

PIDA: A lightweight PID service for sustainable findability of digital assets on the web

Web addresses and the stability of established links on the web can decay over time, for example, if a digital resource is moved to another location or when the domain name of an organization changes. This poses a large findability issue: in the case of the above, digital assets, even though links were previously well established, would effectively not be findable anymore. This problem can be mitigated by using persistent identifiers (PIDs). Instead of pointing directly to the location of an internet resource, a PID points to an intermediate resolution service. The resolution service associates the PID with the actual URL of the resource and returns that location to the client. The client can then complete the transaction. When the web address of a digital resource changes, this can be easily updated in the resolution service, all PIDs remain intact and functional, and the resource remains accessible.

In this work, we present PIDA (Persistent Identifiers for Digital Assets), a lightweight service by HMC providing unique persistent URLs (PURLs) for referencing digital assets on the web, including articles, datasets, videos, persons, or organizations. Using PURLs from PIDA ensures that digital assets remain findable and can be accessed reliably by both humans and machines in the long term. PIDA provides content negotiation for use in semantic web contexts (e.g. for ontology development). HMC is committed to keeping operating and maintaining PIDA as one of its services for the upcoming 10+ years. Get your PIDA PURL at <https://purls.helmholtz-metadaten.de/>

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Primary authors: FATHALLA, Said; Prof. SANDFELD, Stefan (Institute for Advanced Simulation –Materials Data Science and Informatics (IAS-9); Forschungszentrum Jülich, Jülich, Germany.); HOFMANN, Volker

Presenter: FATHALLA, Said

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