

University of Kent

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) Policy

Introduction

1. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) provide a persistent and unique means of identifying, linking to, and distinguishing between online works. Because a DOI is unique to the work it identifies and is intended to provide a permanent link to that work, it must resolve to the work's authoritative web presence on a sustainable platform. Maintaining this persistent and reliable connection requires adherence to established DOI management protocols and standards.
2. DOIs are created via a registration agency. These are affiliated to the DOI Foundation (IDF) that is the registration authority for ISO26324.
3. DOIs are created primarily using an API and installed in systems that host stable landing pages for digital works, and for digital records of analogue works.
4. The system used must be able to support the API and provide the metadata required to create a DOI record. The API and metadata standards are provided by DOI Registration Agencies.
5. The DOI process can be described in two stages:
 - Mint – create and register the DOI. A unique DOI is created (“minted”) for the work and registered with the DOI registration agency, together with the required metadata. This establishes the DOI as the work's persistent identifier.
 - Coin – activate and make the DOI live. The DOI is “coined” by linking it to the work's authoritative web presence, so that the DOI resolves correctly and can be used to access the work online.

DOIs at Kent

1. The University uses the international registration agency called DataCite to provide our DOI registration services. The British Library (BL) acts as the UK national node for DataCite and we are members of this BL consortium.
2. The University of Kent assigns DOIs to works where the authoritative and authentic web presence is within the Kent domain and complies with University of Kent Policies. Once a DOI is created the work will have the status of 'published'.
3. The University of Kent does not create DOIs for versions of works published by external entities or where a partner institution has already created a DOI for the version of the work.
4. DOIs are created by University of Kent repositories (Kent Academic Repository and Kent Data Repository) and open journal platform. DOIs could be created by any University system that meets the minimum requirements.
5. The systems need to demonstrate, at least:
 - a. metadata frameworks that allow compliance with DOI minima;
 - b. sustainability allowing the URL to be persistent;
 - c. accessibility and licences compliant with University OA and other policies;
 - d. technical abilities that can support the API;
 - e. protocols that support up-to-date DOI metadata and stable URLs.
6. The DataCite API is used in KAR, KDR and OJS to enable DOI creation within these systems. DOIs can be created manually directly within the DataCite registration platform. This only occurs when there is a technical problem or a temporary circumstance.
7. If a work needs to be removed from access a tombstone page will be created which describes the item, reassures the user that they have landed at the correct place for the resource and explains the reasons for its removal.

Document history

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Updates and replaces Creating Digital Object Identifiers for University of Kent Resources and Works (which was undated)

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