

# Next steps for practice research: the PR Voices and SPARKLE projects

Jisc Digital Research Community monthly

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Jenny Evans, PI, University of Westminster, PR Voices @jennye

Dr Tom Jackson, PI, University of Leeds, SPARKLE @tomjacademic

# Scoping future data services for the arts and humanities

## Arts and Humanities Research Council call

### Themes

This funding opportunity will support collaborative, research community-led scoping, development and design of future-facing national data services and repositories for the capture and analysis of arts and humanities research data. It will focus on, but not be restricted to, one of the following areas:

- practice research, including visual and performance arts
- large or complex 3D objects, such as architecture
- 'born-digital' material, including interactive material such as social media and video games.

### Criteria

Projects must be collaborative and involve a group or consortium of investigators and partners that:

- reflects the breadth of research data generated by the communities the proposed resource will support
- evidences communities' buy-in and support for the project, both from producers of data and from users.
- Projects may include a potentially scalable pilot or prototype.

### Expected outputs

Anticipated outputs from each funded project should include, but not be restricted to:

- a fully costed specification for the design, build and implementation of a national, discipline or area-specific data service, including capital and resource requirements
- a technical specification including details of compute capability and data storage requirements
- post-construction operational costs for the first five years, including a programme of skills and capacity building for the arts and humanities scholarly community.

# PR Voices and SPARKLE

## Practice research projects

These projects bring two different but complementary approaches to addressing how practice research, including visual and performance arts, is captured, shared and preserved.

We will give you a brief overview of our approaches and would welcome not only feedback on our plans but also ideas about expanding our reach beyond our existing networks.

Thanks to the grape vine (and a bit of luck) the two teams connected up prior to submission with an agreement that if we were both funded we would work together.

In the spirit of open research practices we will be sharing data gathered between the two projects however our final publications / research outputs will be published individually by each project.

We aim to collaborate going forward.

# Practice research:

## Some definitions

Practice Research - Report 1: What is practice research? And Report 2: How can practice research be shared?

These reports were commissioned by the Practice Research Advisory Group <https://praguk.wordpress.com> and were funded by UKRI (Research England), Goldsmiths, University of London, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London, University of the Arts London and the Culture Capital Exchange (TCCE)

### **Practice research**

“An umbrella term that describes all manners of research where practice is the significant method of research conveyed in a research output. This includes numerous discipline-specific formulations of practice research, which have distinct and unique balances of practice, research narrative and complementary methods within their projects.”

### **Research narrative**

“In a practice research output, a research narrative may be conjoined with, or embodied in, practice. A research narrative articulates the research enquiry that emerges in practice.”

Bulley, James and Şahin, Özden. *Practice Research - Report 1: What is practice research?* P1. London: PRAG-UK, 2021.  
<https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>.

# Practice research

## report 2:

How can practice research be shared?

- Structuring practice research
- Item types for practice research
- Formats and metadata
- Peer review
- Storing and preserving practice research outputs
- Sharing practice research

## Recommendations

- a) to explore the most appropriate formats for the generation, dissemination and preservation of practice research;
- b) to discuss the adoption of a collective 'project' research output item type across global research systems;
- c) to involve research support professionals, practice researchers and policymakers in developing guidance and recommendations for the long-term dissemination, preservation and storage of practice research;
- d) to explore the need and feasibility for a new peer review model for practice research publication;
- e) to commission further reporting surrounding practice research and Open Access;
- f) to investigate the founding of an Open Library of Practice Research (OLPR). This open library would:
  - i) harvest and host peer-reviewed practice research outputs;
  - ii) provide specific support for the novel formulations of practice research that will emerge in future.
  - iii) embody principles of Open Access

Bulley, James and Şahin, Özden. *Practice Research - Report 2 : How can practice research be shared?* P61. London: PRAG-UK, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.23636/1347>.

