# Unleashing Ollscoil na Gaillimhe / University of Galway's Research Data Into the Future

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## **Guiding Questions**

- How do you cite your research data?
- ► How do you lookup cited data *now*?
- ▶ How do you lookup cited research data 40 years from now?

#### Research Data In the Wild

While walking the land, I am the pen on the paper; while drawing this map, my pen is myself walking the land. I wanted to short circuit the polarities of objectivity and subjectivity, and try keep faith with reality. — Tim Robinson

## There's a Map on the Internet. . .



I came to it from a fine arts background and used it as an art form. I wasn't remotely interested in what the standard way of representing limestone was, for example. I was much more interested in using some sort of graphic texture on a map that would represent my own experience of the place.

Robinson

Figure 1: Retrieved from https://drawingmatter.org/folding-landscapes-the-maps-of-tim-robinson/on 2025-03-02.

# There's a Map on the Internet. . .

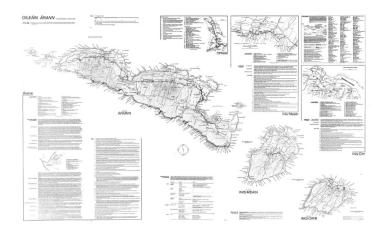


Figure 2: Tim Robinson's townland index for Connemara and the Aran Islands, Detail, Map of the Aran Islands, Oileáin Árann, Folding Landscapes, 1980. Published by NUI Galway's Digital Collections.

# But, Where is the Original?

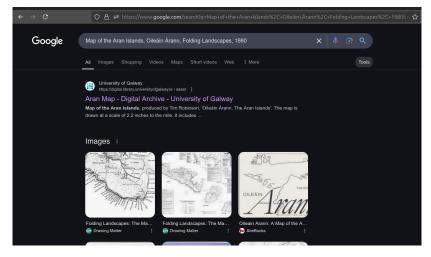


Figure 3: Internet search results for "Tim Robinson's townland index for Connemara and the Aran Islands, Detail, Map of the Aran Islands, Oileáin Árann, Folding Landscapes, 1980." on 2025-03-02

#### This One?

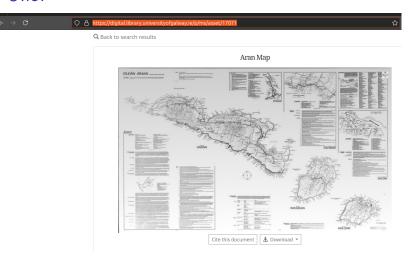


Figure 4: webpage at https://digital.library.universityofgalway.ie/p/ms/asset/17071 accessed on 2025-03-02

#### With Preferred Citation

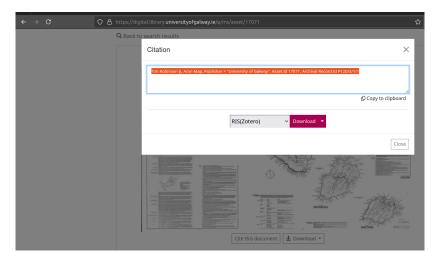


Figure 5: Preferred citation - Tim Robinson (), Aran Map, Publisher = "University of Galway", Asset Id 17071, Archival Record Id P120/3/1/1

# But . . . Which One are We Citing?

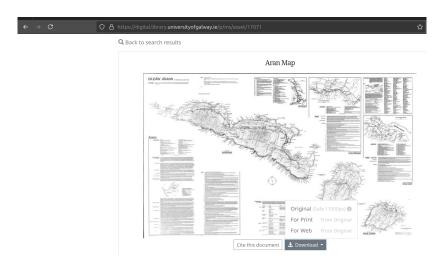


Figure 6: Variants of Robinson's Aran Map: Print, Web, Original

# Trying NUI Galway's Digital Library . . .

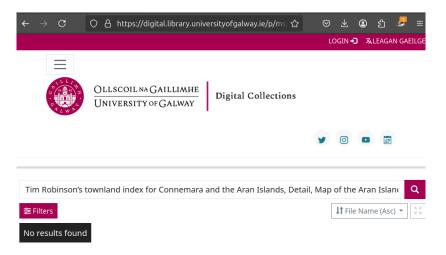


Figure 7: https://digital.library.universityofgalway.ie search results for "Tim Robinson's townland index for Connemara and the Aran Islands, Detail, Map of the Aran Islands, Oileáin Árann, Folding Landscapes, 1980." on 2025-03-02

## Trying Zenodo . . .

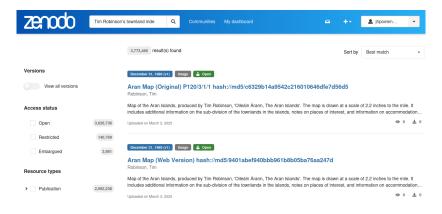


Figure 8: Zenodo search for "Tim Robinson's townland index for Connemara and the Aran Islands, Detail, Map of the Aran Islands, Oileáin Árann, Folding Landscapes, 1980."

