le monde:

FAIR Facilities and Instruments Workshop #3, Sept 2025, Boulder, CO. Expression of Interest form: <https://tinyurl.com/FacInst-PIDs-2025>

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her), Jakub Šindelář, Baptiste Cecconi, Parul Tewatia: 👍

16:29:08 De matt mayernik à Tout le monde:

Project website: <https://ncar.github.io/FAIR-Facilities-Instruments/>

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her), Jakub Šindelář, Parul Tewatia: 👍

16:31:18 De Parul Tewatia à Tout le monde:

I would have to leave now thanks

16:34:03 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

I think this is perhaps a discipline specific issue? It still works for us if facility/organisation is interchanged.

16:36:50 De Oscar Migueles à Tout le monde:

I would say that organisations provide the necessary infrastructure so that facilities can provide services. But is not an easy thing to describe, I agree.

16:42:09 De Sandi Caldroni à Tout le monde:

you could argue that services are provided by people affiliated with organizations operating in a facility

16:45:03 De Marek Cebecauer à Tout le monde:

Replying to "you could argue that services are provided by peop...":

Thanks for your comment. Services in a facility do not have always to be provided by people affiliated with the organisation operating the facility. These relations can be complicated.

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:49:31 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

That idea of location is really interesting!

16:50:46 De Marek Cebecauer à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":

But the plane Matt was showing or satellites and ships do not have a location :-)

16:50:58 De Lindsey Anderson (PNNL) à Tout le monde:

Is there a time when an organization (operating the instrument within the facility) is not the owner of the instrument and the facility? Maybe designating between who (organization) is the “owner” and who (organization) is the “operator” would be good. I think using ROR for both would make sense. In the use-case of my own, the location does matter and there is a difference between owner and operator.

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:51:05 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
yes, they do. varying, but they do.

Marek Cebecauer: 👍

16:51:39 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
and there platform associated data for varying location.

Marek Cebecauer, Jakub Šindelář: 👍

16:52:21 De Françoise Genova à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
The facility may also be a network of Distributed instruments. The location would be the administrative address

Marek Cebecauer: 👍

16:52:38 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
or rather a set of locations

16:53:00 De Marek Cebecauer à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
that's about the hierarchy

16:53:38 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
administrative address would rather be attached to the operator organisation

16:54:09 De Françoise Genova à Tout le monde:

Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
yes, hence ROR :)

Marek Cebecauer: 😊

16:54:13 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:
Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
yes

16:54:28 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:
Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
for the organisation operating the facility

16:55:12 De Françoise Genova à Tout le monde:
Replying to "That idea of location is really interesting!":
Yes, and hierarchised PIDINSTs for all what is Inside the organisation

16:55:32 De Emanuel Soeding à Tout le monde:
Facilities are obviously something in between Instruments, People and Organizations, depending on the setting. We have PIDs for all these concepts. Wouldn't it be better to modify fields within these PID types, to be able to identify facilities within them?
Siobhann McCafferty (she/her), Baptiste Cecconi: 👍

16:55:41 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:
Replying to "Is there a time when an organization (operating th...":
usually I'd say the facility is owned by the operating organisation, but not the instrument. Often the instruments are owned by other organisations than the facility organisation .

16:56:26 De Amy Nurnberger à Tout le monde:
The return on investment metrics is so important to our facilities, and this must be separate from the parent organization
Marek Cebecauer, Françoise Genova, Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

16:58:04 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
Agree Marek. Always good to go back to use case
Amy Nurnberger: 👍
Sandi Caldron: 👍

16:58:10 De Françoise Genova à Tout le monde:
Replying to "The return on investment metrics is so important t...":
This means that the facility should have its own PID, but linked to the organisation's.
The organisation also needs to track the facilities it is responsible for

17:01:03 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
Very good point!

17:01:11 De Marek Cebecauer à Tout le monde:
We should define the concept(s) in schema.org and DCAT-AP profile pointing to it.
Baptiste Cecconi: 👍

17:07:59 De Rolf Krahl (HZB) à Tout le monde:
Collaborative Notes:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10gTUhWK3umLmjGPhmUaQzMsgFmHw2dUm/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104358842683409363823&rtpof=true&sd=true>

17:09:39 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
Great idea

17:11:47 De matt mayernik à Tout le monde:
https://www.pidwijzer.nl/en/pid_results/new

17:12:50 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
<https://www.morebrains.coop/>

17:13:14 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
<https://resources.morebrains.coop/pidcycle/>

17:14:42 De Lindsey Anderson (PNNL) à Tout le monde:
These are interesting, thank you

17:15:48 De Andrea Davanzo (DMPonline) à Tout le monde:
but also what we want to identify
Lindsey Anderson (PNNL), Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

17:17:53 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:
I volunteer to help with this

17:18:19 De Andrea Davanzo (DMPonline) à Tout le monde:
I am on board
Siobhann McCafferty (she/her), Emanuel Soeding: 👍

17:21:53 De Baptiste Cecconi à Tout le monde:
You can count on 1 participant from Observatoire de Paris (but it may not be me)
Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

17:24:15 De matt mayernik à Tout le monde:

Our project team would also be interested in being involved in next steps.

17:25:00 De Francoise Genova à Tout le monde:

This means that all the people interested have to join the WG

17:24:59 De Lindsey Anderson (PNNL) à Tout le monde:

Has there been any cross discussion with the other RDA PID-based groups that are active right now?

17:26:34 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Replying to "Has there been any cross discussion with the other...":
In the National PID Strategy for sure.

17:26:47 De Francoise Genova à Tout le monde:

to join the WG

<https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/persistent-identification-instruments-wg/activity>

17:26:51 De Lindsey Anderson (PNNL) à Tout le monde:

Those who created the meeting should get a transcript from the chat...

17:27:38 De Siobhann McCafferty (she/her) à Tout le monde:

Thanks all - great session!

17:27:41 De Kosuke Tanabe (NIMS) à Tout le monde:

Thank you for hosting this great session. Although I'm about to add DOIs to research instruments in our institute, it is definitely true that researchers identify facilities by admin units. I will talk to our researchers and engineers again about further PID implementation

Siobhann McCafferty (she/her): 👍

17:27:45 De Amélie Fiocca à Tout le monde:

Thank you :)

17:27:51 De Josefine Nordling à Tout le monde:

Thank you, very interesting!

17:27:52 De Lindsey Anderson (PNNL) à Tout le monde:

Thank you!

17:28:06 De Emanuel Soeding à Tout le monde:

Thank you everyone. Very enlightening!

17:28:17 De Jerome Pansanel à Tout le monde:

Thank you very much for this interesting session!

17:28:18 De Lassi Lager (CSC) à Tout le monde:

Thank you!

17:28:21 De matt mayernik à Tout le monde:

Thank you for the great discussion!

17:28:24 De Andrea Davanzo (DMPonline) à Tout le monde:

thank you very much

17:28:25 De Tristan Kuehn à Tout le monde:

Thank you!

17:28:25 De Majid Ounsy à Tout le monde:

Thanks Rolf for the interesting topic