

**ARDC Handle Service**

**Participant Agreement**

**09 July 2020**

***More researchers sharing and re-using data more often***

Purpose

This agreement describes the responsibilities of ARDC and ARDC participants in the provision and use of ARDC Persistent Identifiers (handles) through the ARDC *Handle Service.* .

1. Background

The ARDC *Handle Service* allows trusted software applications to mint and manage persistent identifiers (handles). It is designed for integration with external applications. Requests and responses are processed via XML documents.

Users of the ARDC *Handle Service* product should understand that ARDC does not manage persistent identifiers; ARDC only provides the infrastructure that allows minting, resolution and updating of identifiers (handles). Processes and policies need to be put in place by those utilising the product to ensure that appropriate maintenance practices underpin persistence. Users of the service are expected to have automated methods to both mint and update identifiers (handles); this service also includes a GUI interface.

Before entering into this agreement, ARDC recommends that you read the ARDC *Handle Service* Policy Statement available from [https://documentation.ardc.edu.au/display/DOC/Handle+Service+Policy+Statement](https://documentation.ardc.edu.au/display/DOC/Handle%2BService%2BPolicy%2BStatement)

1. ARDC Responsibilities

You can expect that:

* We (ARDC) will endeavour to provide a high availability service.
* We (ARDC) will endeavour to persist ARDC Identifiers (handles) for a minimum of twenty years.
* We (ARDC) will provide documentation on any new features or changes to this service via <https://documentation.ardc.edu.au/>
1. Participant Responsibilities

ARDC expects that:

* You are part of the higher education, public research or cultural collections sector and that at least some of the objects you are identifying are publicly available or will eventually become publicly available.
* You are authorised and entitled to enter into this agreement and to mint and manage persistent identifiers (handles) for the objects you intend to identify.
* You will endeavour to keep up to date the description and location fields for those persistent identifiers (handles) you mint using ARDC *Handle Service*.
* You understand that this metadata is available to the general public and that confidential material should not be stored in these fields.
* You will take responsibility for liaison with any party who has queries regarding persistent identifiers (handles) that you mint. (ARDC does not provide help desk services for end-users of persistent identifiers (handles) or link rot checking.)
1. Warranty and Liability

ARDC provides the *Handle Service* product without warranty or liability. ARDC does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage which results from the use of this product.

ARDC *Handle Service* is underpinned and reliant on the Handle services[[1]](#footnote-1) provided by the Corporation for National Research Initiatives[[2]](#footnote-2) (CNRI), in particular the Global Handle Registry[[3]](#footnote-3). ARDC cannot warrant the longevity or reliability of the Handle system or the CNRI.

1. IP

The allocation of a persistent identifier to research content does not include any transfer or assignment of ownership of any Intellectual Property right (IPR) with regard to that content. The metadata related to the persistent identifier is public information, and you permit ARDC to use it in its systems and to relay it throughout the global Handles system

1. Duration

This Agreement will become effective at the date of signature and will continue until 31st December 20\_\_. After 31 December 20\_, this agreement will be automatically be extended on an annual basis unless terminated. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing the other 3 months' party notice, in writing, of an intention to do so. Termination will be effective after the expiration of the 3 month notice period.

8. Signatures

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| Signed on .................................................  *date*for and on behalf of..................................................................By .............................................................  *name*.................................................................  *signature* | Signed on .................................................  *date*for and on behalf ofthe Australian Research Data Commons...........By ............................................................. *name*.................................................................  *signature* |

1. More information on the Handle system is available from <http://www.handle.net/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. More information on the CNRI is available from <http://www.cnri.reston.va.us/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Note that HANDLE SYSTEM, HANDLE.NET and GLOBAL HANDLE REGISTRY are CNRI trademarks that are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)