



Research Project Schema

Introduction

The Henkaku Project Schema is a structured framework developed to define, evaluate, and visualize research efforts across the Henkaku community. Unlike traditional academic systems organized around disciplines, Henkaku prioritizes projects—finite, mission-driven endeavors with clear goals, collaborators, outputs, and measures of success. This schema formalizes that orientation by requiring every project to begin with answers to four essential prompts:

1. *What specific situation or moment is this project addressing?*
2. *What will this project build, measure, or change?*
3. *How will you know when the project has succeeded?*
4. *What would make this project complete?*

These questions ground each project in real-world relevance and bounded scope, helping distinguish projects from open-ended disciplinary explorations.

The schema captures a project's key dimensions—problem statements, goals, outputs, contributors, funding sources, success criteria, and related disciplines—within a consistent and interoperable format. This structure enables not only clear communication and peer review but also the generation of interactive network visualizations that reveal how people, ideas, and resources flow through the Henkaku ecosystem. These tools are both administrative and philosophical: they make research planning and governance more transparent, while embodying Henkaku's foundational commitment to cooperation, antidisciplinarity, and systems thinking.

Ultimately, the schema and its accompanying tools support a living knowledge infrastructure—one that helps Henkaku researchers design projects that are impactful, interconnected, and ethically aligned from the very beginning.

Schema

Basic Information

Field	Description
<code>id</code> — Project ID	Unique internal identifier for the project (e.g., <code>proj_2025_trustsignals</code>)
<code>title</code> — Project Title	Clear and specific name of the project; avoid generic or trendy terms
<code>summary</code> — Project Summary	A short paragraph (1–2 sentences) describing the project’s aim and context
<code>problem_statement</code> — Problem Statement	A specific real-world moment, breakdown, or question that motivates the project

Scope and Goals

Field	Description
<code>project_goals</code> — Project Goals	A list of what the project intends to <i>build, measure, or change</i> . Use verbs like "prototype", "evaluate", "reframe", etc.
<code>proposed_outputs</code> — Proposed Outputs	Concrete deliverables (e.g., a prototype, dataset, report, workshop)
<code>success_criteria</code> — Success Criteria	Specific outcomes that define whether the project was successful (e.g., “used by 3 teams”, “positive stakeholder feedback”)

Timeline

Field	Description
<code>timeline.start_date</code> — Start Date	When the project begins (format: <code>YYYY-MM-DD</code>)
<code>timeline.end_date</code> — End Date	When the project is expected to finish

<code>timeline.milestones</code> — Milestones	Key internal deadlines or events (e.g., "Prototype v1", "Midterm review", "Final evaluation")
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Context

Field	Description
<code>disciplines</code> — Related Disciplines	Tags that help map this project to SDS or Henkaku research areas (e.g., "Human Cooperation", "Simulation Systems")

Team

Field	Description
<code>owner</code> — Project Owner	The person responsible for leading the project and ensuring delivery on the success criteria
<code>contributors</code> — Project Contributors	<p>A list of people helping with the project. Each contributor includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>id</code> : Unique identifier • <code>name</code> : Full name • <code>role</code> : Role (e.g., "Research Assistant") • <code>percent_effort</code> : Time commitment (0–100%)

Funding

Field	Description
<code>funding.sources</code> — Funding Sources	<p>List of where funding is coming from. Each source includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>name</code> : Name of the funder • <code>type</code> : Type (e.g., "Grant", "Gift", "Internal") • <code>amount</code> : (optional) Total funding amount • <code>restricted</code> : Whether it must be used in a specific way
<code>funding.budgeted_areas</code> — Budgeted Areas	<p>How funds are planned to be used. Each entry includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>category</code> : (e.g., "Personnel", "Travel")

- **description** : (optional) Notes on purpose
- **amount** : (optional) Budgeted amount


Other

Field	Description
notes — Notes	Freeform space for assumptions, risks, open questions, or prior work connections

Discussion & Reconciliation

Henkaku-SDS | Discussion

Ira & Joe's Notes

 Research Philosophy

Daum's Notes:

Henkaku Center & School of Design and Science (SDS)