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**Telling a story with metadata: always drink from the upstream.
What if your metadata isn't properly represented in the stream
Evans, J.**

A paper presented at NISO Plus 2023, Online ,14 - 16 Feb 2023.

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Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



TELLING A STORY WITH METADATA: ALWAYS DRINK FROM THE UPSTREAM

WHAT IF YOUR METADATA ISN'T PROPERLY REPRESENTED IN THE STREAM?

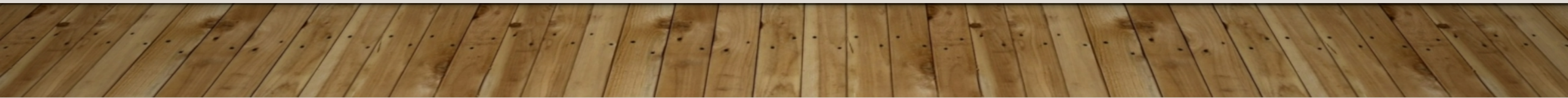
JENNY EVANS

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES (PRVOICES) PROJECT PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

@JENNYE



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

- Ø 4 campuses centrally located in and around the London area
- Ø Over 19,000 students from 169 countries
- Ø 866 academic staff (with just over half engaged in research) and 800 support staff



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

1. Non-traditional outputs – features and definitions
2. Building the foundations for PRVoices
3. About PRVoices
4. PRVoices findings and recommendations
5. Next steps

NON-TRADITIONAL OUTPUTS: FEATURES AND DEFINITIONS

FEATURES OF A 'NON-TRADITIONAL' RESEARCH OUTPUT?

- Ø Often (not always) non-text
- Ø Attempts to represent performance or other live event (remediation)
- Ø The research element is embodied in the work or needs evidencing by a narrative
- Ø Process as significant as product
- Ø Time-based
- Ø Often involves a range of contributors that deserve acknowledgement and recognition

PRACTICE RESEARCH SOME: DEFINITIONS

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.”



BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS

FOR PRACTICE RESEARCH
VOICES (PRVOICES)

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER REPOSITORY: WORKING WITH COMMUNITY – A CO-DESIGN APPROACH

Worked with Haplo (now Cayuse) to build a single open source repository that meets the 'FAIR' principles and captures all research (outputs)

Approach to development involved **collaboration with community** (art and design and architecture) – **starting with their requirements – not what the technology offered** (Co-Design) – to understand their needs

Developed a single repository that captures publications, data and practice research outputs and the associated narrative

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.

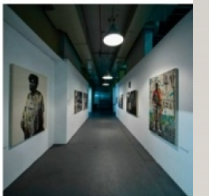
The approach I adopted, working closely with other members of the AHRC team, including Professor Les Back, Jacqueline Springer, Dr Caspar Melville, Janet Browne and Dr Chris Christodoulou, ensured that our key strategy to share knowledge and integrate the community with the academic research was realised 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 BJsRk, Soul II Soul, Jamiroquai Inter alia - 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 [Crime Report](#)

My standing as a musician and record producer gave me access to artists. Involving them in the project, however, building an audience for the exhibition, required methodological innovation. Each artist has a potential audience. I figured, if only their family, and I used this approach to widen the network. Essentially, I applied techniques of participation I had learned from marketing and adapted these as a research method to secure their participation.

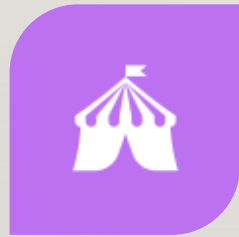


<https://doi.org/10.34737/qqvqz>

WHAT DOES PRACTICE RESEARCH LOOK LIKE IN THE HAPLO (BY CAYUSE) REPOSITORY AT WESTMINSTER?



NON-TEXT
(ARTEFACT) OUTPUT



EXHIBITION OUTPUT



DYNAMIC COLLECTION
(PORTFOLIO)
INCLUDING A RESEARCH
NARRATIVE



CONTRIBUTOR
ROLES



LANGUAGE REFLECTS
DISCIPLINE

Read about this work in our case study: <https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.582/>

PRAG-UK REPORT 2 RECOMMENDATIONS: PROJECT (COLLECTION, PORTFOLIO), EDITION (VERSION)

A single practice research item type – called ‘project’ which represents the multi-component nature of practice research (p13)

A singular research component file and multiple subset research components (p15-16)

Use of ‘edition’ to deal with changes to outputs that are developed over time (p17)

It could include (p6):

- Ø Summary/Abstract
- Ø Context / Introduction
- Ø Research inquiry / Questions in practice
- Ø Method statements
- Ø Practice, description of practice, or documentation of practice (as a proxy)
- Ø Insights / Discussion of ways of knowing
- Ø Conclusion and references

DISCOVERABILITY LANDSCAPE

Google Scholar

∅ Indexes text only, PDFs less than 5MG, one file per article

Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and metadata standards

∅ 'Other' or 'best-fit'

