



IRIs using Persistent URLs: It has long been recognized the mechanism used to access resources must be both deterministic and persistent (URIs) in order for it to effectively serve the needs of a distributed, community-wide, dynamic informatics framework. Several collaborative projects have sought to provide such a mechanism (e.g., LSID, LOC info, CDL ARK, etc.) though all these proposed protocols are rather complex to implement and none as yet has emerged as a ubiquitous standard. As an expedient means to implement URIs now with existing tools and infrastructure, we choose to use the http protocol and adopt the Persistent URL (PURL) framework to specify a domain name (blue) for a publishing authority (black). PURL Resolvers provide a publishing authority with a flexible means to map the resources within their domain to a physical resource (PURL partial re-direction). In this way, the published URL root need not be altered even when the physical machine serving up the resources changes. Within an authority's domain, the HCLS IG agreed there was a need to specify both form (red) and the source (green) of a resource collection. In this example, the science commons ("commons") and OBO ("obo") authorities place the form layer above the type layer. The BIRN community has both reversed that order, and categorized the form based on its function, as opposed to its format. There is a further requirement for the URL to specify resource sub-modules and versions, a feature currently implemented by both the BIRN project and the publishers of the Dublin Core metadata (not shown). This depiction represents the current implementations in use by HCLS IG participants. As this URI strategy is still in beta and under debate, the details will like change in the coming year.