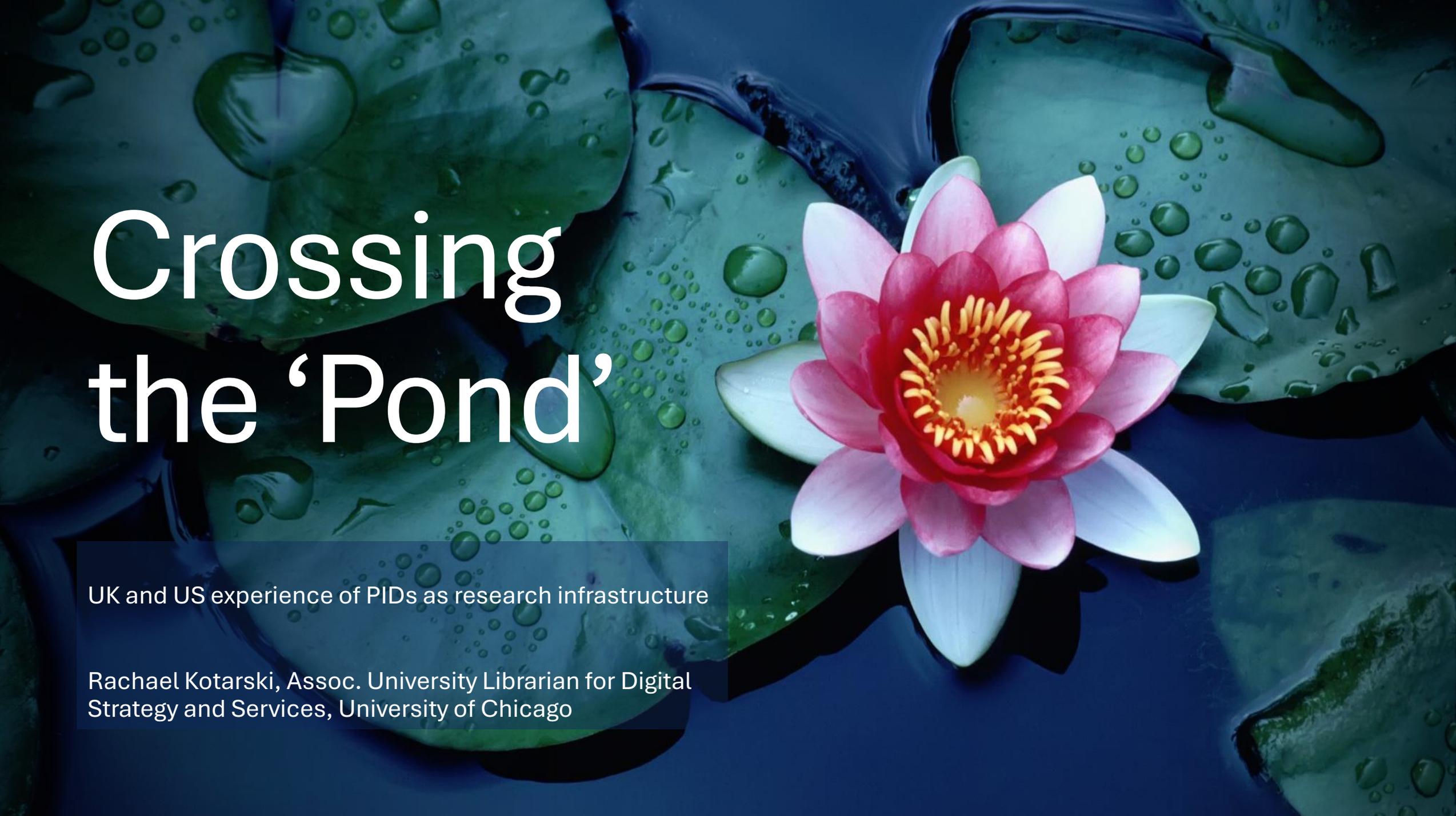


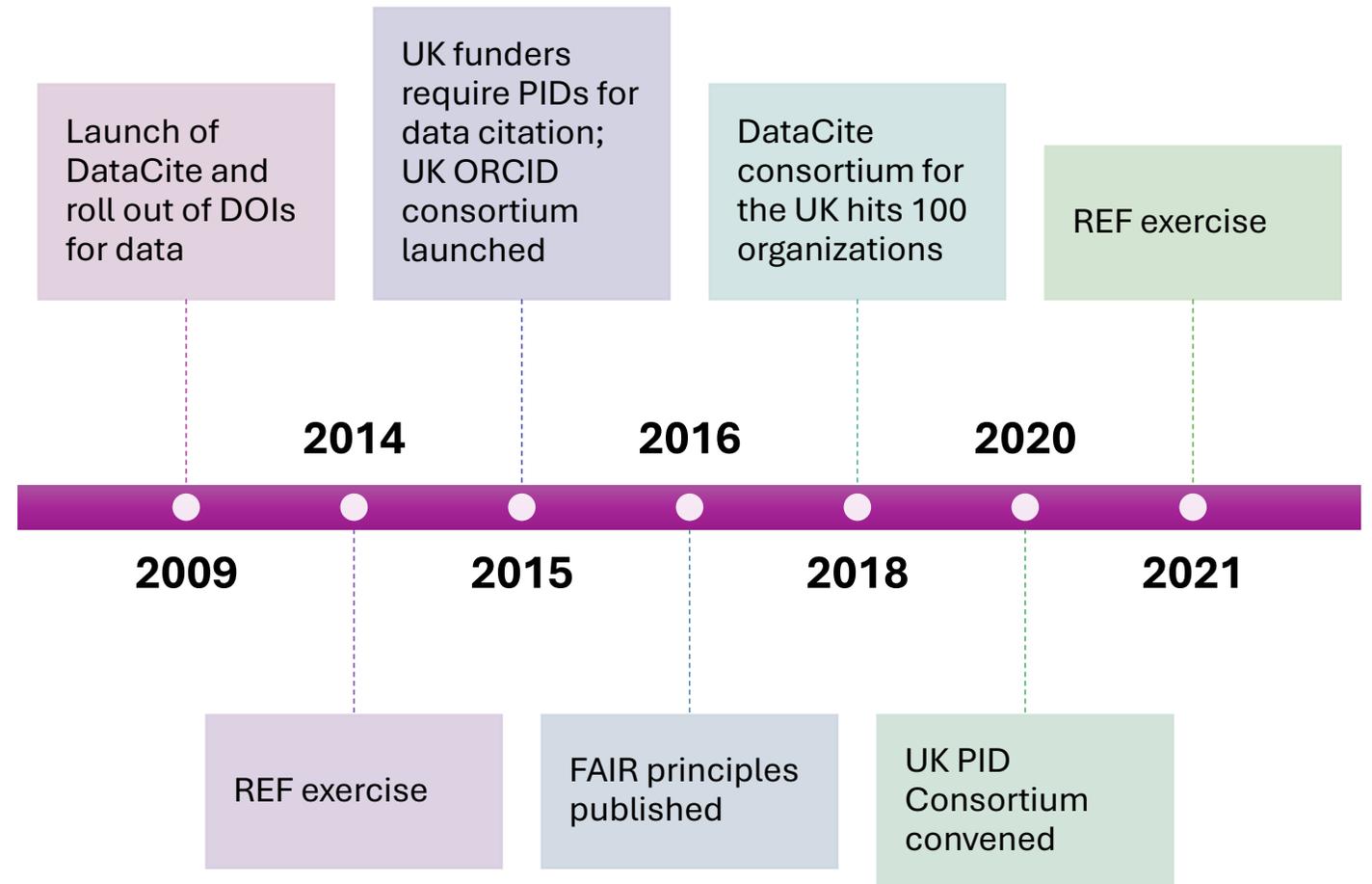
# Crossing the 'Pond'

A close-up photograph of a pink lotus flower in full bloom, with a bright yellow center. The flower is surrounded by large, green lily pads that have numerous water droplets on their surfaces. The background is a dark, deep blue, suggesting the water of a pond.

UK and US experience of PIDs as research infrastructure

Rachael Kotarski, Assoc. University Librarian for Digital  
Strategy and Services, University of Chicago

# Short and incomplete history of PIDs in the UK



# PIDs as infrastructure for GLAM

- 2019 call for infrastructure to support a national view of collections.
- Proposed a project to understand how PIDs could be used to connect within and between items and metadata.
- Aiming for GLAM institutions—primarily government and local authority funded—to receive the benefits of PID use
- Began work in January 2020...

# PIDs as infrastructure for GLAM

- Despite starting in a global pandemic, delivered guidance and expertise on how to work with PIDs in GLAM.
- Mostly starting from a very base level of knowledge.
- Aim was not to tell them what they should be using but what PIDs would help them with which of their problems.
- Developed a framework and guidance and there is traction.



## Why use PIDs?

Persistent identifiers have a number of potential benefits. They allow you to reliably link to your collection around the web and in publications. They also make it easier to track the use of your resources where they are cited elsewhere.

## Getting started



How to use this resource



Baseline implementation



Which PID does what?

## Aspects of Developing PIDs for Collections



Adding PIDs to existing metadata



Identifying collection items with links



Managing persistent links locally

## Which persistent identifier does what? PID functionalities

[Getting started](#) > PID Functionalities

This page describes whether or not different PID types are suitable for the various aspects of Developing Identifiers for Heritage Collections. This table can be used in conjunction with the PID Descriptions to inform choice of identifiers.

### Key:

▣ **Exceeds** the requirement, describe where the identifier does more than the aspect requires, e.g. ARKs exceed the requirement of IDs which could be persistent because they are persistent and globally resolvable.

■ **Meets** the requirement of the aspect, describes where it meets the requirement set out in the individual aspect, e.g. ARKs are human readable PIDs so they meet that requirement.

□ **Does NOT** meet the requirement, describes where an identifier does not meet the requirement of the aspect, e.g. CETAF Stable Identifiers are not globally resolvable so they do not meet that requirement.