∅ Don't reflect the complexities of practice research

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

ADD WORK

Persistent Identifiers

Crossref Other

RAID Project item type recommended by Bulley-Salin

DataCite

ResourceTypes

- Audiovisual
- Collection
- Event
- Image
- InteractiveResource
- Model
- PhysicalObject
- Sound
- Other

COAR **Metadata standards**

resource types

- Design
- Image
- Interactive resource
- Other
- Sound
- Musical Notation

also used by **OpenAIRE** **rioxx** Other

CRT **CRedit - Contributor Roles Taxonomy**

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

Harvests: PDF only, uses rioxx, OpenAIRE

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

Indexes text only, PDFs less than 5MG, one file per article

Read more about this work: <https://zenodo.org/record/5767095#.Yxtyly8w28U>

NISO PLUS 2022: COMPOSING FOR THE NON-TEXT INFRASTRUCTURE DANCE - CALLS TO ACTION

- Ø ORCID – bring together community to outline use case / user story for non-text outputs category and new resource type
- Ø Datacite – bring together community to outline use case / user story for practice research requirements
- Ø RAiD – identify changes needed to enable RAiDs to better reflect practice research
- Ø Crossref – propose a content advisory group for practice research
- Ø CRediT – recognition of collaborator and other practice research roles
- Ø COAR – propose addition of practice resource type
- Ø Research Outputs Metadata Schema (riox) – broaden vocabulary for works

Find out more at: <https://doi.org/10.34737/vv0z9>



PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES (PRVOICES)

PRACTICE RESEARCH VOICES (@PRVOICES)

- Ø **Scoping a national practice research repository using** (as a foundation) the Haplo (now Cayuse) **repository** that **embedded practice research (primarily in art and design) from the beginning**
- Ø Moving to a **repositories, discoverability and interoperability landscape** in which **practice research disciplines** are **embedded** rather than an afterthought (OTHER)
- Ø **Bringing together voices** from many interested communities to form the **PR Voices Choir** and working with them to identify what **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable (FAIR) and transparent** research (which may also be **open**) looks like for these disciplines and which respects all contributors and their intellectual property



PR VOICES PROJECT OVERVIEW



1. Repositories



2. Metadata & Persistent Identifiers



3. Creating a Practice Research Community of Practice

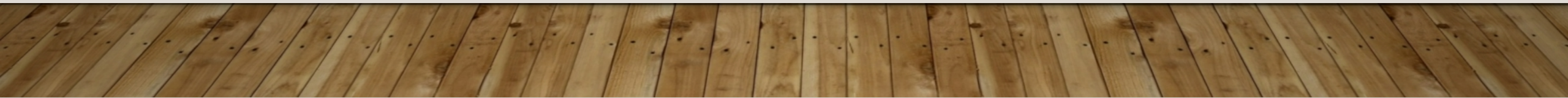
**PR VOICES FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
(WITH A LITTLE SPARKLE)**

PR VOICES FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

- Ø Ongoing community engagement is key to success
- Ø Platform needs to be interactive, embedded in community, respect form and function, enable discoverability, citation and preservation, recognize contributors
- Ø Open standards must underpin this work
- Ø Challenges include sustainability, expertise, preservation

Recommendations

- Ø Co-design with community
 - Ø Embed PR in open standards
 - Ø More than retrospective archive
 - Ø Training programme
 - Ø Investment in capacity, people and infrastructure
- 

FINDINGS: METADATA, PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS (PIDS) AND A TAXONOMY DISCUSSIONS

Prioritised DataCite, Research Activity iDentifier (RAiD) and Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CReditT)

- Ø Identified some potential updates to DataCite
- Ø Work with CReditT on contributor roles
- Ø Is a portfolio the same as a collection?
- Ø Portfolio maps better to RAiD?

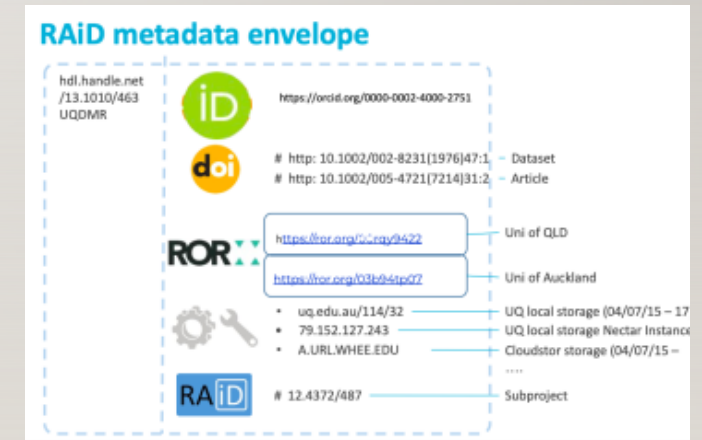


<https://blog.westminster.ac.uk/prvoices/workshop-metadata-persistent-identifiers-pids-and-a-taxonomy/>

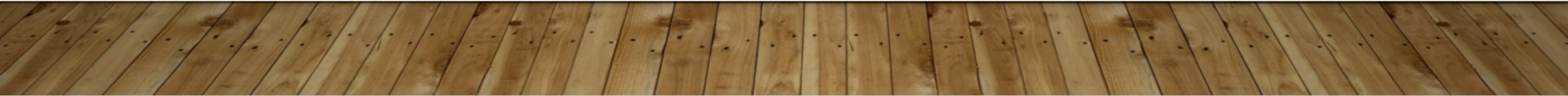
FINDINGS: THE PRVOICES FRAMEWORK

We investigated the suggestion recommended by the PRAG -UK 2 Report: *How can practice research be shared of a project item type - also known as a collection or portfolio* (p15).

