



EZID

Long-term identifiers made easy

<http://n2t.net/ezid>

EZID (ee-zee-eye-dee) is a service that makes it simple for digital object producers (researchers and others) to obtain and manage long-term identifiers for their digital content. You can assign identifiers to anything: scientific datasets, technical reports, audio files, digital photographs, and non-digital objects as well.

Why use EZID?

EZID helps you to take control of the management and distribution of your research, share and get credit for it, and build your reputation through its collection and documentation. EZID makes objects easier to access, re-use and verify. As a result, it also makes it easier to build on previous work, to conduct new research, and avoid duplicating previous efforts.

Who can use EZID?

EZID is available to the UC community.

What are appropriate disciplines?

All disciplines can benefit from using EZID. EZID transcends domain boundaries and is applicable to the sciences, humanities and the social sciences.

What kind of digital content is appropriate?

EZID will work with a range of object types including numerical data, images (e.g. photos, diagram, graphs), text sequences, text (e.g. field notes, technical reports, descriptions), digital audio, digital video, modeling data, as well as physical fossils, vocabulary terms, living beings and more.

Does EZID cost anything?

EZID itself doesn't cost anything to use. If you choose to register a DOI, after a certain point in time, there will be a fee associated with this particular type of identifier. More details about this will be available in advance of this change.

Where should I store my datasets and other resources? Does an institution have to have an institutional repository in order to use EZID?

You may store your objects anywhere, including but not exclusively, at a local institutional repository. If your institution does not have a local repository and you would like to consult with us about storage, please contact us. We will be glad to help.

Who provides support for EZID?

EZID was developed and is supported by the UC Curation Center (UC3). See <http://www.cdlib.org/uc3>.

Understanding identifiers

An identifier is an association between a character string and an item. Items can be objects, files, parts of files, names of persons, organizations, etc. Character strings include URLs, serial numbers, names, addresses, etc. A **persistent identifier** or **long-term identifier** is an identifier that is available and managed over time and allows an item to be uniquely identified in a way that will not change if the item is moved or renamed. This means that an item can be reliably referenced for future access by humans and software.

DOI stands for "**Digital Object Identifier**." It is an identifier originating from the publishing world and in widespread use for journal articles. DOIs become persistent when the objects and identifier forwarding information is maintained.

ARK stands for "**Archival Resource Key**." It is an identifier originating from the library, archive and museum community. ARKs become persistent when the objects and identifier forwarding information is maintained.



EZID makes your work *easier*

Assisting data intensive research

You **do data-intensive research** and write papers based on it. You want to refer to the dataset right now even though you haven't yet found a permanent "home" for the data. (It's still on your desktop.) Register the dataset now with EZID! You'll get a clickable reference you can use in your paper. You're just starting to build a second dataset, and you use EZID to get a preservation-ready identifier for it even before you have any data. When your papers are published and you move your data, you can update the metadata associated with the permanent ID, and the clickable reference will still work. When a paper begins to get cited by others, even if you move the data again, as long as you update the metadata again, the clickable reference will always work!

Helping a research team

You are part of a **research team** studying language change. You work with a regional humanities research center where a data federation is hosted. The center's data services harvest metadata from your database. Right now, your database is stored on your departmental web server, but the server is getting old, and your chairman has announced that the department is moving all data storage to "cloud storage." You can use the EZID services to register an identifier now and circulate that clickable address to your colleagues and to the entire data federation. When your department completes its transition to the cloud, you use EZID again to update the location details so that references to your database continues to work perfectly.

Facilitating data publication

You are a molecular biology researcher/educator who has published extensively in the field. You use the EZID services to allocate identifiers to your work, the datasets that accompany and inform your **published articles**. You are planning an exit strategy and go into research full time in private industry, with a genetic engineering firm that has made you a generous offer. You plan to move your datasets with you. You use the EZID services again to update the location details, and there is no interruption of access to your data via the original identifiers.

Managing the output of a grant?

You have received a **research grant** from the National Science Foundation. As part of your grant requirements, you must submit a formal data management plan. The data management plan will save you time and resources in the long run and ensure that your data will be usable in the future. A key component of the plan is naming and organizing your files, and EZID services can help you. Register your files with EZID from the beginning. As your work progresses, if you need to move your files, as long as you update the metadata, the clickable references will continue to work.

Who do I contact to use EZID?

University of California Curation Center

Patricia Cruse
Director
UC Curation Center
510/987-9016
patricia.cruse@ucop.edu

Joan Starr
EZID Service Manager and
Manager of Strategic & Project Planning
510/987-0469
joan.starr@ucop.edu

Campus Contact

name
title
institution
Phone number
email

name
title
institution
Phone number
email

UC Curation Center, California Digital Library,
University of California, 415 20th Street, Oakland, CA 94612
Tel 510/987-0078 • Fax 510/987-6432 • uc3@cdlib.org