DRAFT Leftover FAQs

Who is using ARKs?

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What are usage trends for ARKs, DOIs, Handles, PURLs, and URNs?

As of 2019, purely on an incomplete and anecdotal level, here are a few trends that have been observed.

- ARKs have seen broad adoption in cultural memory institutions – museums, archives, and libraries. There is strong adoption in France and francophone regions.
- DOIs until recently have mostly been known as reliable identifiers for scientific and scholarly literature, when in fact this applies to a subset of DOIs assigned via Crossref. What it means to be a DOI is becoming harder to pin down because DOIs are being assigned to datasets, data management plans, field stations, etc. via DataCite, as well as to movies (eg, "Kung Fu Panda") via EIDR. Having said that, Crossref and DataCite DOIs have been successful in creating tools and services for scholarly publishers.
- PURLs have seen lots of use in identifying metadata vocabulary and ontology terms.

I've heard of ORCIDs, RORs, and UUIDs – where do they fit in?

Those are special kinds of persistent identifiers. ORCIDs (Open Researcher and Contributor Identifiers) only identify researchers, and they link to research works using ARKs, DOIs, etc. ORCIDs look like

    https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7604-8041

ROR (Research Organization Registry) identifiers designate organizations. For example, here's the California Digital Library:

    https://ror.org/03yrm5c26

UUIDs are globally unique, 37-character strings that are easy for software to generate but only become usable as web addresses when made part of a URL, for example, in this ARK:

    https://somehost.example.com/3c2e39526-e0c3-41ae-be4f-07558a9458eb

While embedding a UUID in an ordinary URL makes it *actionable* ("clickable"), you could expect more if it were embedded in an ARK such as

    https://n2t.net/ark:/65665/3c2e39526-e0c3-41ae-be4f-07558a9458eb

As an ARK, for example, that UUID should return metadata (if available) and be insensitive to the hyphens, making this form equally viable:

    https://n2t.net/ark:/65665/3c2e39526e0c341aebe4f07558a9458eb