



ANDS Guide



Handle Service (Identify my data)

Level: Awareness

Last updated: 11 January 2017

Web link: www.ands.org.au/guides/identify-my-data

This guide explains what the ANDS Handle service (Identify My Data) does, who it is for and how it can be accessed.

What does it do?

The Handle service is an ANDS service that provides creation (called minting) and resolution of persistent identifiers using the [Handle System](#) for situations where a DOI is not appropriate or able to be created. The Handle service is available cost-free for Australian organisations and individuals creating, using or curating publicly available research data.

What is a Handle persistent identifier?

The Handle service uses the international Handle System developed by the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI).

The Handle System provides identifier resolution services for use on the Internet. It includes a set of protocols that enable a distributed computer system to store identifiers – known as handles – and to resolve those handles into the information necessary to locate, access, contact, authenticate, or otherwise make use of the associated resources. This allows the handle of an item to persist despite changes of location and other changes.

The Handle system is very robust and is widely used internationally among repositories. The Handle service uses the Handle technology but adds an extra layer in order to simplify access and administration.

Who is it for?

Handle service is useful for:

- software developers needing to build software which assigns persistent identifiers to objects within their application where there is a requirement to assign, update and resolve identifiers
- individuals wishing to provide persistence for citing materials held on their web site who may want to assign identifiers to individual pages, papers, or a web site
- institutions acting as an authoritative source of information about people, organisations or community vocabularies where globally unique identifiers need to be assigned to individual records
- institutional repositories not wishing to manage their own identifier service who may wish to assign persistent identifiers to their holdings

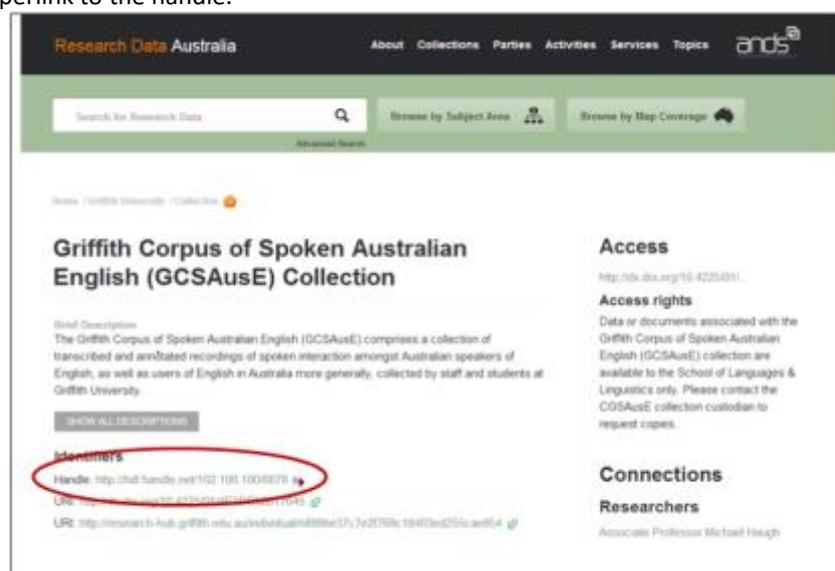
How does it work?

ANDS does not impose policies about using persistent identifiers minted with the Handle service. [The Handle Service \(Identify My Data\) - Policy Statement](#) explains those constraints which arise as a consequence of the technical architecture that underpins the Handle Service, and provides an additional set of recommended policies which should be considered by organisations implementing the service, to make the best possible use of persistent identifiers.

ANDS does not update or manage the information stored with persistent identifiers which have been minted using the Handle service. This is the responsibility of the person or organisation that minted the persistent identifier.

What does it look like?

Handles are a string of numbers. When this string is appended to the end of the URL '<http://hdl.handle.net>' a resolvable URL is created. When a Research Data Australia record contains a handle the identifier will be displayed as a resolvable hyperlink to the handle.



- [See the example page above on Research Data Australia](#)

How can I access the Handle service?

The Handle service has two different components:

1. A [Web Service](#) which can be used to integrate Identify My Data with other software.
 - Before your software can use the Handle web service it needs to be registered as a trusted client in the ANDS database. Once this simple registration process is complete, HTTP requests will be serviced.
 - The Handle service includes service points to mint, update and administer persistent identifiers.
 - To register your software to use the Handle service or to obtain technical documentation on the service points, please email services@ands.org.au
2. A website/user interface (an [Online Service](#)) which allows self-service of individual persistent identifiers.
 - The Handle (self-service) information can be accessed via [My Identifiers](#) in the ANDS Registry. An Australian Access Federation (AAF) account is required to access the service.
 - All AAF users can mint their individual handle via My Identifiers.

Authorised users from a registered institution who have a PIDS user role assigned can manually mint a handle on for their institution via the self-service user interface.

Feedback?

We welcome your feedback on this guide. Please email contact@ands.org.au with any comments or questions.

About ANDS

The Australian National Data Service (ANDS) makes Australia's research data assets more valuable for researchers, research institutions and the nation.

ANDS is a partnership led by Monash University in collaboration with the Australian National University (ANU) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). It is funded by the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

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