

























Looking back at the standard, would accommodating this change mean defining a new kind of qualifier, beginning with #, to name the underlying resource? Though technically possible, this would cause backwards compatibility issues, because the # character is not reserved in ARK names. In other terms, one could perfectly define the following (unqualified) ARK core identifier: `ark:/9999/c5j3r4#hz45`, with a # in the ARK name itself. Defining a # qualifier would break backwards compatibility in such cases. On the other hand, # already has a use in the standard web architecture (fragment for a URL) which makes it unlikely that implementers will use this character in their own implementation. A comprehensive survey of ARK implementers would be useful before any decision. If a # qualifier proved to be possible, we believe this would be a valid scenario to reconcile semantic web and ARK implementation approaches.

## **Conclusion**

This article intended to look back at the history of using ARK persistent identifiers in one institution, and possible evolutions of the standard. Standards-wise, the question boils down to whether we should consider expanding the core features to increase cross-resolver interoperability and adapt ARKs to new contexts, or should we stick to the current ARK recommendation, which is flexible, simple, easy to use, and in most cases successful? Such questions will be taken up in follow-on work with the implementer community.

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