# Introduction to ORCID

## OVERVIEW

While each person is unique, our names are not. For example, if you searched for Anna Walker in Google, you might find the English botanist you were looking for, or you might find the author and illustrator of children’s books from Australia. Using an ORCID, Open Researcher and Contributor ID, rather than a name, addresses this challenge. In this activity, you will learn more about persistent identifiers and how they are useful for researchers. You will also create your own ORCID.

### Learning Objectives

* Register for an ORCID.
* Recognize and communicate the importance of an ORCID.
* Populate your own ORCID with your data.
* Navigate the ORCID website to learn more about other researchers.

## SETTING THE SCENE

Please watch this short video before reading the background information below.

* ORCID (2014). What is an ORCID? [Video]. Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/97150912>
Archived 22 March 2023: [https://web.archive.org/web/20230322162518/https://vimeo.com/97150912](https://web.archive.org/web/20230322162518/https%3A//vimeo.com/97150912)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

While each person is unique, our names are not. For example, if you searched for Anna Walker in Google, you might find the English botanist you were looking for, or you might find the author and illustrator of children’s books from Australia. Using an ORCID, Open Researcher and Contributor ID, rather than a name addresses this challenge. Since names are not unique, a particular author's contributions to the scientific literature or publications can be hard to recognize. Names can change (such as with marriage), have cultural differences in name order, contain inconsistent use of first-name abbreviations, and employ different writing systems. ORCIDs provide a persistent identity for humans, similar to tax ID numbers or social security numbers.

ORCIDs are free, unique, persistent identifiers for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities. A **Persistent identifier** (PID) is a long-lasting and globally unique reference to a digital resource that cannot be reused to refer to a different object (Güntsch et al., 2017; McMurry et al., 2017; Nelson et al., 2018). Borrowing terminology from software development, PIDs are sometimes treated as synonyms of globally unique identifiers (GUID) or universally unique identifiers (UUID). However, the persistence of identifiers remains challenging for both social and technical reasons.

Using ORCIDs can potentially help ensure everyone gets credit for their work, therefore hopefully minimizing the amount of future hidden figures in natural history collections and science in general. Most researchers wait to register for an ORCID till they have published or are about to publish a paper; however, this potentially misses out on receiving credit for contributions made through community science work, class work, or individual projects. ORCID can also be used as a type of online CV for students to display their work and easily share their contributions as they apply for internships, scholarships, and jobs.

## ACTIVITY

This activity is separated into two parts. Part one includes step-by-step instructions for registering for an ORCID for yourself. Part two is a short exercise to explore the ORCID website.

### Part 1 – Register for an ORCID



1. Head to <https://orcid.org/> and press the Sign in/Register button.



1. Below the sign-in details, there is an option to “Register now” if you don’t have an ORCID already.



1. When you create your ORCID it should have your full name as well as your current affiliation, for example, the college or university in which you are enrolled. Please make sure you keep a record note of your password. When entering your email address, please use an address to which you will have long term access; you will lose access to your campus email after graduation.
2. Other information that you might like to include (you could treat this as an online version of a CV):
	* Also known as names - any other names you would like to add
	* Your country
	* Employment history
	* Education
3. Consider whether you wish to make your ORCID public. This is useful for those students who intend to publish or wish to make public their contributions and get credit for the same.

### Part 2- Explore ORCID

An ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) is a unique digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other person. ORCIDs aren't just for faculty or researchers. ORCID profiles support a wide variety of output, from poster projects to student papers or video exhibits, and they are a great place to get started documenting your work. It is important that students obtain an ORCID early in their academic journey so they can receive credit for all of their work. Answer the questions below as you explore ORCID.

1. What is your ORCID?
2. If you search for your name, how many results match?
3. Search for your instructor’s name. Are you able to find them?
4. What sorts of activities do they have listed?
5. Did you learn anything new about your instructor?

## GLOSSARY

**CV**: Curriculum Vitae; an account of an individual’s education and experience, typically used in academic settings. Similar to a resume, but longer and more comprehensive.

**GUID**: Globally unique identifiers

**ORCID**: Free, unique, persistent identifiers for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities

**PID**: Persistent identifier; a long-lasting and globally unique reference to a digital resource that cannot be reused to refer to a different object

**UUID**: Universally Unique Identifier

## REFERENCES

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