

Title: ARK Alliance: Empowering 800 institutions and 8 billion identifiers since 2001

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Abstract:

The ARK Alliance comprises organizations and individuals who are growing the community of researchers and scholars that rely on ARK identifiers for long term reference. Archival Resource Keys (ARKs) serve as persistent identifiers, or stable, trusted references for information objects. ARKs aim to be web addresses (URLs) that don't return 404 Page Not Found errors. Since 2001 some 8.2 billion ARKs have been created by 800 institutions — libraries, data centers, archives, museums, publishers, government agencies, and vendors. ARKs are open, mainstream, non-paywalled, decentralized persistent identifiers that you can start creating in under 48 hours. They identify anything digital, physical, or abstract. In contrast to other persistent identifiers schemes, ARKs are cheaper, more flexible, and less centralized, empowering you to

- create unlimited identifiers without paying for the right to do so,
- add any kind of metadata, including no metadata,
- append extensions and query strings during resolution,
- link directly to an article, image, or spreadsheet that is immediately usable by people and software without making them first stop at a landing page, and
- make millions of ARKs resolvable by managing just one ARK, via a mechanism called suffix passthrough.

This lightning talk will present an update on the ARK Alliance and the diverse and rapidly growing body of ARK identifiers.