

# Organization Identifier Project: Request for Information

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## Executive Summary

The [Organization Identifier Working Group](#) has defined recommendations and principles for an open, independent organization identifier registry, including using open data to seed the registry, independent governance structure, a start-up phase inside a non-profit host organization providing technical development, operations and other support, and capabilities for organizations to manage their own record. The principles describe the main use cases and service components of the registry and basic metadata requirements. These principles are outlined in two documents which were created and approved by the Working Group: [Governance Recommendations](#) and [Registry Product Scope and Principles](#).

The details of implementation and business models to sustain the registry are highly dependent on the host organization and data sources. Therefore, the Organization Identifier Working Group is putting out this Request for Information to gather input from interested host organizations, data sources/providers, and the general research community to launch and maintain the Registry: what role they could play, what data and services they could provide, and what anticipated costs and business models are feasible based on the experiences of existing identifier registries or similar services.

## Request for Information

The Organization Identifier Working Group is charged with creating an implementation plan for an open organization identifier registry by the end of 2017. Toward that goal, we are sharing the findings and recommendations of the Working Group, which specify that:

- *The Working Group identify existing organizations that would be willing to act as a host for the Registry and contract with the Registry governance body to provide services.*
- *The Working Group identify existing organizations that would be willing to commit resources for phase 1. This includes donations, grants, loans, in kind donations (staff) and secondment of staff.*
- *The Registry will seek seed data from organization identifier providers who serve the research community, whose data meet the metadata requirements, and which data are available under a recommended Open Definition conformant license.*

Following up on these recommendations we are putting forth to the research community this Request for Information to:

1. Identify organizations that are interested in being a host for the Registry.
2. Identify organizations willing to provide resources (donations, grants, loans, staff time) for Phase 1.
3. Identify sources of data to seed the Registry.
4. Gather input on the costs of running the Registry and possible sustainable business models.

Therefore, please respond to this RFI outlining your interest in, capabilities for, and approach to being a host organization, providing resources to the Registry, and/or providing source data. In addition, we welcome advice, suggestions, and feedback on creating a sustainable business model for each phase of the Registry's development.

## Submission and Review Process

Send your responses to the [Organization ID Project \(oi-project@orcid.org\)](mailto:oi-project@orcid.org) by **31 October 2017**. Responses should reference the recommendations and principles in the [Governance Recommendations](#) and [Registry Product Scope and Principles](#). Responses will be reviewed by a subgroup of the Organization Identifier Working Group, membership of which will be adjusted as needed to minimize any conflict of interest. This group will be charged with deciding on the host organization and assisting with finalizing the selection of data sources and establishing the business model.

## Definition of Terms

**Business Model:** A plan for fees to maintain the Registry and associated staff and infrastructure. Any fees have to be transparent and non-discriminatory. Charging fees for open data is not feasible. Possible fees include a one-time fee to register a new organization in the Registry, an annual fee for organizations to be able to edit and manage their record, an annual fee for organizations to add additional data to their record in the Registry, and/or a premium SLA fee with guaranteed response time, API call backs, and data dumps.

**Governance:** The Registry organization should be non-profit, non-stock, transparent, well regulated, include a broad set of stakeholders in governance, and have protections in place for assets to go to another non-profit with similar mission if the organization wound up.

**Host Organization:** The Registry will have its own governance. The Working Group recommends its start-up be managed in agreement with a host organization, which could provide: payroll, benefits, marketing and communications; product management; technical support; machine interfaces such as APIs; host an interface for enabling the community or organizations to manage registry data. The host organization should be non-profit, non-stock, transparent, well regulated, sustainable and have protections in place for assets to go to another non-profit with a similar mission if the organization is wound up.

**Metadata:** The Registry will focus on the organization levels that are most pertinent for the affiliation use case (who employs, who educates, who funds, etc). The Registry will require data elements for each record sufficient to uniquely identify the organization.

**Open Data:** Registry documentation and required data will be available for use under a recommended [Open Definition conformant](#) license, in human and machine readable formats.

**Open PIIR:** Open Persistent Institutional Identifier Registry, working name of the Registry in the Registry Product Scope and Principles document.

**Organization ID Working Group:** an ad hoc community-based group assembled to discuss requirements and develop recommendations and principles for an open and persistent organization registry.

**Record curation:** The Registry will derive utility through a combined model that includes both curation by Registry staff and curation by the organizations represented, and will encourage cross-talk between existing registry providers.

## Resource Documents

- [Organization ID Working Group Webpage](#)
- [Governance Recommendations](#)
- [Product Principles and Requirements](#)