

Case Study Template - RDA National PID Strategies Working Group

Title:	National PID Strategy for Canada
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Features of National PID Approach and/or Strategy

Lead organisation(s)

1. Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN)
2. Canadian PID Advisory Committee (CPIDAC)
 1. ORCID-CA Governing Committee (OCGC)
 2. DataCite Canada Governing Committee (DCCGC)
3. Digital Research Alliance of Canada (The Alliance)

Scope

The development of a Canadian National PID Strategy is in its early stages and is intended to promote best practices and ensure that any researcher or research organization in Canada can make use of PIDs, ideally at an appropriate and equitable fee scale.

In 2021, CRKN, on behalf of the CPIDAC and in partnership with the Alliance, [hired a consultant \(MoreBrains\)](#) to develop a “roadmap to a roadmap” to help the Canadian PID community identify the pre-conditions for success; necessary actions, initiatives, and stakeholders to ensure successful development and implementation of an eventual PID Strategy for Canada.

In 2022, MoreBrains finalized the roadmap and continued to support the next phase of strategy development, which will include a living list of challenges, recommendations on how PIDs can solve these challenges, accessible primers as well as slides on PIDs and their value proposition for communication, models for PID-optimized workflows, and evidence of return on investment.

Drivers

Reducing administrative burden, reducing cost, making research more FAIR and Open, developing the digital research infrastructure of the future, impact tracking, and more.

Strategy development

In 2020, CRKN took over administration of the DataCite Canada Consortium (DCAN) from the National Research Council of Canada jointly with the Alliance. Consequently, CRKN had begun to provide support for two PID consortia: DCAN and ORCID-CA. When considering governance models for DCAN, staff looked to the existing ORCID-CA governance structure, which included the OCGC, comprised of members, and the ORCID-CA Advisory Committee (OCAC) comprised of non-member stakeholder organizations (e.g., academic library consortia, digital infrastructure, provincial/national funders). However, instead of creating separate advisory committees, the OCAC expanded in scope and function to include both PID consortia, becoming the CPIDAC.

The CPIDAC's scope grew to include both advising the two existing PID consortia and thinking beyond just ORCID-CA and DCAN - looking to a broader PID strategy for Canada. At this time, participation in the committee grew to include double the representatives (see committee members and organizations here: <https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/orcid-ca-governance>).

In 2021, CRKN was successful in securing funding from the Alliance for a first phase of a PID consultation. The CPIDAC then developed a [request for proposals](#) by forming a working group made up of CRKN and Alliance staff and several members of the committee. CRKN issued the RFP in September 2021 and the CPIDAC working group evaluated the proposals and made a recommendation to CRKN. MoreBrains Cooperative was hired in November 2021 to deliver a product in early 2022. The original RFP was deemed too ambitious in scope for the proposed timeline and budget, which led to the proposal that MoreBrains help develop a "Roadmap to a Roadmap" ahead of a second phase of consulting and work being done in Canada.

In 2022, in a report titled "[Towards a national PID strategy for Canada - Vers une stratégie nationale sur les PID pour le Canada](#)," MoreBrains outlined an approach and identified gaps to fill before a complete strategy could be developed. Participants included university leadership, researchers, professional associations, federal and provincial funders, technical experts, and more. In this phase, MoreBrains conducted a landscape analysis, six one-on-one interviews, and three 12-15 person workshops. The workshops were designed and divided according to three themes: 1) Strategy; 2) Implementation; and 3) Challenges and Opportunities.

We [announced these findings](#), which included a set of recommendations based on community consultation, many of which are already underway, confirming our overall approach is aligned with international partners and other jurisdictions. They identified challenges and priorities for the future, including building trust and enhancing communication between stakeholders, improving and connecting fragmented infrastructure across Canadian institutions, highlighting the urgency to the broader community, and telling a compelling story about the value of PIDs.

A community of dedicated Canadian PID experts and enthusiasts already exists, so the most important elements of these recommendations are to expand that community, identify a set of priority use cases for PIDs in Canada, and show how PIDs can resolve Canadian research challenges while leveraging opportunities for research nationally. Developing a strategy for PID adoption and implementation is a journey. In the report, MoreBrains identified the starting point, mapped the gaps in coverage or awareness of PIDs and the critical areas where, for example,

PIDs could help to improve research effectiveness or simplify bureaucracy, and identified stakeholders who must be consulted and interventions for the next steps of the journey.

Expected outputs of the next phase of consultation, which will be published in part in 2023, will include blog posts, PID primers, slides, and briefings for targeted audiences, and a report around research challenges in Canada and which PIDs can resolve which challenges. Two largescale workshops of 20-25 participants have already been held on the topics of 1) Infrastructure interoperability between funders and institutions; and 2) Institutional integrations and uptake. Over 40 stakeholders participated across both workshops from across many academic sectors - funders, government, universities, research offices, infrastructure, etc.

Based on these workshops, a pitch to government is being developed to seek additional resources and to help explain the urgency and importance of PIDs. The CPIDAC will meet in June 2023 to receive the results of these two workshops and this phase's project outputs. Additional work is anticipated on a new phase beginning Q3 2023.

This work has been presented to the RDA National PID Strategy WG, and was also presented in person at the RDA conference in early 2023 (including at the DataCite Connect event).

Key features

It will include a living list of challenges, recommendations on how PIDs can solve these challenges, accessible primers as well as slides on PIDs and their value proposition for communication, models for PID-optimized workflows, and evidence of return on investment.

Key infrastructure

The Strategy is not sufficiently developed to identify which infrastructure should be prioritized - identifying this infrastructure is a key priority. However, based on some of the work we are already doing at CRKN, the Alliance, and through the CPIDAC, we can identify some areas of success (e.g., [the ORCID-OJS integration](#)) and commonly used systems in Canada.

Name of infrastructure	Key purpose	List of integrated PIDs
OJS	Open Publishing Platform	ORCID, DOI
DSpace	Digital Repository	DOI, ORCID (soon)

PIDs

The Strategy is not sufficiently developed to identify which PIDs will be recommended for particular functions, nor is it certain in what capacities various PIDs can be required of different stakeholders (e.g., the Federal Government of Canada is not likely to mandate ORCID, even as it will hopefully include a connection to ORCID as an option). However, based on existing Canadian infrastructure and PID consortia, we can certainly speak to some likely candidates.

Function	PID type	Recommended or required?
Existing consortia support	ORCID	
Existing consortia support	DataCite DOI	

Considering use case for centralized support	Crossref DOI	
Considering use case for centralized support	ROR	

Impact and monitoring

Not possible at this stage.

Links

2022, [Developing a Canadian PID Strategy: Results and Next Steps](#)

2022, [Towards a national PID strategy for Canada - Vers une stratégie nationale sur les PID pour le Canada](#)

2022, [MoreBrains and CRKN presentation at NDSF 2022](#)

2022, [Persistent Identifiers: Current Landscape and Future Trends](#)

2021, [Request for Proposal for a PID Consultant](#)

2021, [Canadian PID Webinar Series](#)

2020, [Persistent Identifiers in Canada: ORCID-CA and DataCite Canada - White Paper](#)

2020, [Persistent Identifiers in Canada – Position Paper](#)

[PID Governance](#) in Canada

- [CPIDAC Terms of Reference](#)
- [DataCite Canada Governing Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [ORCID-CA Governing Committee Terms of Reference](#)