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Towards a National Collection

Persistent Identifiers as IRO Infrastructure – Project Launch Webinar





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Admin

- **Can you hear us?**
- **We will be recording the webinar for sharing later**
- **We'll also share slides**
- **You can rise your hand or type in questions in the menu to the right →**
- **Have your smartphone ready, go to menti.com, we'll be using that for feedback.**



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Agenda

1. Background to the project and it's aims
2. Example of work from National Gallery
3. Hearing from other partners: Science Museum Group
4. Q&A and next steps

We have an hour and a half but we can stay on a bit longer if we get lots of questions.



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Rachael Kotarski - Head of Research Infrastructure Services, British Library

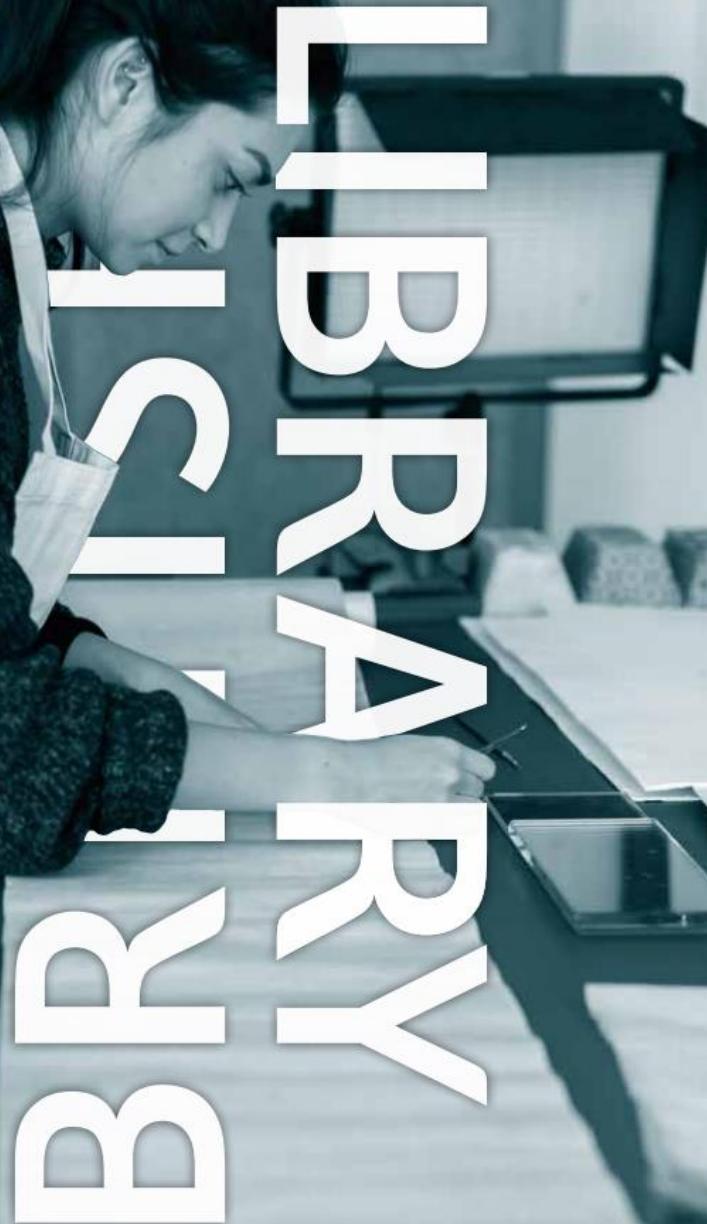
Background to the project



Cultural heritage organisations support research



British Library Research
2017–18



The British Library
was involved in
50
research projects



Total value of these grants
c. £49 million

Value of the 12 grants led
by the British Library
c. £6.6 million

Our project

- 21-month project to look at existing use of PIDs across collections in the UK



ROYAL
BOTANIC
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Lorna Mitchell

THE
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GALLERY

Joe Padfield



University
of Glasgow

Rod Page

V&A

Richard Palmer

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Jack Kirby

N
NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM

Matt Woodburn

Research

RESEARCHING OUR COLLECTIONS THE RESEARCH HANDBOOK RESEARCH PROJECTS MORE ▾

The V&A was the first museum in the world to establish a dedicated Research Department and it continues to be a core activity of the Museum today. We play a leading role in binding together the fields of art, design and performance; conservation and collections management; and object-led, museum-based learning.

RESEARCHING OUR COLLECTIONS

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HISTORY

The Science Museum supports a thriving programme of research which aims to promote new ways of understanding our collections, audiences and exhibitions.

Our researchers come from a range of academic disciplines and engage with the specific practices of the museum as well as more theoretical work on the themes of historical and contemporary science, technology and medicine.