# How To Retrieve Robinson's Map Today?

- turn on the internet
- open a web browser
- search the internet for keywords
  - and rely on a delicate and complex socio-technical network
- inspect result pages
- use mouse to click on a link that looks like Robinson's map
- download image and trust its authenticity

# How To Retrieve Robinson's Map 40 Years From Now?

- turn on the internet (Still there?)
- open a web browser (*Grandma*, what is a browser?)
- search the internet for keywords (*Internet search? Huh?*)
   and rely on a delicate and complex socio-technical network
- ▶ inspect result pages
- use mouse to click on a link that looks like Robinson's map
- download image and trust its authenticity

## How To Retrieve Robinson's Map 40 Years From Now?

- turn on the internet
- open a web browser
- search the internet for keywords
  - and rely on a delicate and complex socio-technical network
- inspect result pages
- use mouse to click on a link that looks like Robinson's map
- download image and trust its authenticity

Likely will not work due to intricate network of dependencies.

#### How To Retrieve Robinson's 40 Years From Now?

My (Crazy?) Proposal: Sign the citation <sup>1</sup>

Robinson, T. (1980). Aran Map (Print Version) P120/3/1/1 hash://md5/9027bb8d372e4ffb9fabe74cab6a3434. University of Galway. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14958167

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Elliott M.J., Poelen, J.H. & Fortes, J.A.B. (2023) Signing data citations enables data verification and citation persistence. *Sci Data*.

# How To Retrieve Robinson's Map 40 Years From Now?

 $\dots$  by searching the universe (in, and beyond, the internet) for the content with the unique fingerprint hash://md5/9027bb8d372e4ffb9fabe74cab6a3434~.

... in addition to searching by keywords

#### Zenodo Search, Take 2.

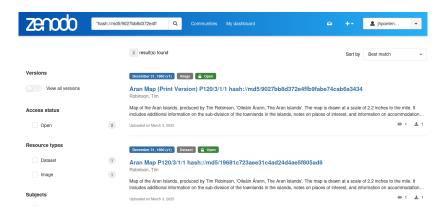


Figure 9: Searching Zenodo for "hash://md5/9027bb8d372e4ffb9fabe74cab6a3434" on 2025-03-03

# How Would You Carry Robinson's Maps Into The Future?

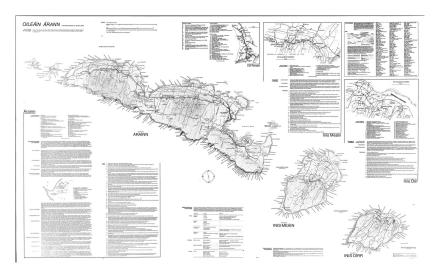


Figure 10: Tim Robinson (), Aran Map, Publisher = "University of Galway", Asset Id 17071, Archival Record Id P120/3/1/1.

## **Guiding Questions**

- ► How do *you* cite data?
- ► How do you look up cited data *now*?
- ▶ How do you look up cited data 40 years from now?

### Extra

# Internet Is Designed For Exchanging Information

The internet is a powerful tool for exchanging digital information. But the Internet's contents changes constantly: websites are launched and taken down, webpages change, and content gets archived or lost.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Jorrit Poelen. 2024. Unleashing Digital Knowledge Into The Future.

#### Internet Is Location-based

By design, a web address, or Uniform Resource Locator (URL), points to a specific internet location from which a resource, like a webpage, can be retrieved. However, a URL does not provide a way to verify that a retrieved webpage was the one we asked for. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Jorrit Poelen. 2024. Unleashing Digital Knowledge Into The Future.

# Finding Content By Their Location Is . . . Tricky

Imagine using a URL-like reference to find a book at a library: instead of locating a book by what it is (e.g., title, author), you refer to a book by its location (e.g., third shelf on the second row next to the window). With this, a book becomes unfindable if moved to another shelf. And, if you do manage to find a book at the referenced location, how would you know you've found the book you are looking for? <sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Jorrit Poelen. 2024. Unleashing Digital Knowledge Into The Future.

# Finding Content By Their (Summarized) Content Is . . . What Librarians Do

Instead of pointing to where books are located, librarians point to them using a bibliographic reference. For practical reasons, only a few identifying clues are included in such a reference (e.g., author, year of publication, title, and publisher). So, librarians refer to content by what it is, and knowing where it may be located is secondary. <sup>5</sup>

A bibliographic citation:

Darwin, C. 1859. On the Origin of Species. John Murray.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Jorrit Poelen. 2024. Unleashing Digital Knowledge Into The Future.