



# Bridging the Scholarly Divide: A Sustainable and Inclusive Approach to Persistent Identifiers in Nigeria

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ARK Alliance



ORCID

Roadmap for implementing PIDs in Africa  
<https://zenodo.org/records/7970386>

## Introduction

A brief overview of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and their importance in the scholarly ecosystem.

- PIDs serve as permalinks because robust web links are rare – the average URL lifetime is 100 days.
- Vital for enabling interoperability for research collaboration.
  - Create once, reuse often – researchers, funders, employers



## The Challenges

- Financial barriers: High costs of minting DOIs, budget constraints.
- Governance and control: Dominance of global north entities.
- Exclusivity and trustworthiness: Negative impact of DOI-centric narrative.

## WACREN: Regional ARKs Service Provider

- Archival Resource Keys (ARKs) can serve as PIDs with metadata
  - 21 years, 1035 institutions, billions of IDs in the wild.
  - found in the Data Citation Index, HathiTrust, Wikipedia, Wikidata, Internet Archive, ORCID profiles, etc.

In contrast to other PID schemes, ARKs have

- no fees, no limits, no walled gardens (decentralised)
- very flexible metadata, including none
- can be assigned to anything digital, physical, or conceptual

There is no conflict in using ARKs and other identifiers at the same time



<https://pidslink.wacren.net>



## LA Referencia: A Model for Sustainability

- LA Referencia (Latin American Network of Repositories).
- Similar challenges despite OA leadership in LA – only 20% of repository contents in Latin America have DOI.
- dARK (decentralised ARK)
  - ARK implementation based on institutional blockchain nodes
  - Conducting pilots for Brazilian institutions with dARK plugins for DSpace7, Dataverse, OJS

## A Proposal for Nigeria (Countries)

PROPOSAL DEFINED



- Adopt a similar model to WACREN and LA Referencia.
- Form a National PID consortium.
- Tailor feasible costing models to the country's economic context.
- Explore funding options and emphasise collaborative governance.

## Expected Outcomes

- **Awareness:** Increased understanding of the importance and challenges of PIDs among research leaders.
- **Engagement:** Generate interest in supporting a national PID strategy.
- **Next Steps:** Establish initial working groups for further developing and implementing the strategy.