RELATED LINKS

- Research projects
- Science Museum Group Journal
- Audience research
- Research and public history policies
- Research events

DOWNLOAD

NATIONAL GALLERY

About research

Research is a constant and fundamental activity at the National Gallery, helping to underpin many areas of the Gallery's work including:

- Exhibitions, scholarly catalogues and other publications
- The care and conservation of the pictures
- Their display and interpretation

All of this research contributes to the public understanding of the [National Gallery collection](#). As a result, this great collection is one of the most closely studied and thoroughly researched in the world.

Researching the paintings

The Gallery has become a pre-eminent centre for the research of European painting from the 13th to the early 20th centuries. Even so, there are things that remain to be discovered about all the pictures in its collection - even the best-known.

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Museum research

Stories of Museum research and researchers.



Anthropocene



Dinosaurs

Tiny teeth are revealing diversity of British dinos

A far greater variety of dinos lived here than we realised

28 January 2020



Science news



Science news

Humans are causing life

Towards a National Collection

- A UKRI AHRC programme
- Aims to “enable new ways of searching, accessing and displaying cultural treasures”



Cultural Collections as research objects

The screenshot shows a digital interface for exploring manuscripts. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Catalogues, Collections, Discover, Services, Visiting, About, and Information. Below this is a teal header bar with the text "Explore Archives and Manuscripts". The main content area features a search bar with the reference number "Or 7694" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a link labeled "Advanced search". Below the search bar, the title "Shang dynasty oracle bone (jia gu 甲骨)" is displayed, followed by the reference "Or 7694/1655 : 1300 BC-1050 BC". There are three buttons at the bottom of this section: "Details", "I want this", and "Browse this collection". On the left side of the main content area, there's a decorative image of a historical manuscript or scroll. On the right side, there's a sidebar with sections for "Links" and "Extent and Access".

Title: Shang dynasty oracle bone (jia gu 甲骨)

Collection Area: Oriental Manuscripts

Reference: Or 7694/1655

Creation Date: 1300 BC-1050 BC

Extent and Access:

Extent:

Inscribed bone from China, dating between 1300 and 1050 BC

Access Conditions: Restrictions to access apply please consult British Library staff.

Language: Chinese

Contents and Scope:

Contents:

Inscribed oracle bone (jia gu 甲骨) from the Couling-Chalfant collection.

Digital Version: http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Or_7694/1655

Publications:

Sarah Allan, Li Xueqin and Qi Wenxin, *Oracle Bone Collections in Great Britain (Yingguo suo cang jia gu ji)*, Zhonghua shuju, Beijing, Part I, 2 volumes (1995); Part II, 2 volumes (1992).

The screenshot shows a digital interface for digitized manuscripts. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Browse, Search, and Help. Below this is a "DIGITISED MANUSCRIPTS" header. To the right of the header is a "Quick Search" bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there's a link to "Search the British Library website". The main content area features a large image of the oracle bone, labeled "Or 7694/1655". To the right of the image is a "Print" button. Below the image, there's a "Links" section with a link to "Show link URL".

Persistent identifiers?

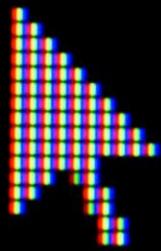
Providing a stable and long-lived link to an object (or information about it)

<https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.4926>

<https://isni.org/isni/0000000043786489>

Actionable

Can be used to access the entity described, or information about it



Globally unique

The identifier string has no global clashes and cannot be reused to describe another entity



Persistent

These properties can be guaranteed for the long term, through a combination of technology, management and governance.



Why these features specifically?