# University of Westminster

Building a repository that captures all research - a story of collaboration

Grounded in the research carried out at University of Westminster in the [Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media](#) and that in the [Experimental Practice Research Group](#) within Architecture

The Scholarly Communications team led (in partnership with developers at Haplo, now a division of Cayuse) the development of the Haplo open source repository (WestminsterResearch) in close collaboration with these researchers between 2017 and 2021 – one repository for all research

Consulted with other potential Haplo repository clients and the range of communities interested in better supporting practice research

Learned first-hand about how the repository and discoverability landscape doesn't work for this research and began working with colleagues at Jisc to investigate this (and Haplo developers) and PR Voices was born

Open access looks different to these disciplines, the funder policy landscape doesn't reflect this research, Research Excellence Framework (REF) recognises multi-component outputs

# CREAM

(Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media)  
University of Westminster

A world-leading centre and pioneer in practice-based, critical, theoretical and historical research in the broad areas of art, creative and interdisciplinary practice.

- Established in 2002
- Film and Media, Art and Society, Photography, Fashion and Music
- Pioneer of practice-based PhD research in arts and creative practice
- Part of the AHRC Techne Doctoral Training Partnership
- Founding partner of the AVPhD network

<https://cream.ac.uk>

The screenshot shows the CREAM website homepage. At the top, the word "CREAM" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this is a navigation bar with three items: "1 TIME FOR CHANGE: AN ACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE - CHRISTOPHER HOGG IN CONVERSATION WITH MANDIP GILL", "2", and "3". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column features a large image of two women, one with her arm around the other, in a dimly lit setting with warm lights. Below this image is a section titled "Research Areas" with a small image of a blue, textured object. The middle column contains a section titled "Events" with a large image of a person's face. The right column features a section titled "Doctoral Programme" with a small image of a landscape with reeds and water. At the bottom right, there is a section titled "Current" with a link to "Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s - Now" and a date range "Wednesday 1 December 2021 - Sunday 3 April 2022". Below this are three buttons: "EXHIBITION", "ART AND SOCIETY", and "PHOTOGRAPHY".

CREAM

1 TIME FOR CHANGE: AN ACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE - CHRISTOPHER HOGG IN CONVERSATION WITH MANDIP GILL

2

3

CREAM (Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media), University of Westminster, is a world-leading centre and pioneer in practice-based, critical, theoretical and historical research in the broad areas of art, creative and interdisciplinary practice.

CREAM runs a dynamic programme of exhibitions, screenings and talks throughout the year. CREAM researchers take part in wide ranging academic and public engagement activities, reflecting the diversity and international scope of our research culture. For upcoming programmes visit [events](#).

Research Areas

CREAM research encompasses: Art and Society, Film and Media, Music and Fashion and Photography.

Events

Current

Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s - Now  
Wednesday 1 December 2021 - Sunday 3 April 2022

EXHIBITION | ART AND SOCIETY | PHOTOGRAPHY

ROSHNI KEMPADOO | 2021 | 2022

# Open Access Portfolios

- Informed by CREAM's approach to REF2021
- Used flexible repository technology to reflect our multi part component submissions in UoA 32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
- Reviewed and updated templates based on the approach that research outputs/objects are connected together by a narrative
- Contextual images, multiple tabs
- Iterative approach - staged development over 3 years
- Collaborative team effort – Scholarly Comms, CREAM, Experimental Practice Research Group, Software Developer at Haplo
- Identified a range of challenges – IP, copyright, licensing, file sizes & types

<https://westminsterresearch.westminster.ac.uk/portfolio/qqvqz/bass-culture>

The screenshot displays the website for the Black Music Research Unit at the University of Westminster. The page features a teal header with navigation links: HOME, AUTHORS & CREATORS, RESEARCH AREAS, LATEST ADDITIONS, and a search icon. Below the header, the unit's name is prominently displayed. The main content area is titled 'Mykaell Riley Bass Culture' with a DOI link: <https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz>. A horizontal tabbed interface is visible, with 'Project narrative' selected. Below the tabs, the 'Project narrative' section is expanded, containing text about the project's response to the lack of recognition of Jamaican music in the UK, the research approach involving the AHRC team, and the goal of creating a narrative through research outputs. Three images are included: a gallery hallway, a display of records, and a person in a yellow jacket looking at a display.