– i.e. **not applicable**, e.g. where a PID is provided by a third party service, e.g. Wikidata an organisation cannot manage their persistence locally or where an identifier is a central registry for entities such as organisations or people, e.g. ROR or ORCID, which would not be created or managed by an institution.

Archived version: Kotarski, R., Kirby, J., Madden, F., Mitchell, L., Padfield, J., Page, R., Palmer, R., & Woodburn, M. (2022). Developing Identifiers for Heritage Collections (v2.1). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5879089>

Available online: <https://tanc-ahrc.github.io/PIDResources/>

## Experience so far in the US

- Not the same focus on research assessment.
- Key driving force are the minimum requirements for repositories.
- There will be need to confirm meeting funder mandates, but a good number require deposit with funder repositories.

# ORFG PID Strategy Working Group



In June of 2022, the Open Research Funders Group (ORFG) collaboration with members of the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS Open) [launched a public effort](#) to improve research output tracking.

In June 2023, ORFG [convened four workstreams](#), including a workstream focused on a US national strategy on PIDs and metadata ([concept note](#))

Utilizing [framework created by the RDA National PID Strategies Interest Group](#)

Process: Community Calls, Working Group Meetings, Stakeholder Consultations, and Writing Sessions.

# ORFG PID Strategy Working Group report

Developing a US National PID Strategy. 2024.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10811008>

The report covers:

- Key benefits of a national approach
- Desirable characteristics of PIDs
- Recommendations for PID infrastructure
- How to support PID infrastructure
- Legacy PIDs
- Importance of centralization
- Areas of investment
- Measuring success



# NISO

## Desirable Characteristics of PIDs

<https://upstream.force11.org/desirable-characteristics-for-persistent-identifiers/>

**Stability and Persistence:** consistent over time, ensuring long-term access to digital objects despite changes in location or ownership

**Global Uniqueness:** uniquely identify an object, eliminate ambiguity & ensure precise referencing

**Resolvability:** easily resolvable to the object they reference, through a URL, enabling access to the object and its metadata

**Open Availability of Metadata:** PID metadata should be openly accessible, promoting transparency and reusability of digital objects

**Community Governance:** PID systems should involve community input and consensus

**Documentation:** documentation of PID policies, practices, & technical specifications

**Monitoring and Reporting:** monitor functionality of PIDs and to report any issues, ensuring their continued reliability

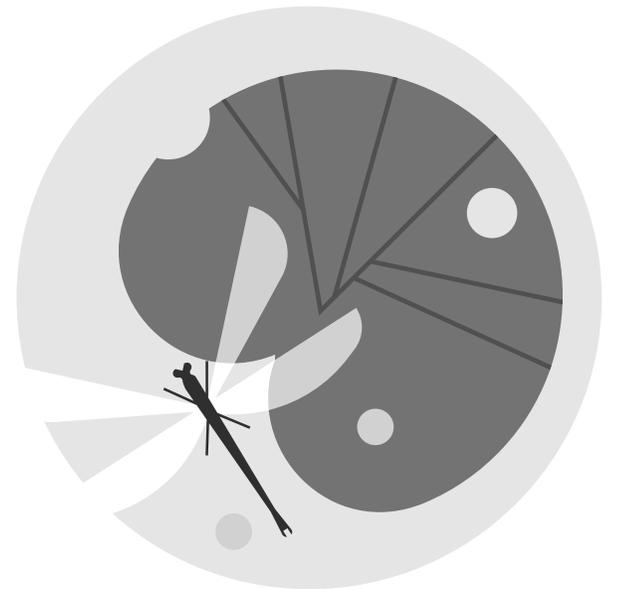
**Ease of Assignment and Metadata Curation:**

Assigning PIDs and curating associated metadata should be straightforward and user-friendly

**Interoperability:** facilitate seamless exchange and integration of data

# Moving the activity forward

- NISO working group to refine the desirable characteristics and formalize a national strategy.
- We have a head start on other NISO activity, as we have the recommendations.
- Wide US and a small international representation on the group.
- Expect to be requesting feedback and input towards the end of 2025.



# U.S. National PID Strategy

Building on the work of the Research Data Alliance's National PID Strategies Interest Group, the Open Research Funders Group (ORFG) PID Strategy Working Group drafted a report that outlines the desirable characteristics of persistent identifiers (PIDs) in a U.S. research context. [Developing a US PID National Strategy](#) seeks to build consensus around the value and use of PIDs and therefore speed their adoption. The report describes the benefits of PIDs, their associated metadata, and the systems that connect them in advancing open scholarship goals in the United States. It provides information on the research and policy landscape associated with PIDs, discusses the value of PID infrastructure, and offers recommendations for effective utilization of PIDs in connecting and tracking research outputs.

The NISO U.S. National PID Strategy Working Group will further expand on the work defined by the ORFG PID Strategy Working Group to create a national framework for PIDs across the U.S. research landscape. This group began work in November 2024.

## Documents

[NISO Work Item, U.S. National PID Strategy](#)

## Committee Roster

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Director, University of California Curation Center (UC3)  
California Digital Library (CDL)

#### [Rachael Kotarski](#)

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<https://www.niso.org/standards-committees/uspids>