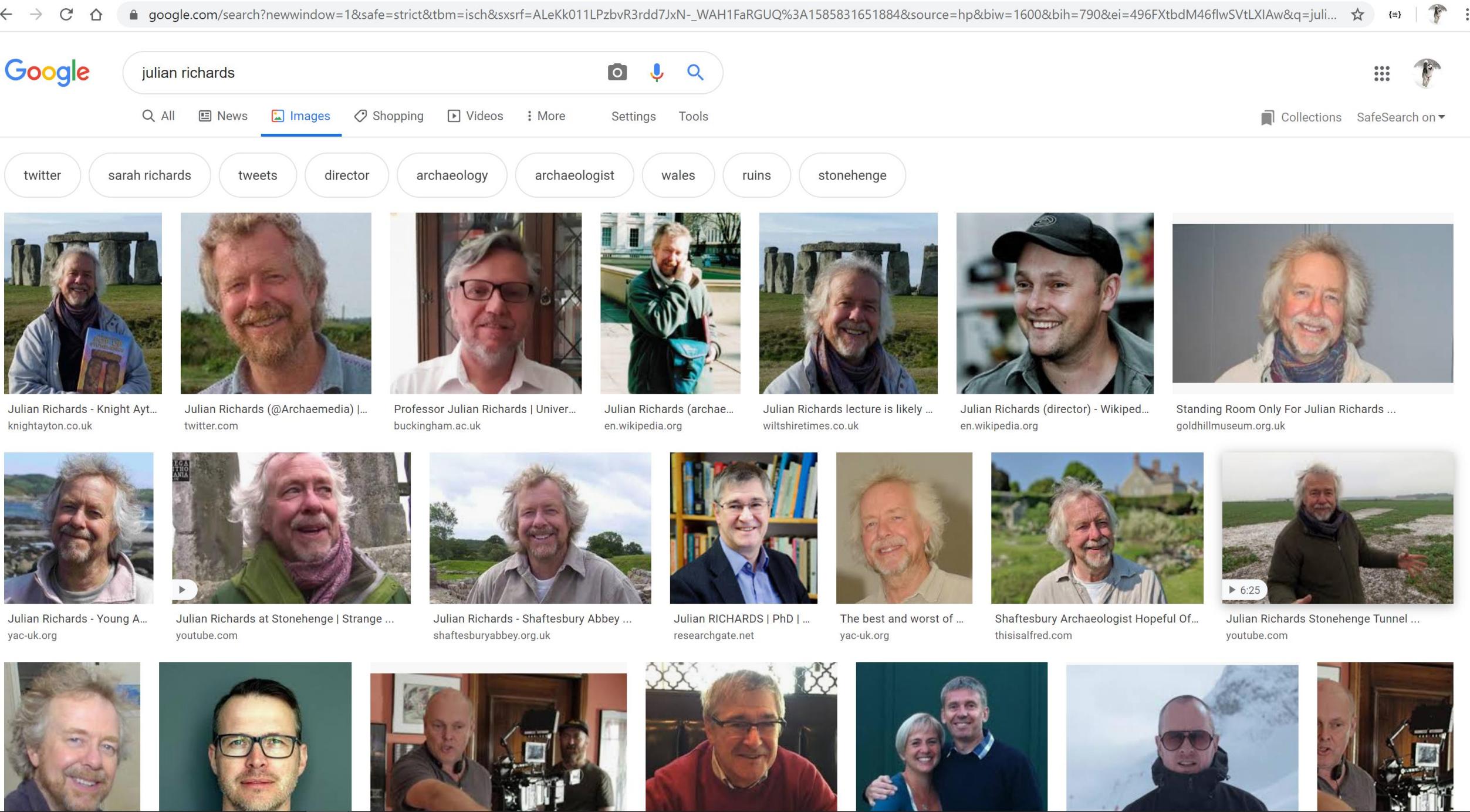
They allow practical functionality and tools:

- Support citation
- Enable linked data
- Common understanding of functions by our users





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HELLO
my name is

0000-0001-6843-7960

CC-BY-NC-SA 2.0 maybeemily, via Flickr

Aims and deliverables

The project aims to increase the uptake and use of persistent identifiers (PIDs) for heritage collections to enable PIDs to serve as a foundational infrastructure for drawing together the national collection. It will deliver innovation by adopting a cross-disciplinary and cross-collections approach to the use of an existing technology.

The project will deliver a set of recommendations to guide the selection, implementation and use of PIDs to heritage collections and related entities and concepts, as well as a number of case studies and supporting resources that can be used across the sector as a guide to real-world PID implementation.

Challenges and questions

- What are the benefits and implications of assigning and making use of globally unique and interoperable PIDs across national collections?
- What are the barriers to the wide scale adoption of PIDs within heritage institutions?
- What are there gaps in the existing PID landscape for cultural heritage?
- Are existing PID implementations scalable and sustainable at national level?
- What should a PID infrastructure, strategy and governance framework look like for a unified UK national collection?
- How to separate identification from identity?

Realise the benefits of PIDs

- Enable greater use of collections in all contexts, but especially in research
- Improved linking across platforms such as Wikidata
- Easier to associate related concepts and metadata from diverse sources with canonical sources of artefact information and the artefacts themselves
- Make the increase in use more evident and measurable, through the improved metrics

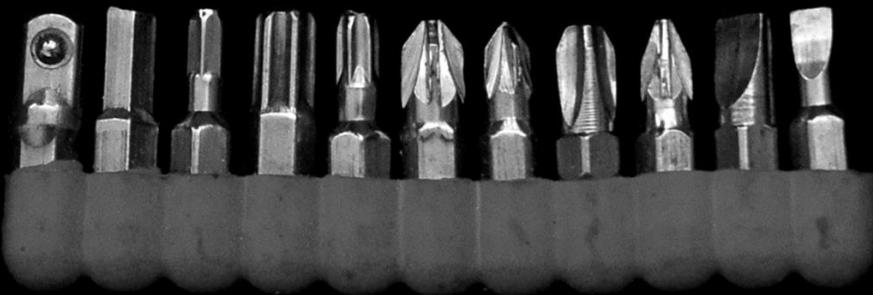
Not about telling organisations what to use



Skills and knowledge sharing



A toolkit for organisations in support of decision making



Next steps

- Three more events planned, dealing with specific use cases and topics
- Follow us @HeritagePIDs
- Join pidforum.org





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Towards a National Collection: Persistent Identifiers as IRO Infrastructure

Project Launch Webinar, Edinburgh: 6th April 2020

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