CURRENT STUDENTS ALUMNI STAFF LOG IN TO DEPOSIT

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

HOME AUTHORS & CREATORS RESEARCH AREAS LATEST ADDITIONS

SEARCH

**Black Music Research Unit**

## Mykaell Riley

### Bass Culture

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz>

Key facts Project framework: context, research questions, summary of research insights **Project narrative**

Research Insights Further dissemination and recognition Supplementary material Metadata record

#### Project narrative

The project was a response to the lack of recognition of the Jamaican contribution to the story of British popular music since the 1960s within the UK cultural establishment and academia - and the issues of identity, heritage and sense of belonging that have resulted within BME communities.




The approach I adopted, working closely with other members of the AHRC team, including Professor Les Back, Jacqueline Springer, Dr Caspar Melville, Janet Browne and Dr Chris Christodoulou, ensured that our key strategy to share knowledge and integrate the community with the academic research was realised through a series of key public events, meetings and seminars. Each member of the team developed their own inquiries, while I managed and coordinated the group, balancing our use of academic methodologies with the need to ensure public and community engagement.

In seeking to create a narrative through research outputs - in the form of an exhibition, a documentary film and an online resource - as a first step to redressing the balance, I had plenty of "raw material" to draw on: namely, the musical talent embedded in three generations of Britons of African-Caribbean origin. The challenge was to locate the musicians, recording artists, singers, MCs and record producers I wanted and involve them in the aims and objectives of the research leading to the film and exhibition.

In telling their story, however, I had to fight their fears of cultural appropriation, while challenging the continued erosion of their contributions to British popular music history. My position as an established artist - I'd been with the reggae band Steel Pulse, then a successful record producer working with Björk, Soul II Soul, Jamiroquai Inter alla - helped me access hard-to-reach musicians, industry experts and community-based content spanning six decades.

Initiatives such as supporting participants to write their own stories, transcribing interviews and sharing the technology used to capture their content paid dividends - producing more than 200 images, 70 x 40-minute filmed interviews and a line-up of celebrity guests willing to participate in events allied to the Ambika P3 exhibition. It also paved the way for my initiation of the [Grime Report](#).

My understanding as a musician and record producer gave me access to artists, including





# Practice Research Voices (PR Voices) is born

## Engaging with communities beyond Westminster

- Repository Fringe, Edinburgh, June 2018
- PRAG-UK Town Meeting, London, Jan 2019
- Capturing practice research: improving visibility and searchability, London, March 2019
- Open Repositories, Hamburg, June 2019
  - One presentation, one panel session, 2 x 24x7 presentations and one poster all covering practice research
- ORCID Regional Meeting March 2020
- RDMF20: RDM and Data sharing/openness in the arts, June 2020
  - PIDapalooza, January 2021
- Research Excellence Framework 2021 submission, March 2021
- Publication of the PRAG-UK reports, July 2021
- Jisc Digital Research Community Event on Practice Research, September 2021
- UK Reproducibility Network Event, November 2021
- aimos conference, November 2021
- FORCE11, December 2021

# Practice Research Voices (PRVoices): Scoping the Open Library of Practice Research

Our aim is to realise an equitable landscape for all research, whatever the discipline, where we move beyond the “other” of non-text outputs, recognising practice research and enabling it to be valued as equal to papers, publications and monographs, and ensuring that it is captured and preserved, is made discoverable and can be re-used.

Our approach is based on building on existing software, standards, materials using open research practices.

We plan to build and on expand the work we have already done – starting with the existing collaboration between Westminster, Haplo (a division of Cayuse) and Jisc and bringing in Kings College London - and the British Library – recognising that practice research is carried out beyond universities.

The project team, is led by Jenny Evans (PI), Prof Neal White (Col) and the Scholarly Comms team at Westminster and includes Adam Vials Moore (Col) Jisc, Prof Helen Bailey (Col) (Kings College London) and Rachael Kotarski (Col) British Library, technology partners Cayuse (Taylor Mudd and Richard Forrest), project partner the Victoria and Albert Museum and with support from Crossref.