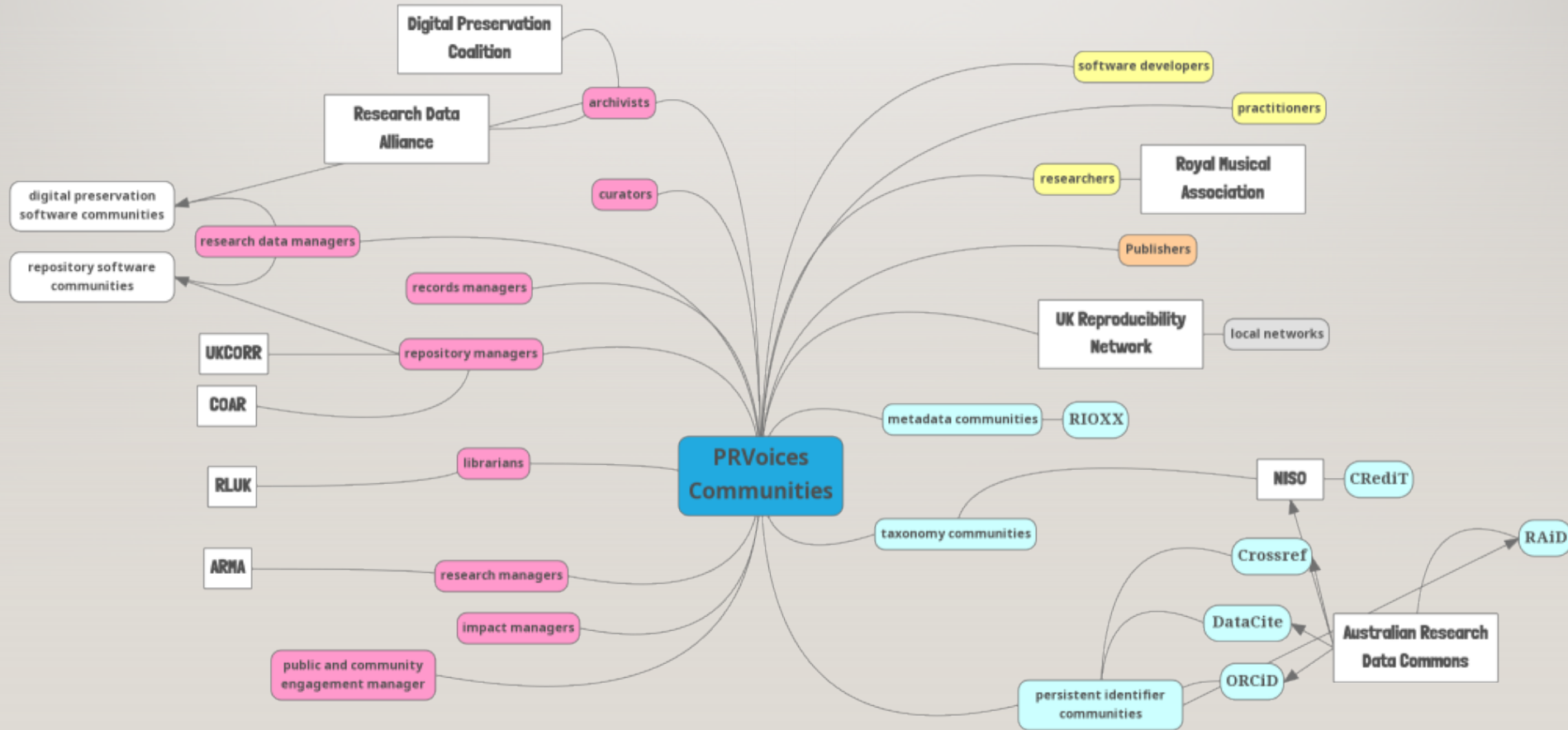
We have identified the need to (1) capture individual objects on an ongoing basis (2) bring those together (collection) and that (3) a portfolio (theme) builds on the idea of a collection, and overlays narrative and context.



NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS: SHARING FINDINGS WITH THE PRACTICE RESEARCH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



THE POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE / VISTA / PANORAMA

Creating an equitable opportunity where we are all part of the same landscape



Image by Image by [ferienwohnungen_de](#) from [Pixabay](#)

PR VOICES

Scoping the Open Library of Practice Research

an AHRC funded project

(Scoping future data services for the arts and humanities)



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