Follow the project on our project blog, @prvoices on Twitter and Instagram

# PRVoices

## Strand 1: Repositories

We will use a copy of WestminsterResearch which will be hosted and supported by Cayuse as a closed test system.

We will review, identify and iterate changes in three stages. The first will see a baseline established, informed by the outcomes of the PRAG-UK report, and practice research material from the the project team organisations.

This will inform a survey and semi-structured interviews which will inform follow up development and a technical specification which will then be tested against the British Library's Repository and the Jisc Research Repository.

A follow up survey and semi-structured interviews will inform the final development of technical requirements for practice research repository platforms that meet the FAIR principles and that can scale to other systems, repository and research information management systems and preservation infrastructure. This will include the analysis of associated IP, copyright, licensing, file type and size challenges.

# PRVoices

## Strand 2: Metadata and Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) landscape

Harnessing existing conversations and mechanisms for feedback and the practical application via the above repositories to identify recommendations to move this landscape towards better reflecting both text and non-text research.

Join our upcoming discussion at NISO Plus 2022 to find out more!

*Composing for the non-text infrastructure dance - Wednesday 16th February 2022 4pm GMT*

We will also be running a metadata workshop as part of the project to bring together relevant stakeholders

**Jisc UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER** **Practice made Practical. Reducing the OTHER of non-text** **BRITISH LIBRARY** **cayuse**

Adam Vials Moore (Jisc), Jenny Evans (University of Westminster), Rachael Kotarski (British Library), Taylor Mudd (Cayuse)

Disciplines that share research with primarily non-textual outputs do not benefit from a scholarly communications landscape that is focussed on the discovery, access and inquiry of STEM textual articles and data. Bringing together experts into a community of practice, such as repositories that have built taxonomies to address non-text outputs, we propose building on the persistent identifier and metadata vocabularies that underpin global infrastructure. Enabling richer, more descriptive work types, allowing better discoverability, and bringing a future where all research is equally valued.

**Non-text outputs**

**Practice Research**

- cross disciplinary
- documents process
- PRAG-UK report recommends a project item type
- intersectional - crosses multiple communities and goes beyond universities - is relevant to galleries, libraries, museums and archives
- may have multiple pages, files, permissions, rights, contextual images, access levels, may be dynamic

as such needs a community of practice to agree on what the form is so that this can be mapped to the discoverability landscape

**Discoverability Landscape:**  
Where does non-text / practice research fit? 'other' or select the 'best fit'

**ORCID** **Persistent Identifiers** **DataCite**

**Crossref** **Other** **ResourceTypes**

**RAID** Project item type recommended by Bulley-Salin

**COAR** Confederation of Open Access Repositories **Metadata standards**

**resource types** **CRT** CRediT - Contributor Roles Taxonomy

**OpenAIRE** **rioxx** **Other**

**CORE** **Discoverability** **Google Scholar**

Harvests PDF only, uses riox, OpenAIRE **Indexes text only, PDFs less than 5MG, one file per article**

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) mobile optimised design, semantic mark-up, include keywords in item URL, canonical links

Vials Moore, Adam, Evans, Jenny, Kotarski, Rachael, & Mudd, Taylor. (2021). Practice made Practical. Reducing the OTHER of non-text. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5767095>

# PR Voices

Strand 3: Create a Practice Research community of practice

Bringing together an intersectional community that spans all stakeholder groups - researchers and librarians, developers, research data managers, repository managers, research managers, archivists, records managers and curators

This will inform development post project / platform bid to ensure practice research is captured, made discoverable and re-usable, enabling its impact to be recognized and also inform planning for the next REF

Building an Expert Advisory Group to act as our critical friends

We will be blogging about the project  
Follow / engage / re-tweet @prvoices

# Come and join our chorus!

A call to action

- We haven't had a huge amount of time to engage – we encourage people to get in touch if they are interested
- Spread the word
- Amplify our messaging via your social media channels
- Ask people to get in touch
- Engage in the survey and sign post examples
- What have we missed?

@prvoices on Twitter and Instagram

Project blog to be launched soon

<https://blog.westminster.ac.uk/prvoices> (not live yet!)

