GUIDE 01 • FOR RESEARCHERS AND REPOSITORY TEAMS

How BAOBAB assigns ARKs automatically

Publish a research item, find its persistent identifier, and check that the identifier opens the correct record.

You supply the research item and its description. BAOBAB requests and stores the ARK through PIDsLink. You do not need to create an ARK or type one into the publication form.

What is an ARK?

ARK stands for **Archival Resource Key**. It is a persistent identifier for a resource. A resolver link connects the identifier to the item's repository landing page, where readers can view its description and access permitted files.

The automatic assignment workflow

Stage	What happens
1. Prepare the item	Upload files, select a resource type, and enter the title, authors and publication date. Complete the description and access settings.
2. Publish	Select Publish, or submit to a community for review. A review submission becomes published when an authorised reviewer accepts and publishes it.
3. Assign the ARK	For normal public-record publication, BAOBAB's configured identifier provider requests an ARK from PIDsLink using the record's landing-page URL.
4. Store and display	BAOBAB stores the returned ARK with the record. The record page displays it under "ARK Identifier". Registration or update processing can continue in the background.
5. Resolve and cite	Open the ARK resolver link, confirm the destination and use the link when sharing or citing the item.

When should you look for the ARK?

Check after publication. A saved draft or a pending review request is not evidence that a public identifier is ready. This walkthrough uses a public record; restricted records may follow different identifier rules.

An ARK identifies the repository record, which may contain several files. It does not automatically give each uploaded file a separate ARK.

GUIDE 01 • DEMONSTRATION

Try the workflow with this guide

This PDF can itself be deposited as a documentation record to demonstrate automatic ARK assignment.

1. Prepare a new upload

Sign in at BAOBAB and open the upload action from your dashboard or chosen community. Upload **BAOBAB_Automatic_ARK_Guide.pdf** and wait for the upload to finish. The companion publication checklist provides suggested metadata.

2. Describe the document

Use the title **How BAOBAB assigns ARKs automatically**. Select the closest available documentation or publication type. Add the actual responsible author or organisation and the appropriate publication date. Describe the PDF as a practical guide to automatic identifiers, rather than as a research study.

3. Review access and publish

For a public demonstration, choose public record visibility and public file access where permitted. Review the licence and any repository-policy confirmation. Publish directly if permitted, or submit for review and wait for acceptance and publication.

4. Find the assigned identifier

Open the published record and locate **ARK Identifier**. Copy the identifier and its linked resolver URL. Do not copy an example identifier into the new record: BAOBAB supplies that record’s own ARK.

5. Check the result

Open the resolver URL in a new browser tab, then check the title, authors and files. For the public demonstration, also open it while signed out. Record the new ARK and record URL for your training notes.

Demonstration success: the published item displays its own ARK, and opening the resolver link leads to that item’s landing page.

A working example already on BAOBAB

A published CLIMET presentation by Omo Oaiya provides a real example. On 21 October 2026, its public metadata contained the ARK below, and the resolver redirected to the matching record.

ARK: ark:/50962/bb67854tgw9hmz4c
Resolver: https://pidslink.ren.africa/ark:/50962/bb67854tgw9hmz4c
Record: https://baobab.wacren.net/records/0za5w-5vt75

This existing presentation is separate from this guide. Its ARK must not be used as the identifier of either PDF in this pack.

GUIDE 01 • VERIFICATION AND REFERENCE

Check, share and troubleshoot

The useful result is a working link to the correct published research item.

Check	Expected result
Publication status	The item is published; it is not only a draft or a pending community request.
Identifier display	The published page contains an ARK under “ARK Identifier”.
Resolver destination	Opening the PIDsLink URL reaches the correct BAOBAB landing page.
Public access	For a public demonstration, a signed-out visitor can see the page and open the PDF.
Citation	The title, authors and date match the record; the citation includes the correct ARK resolver URL.

If the ARK is missing or the link fails

Confirm publication or review status, then refresh the record after background processing has completed. If the issue persists, send the record URL, any displayed ARK, and the error message to BAOBAB support or your community team. A displayed identifier alone does not prove that resolution is working.

What the identifier does—and does not—tell readers

A persistent identifier helps readers find and cite an item. It is not a peer-review label or a guarantee of research quality. It also does not change file access permissions. Long-term resolution depends on the repository and identifier service maintaining the link.

Sources and verification scope

Public service descriptions: BAOBAB FAQ and BAOBAB User Guide. The example was checked using its public record metadata and a successful resolver redirect on 21 October 2026.

Implementation review: BAOBAB configuration, its PIDsLink provider and record display templates, plus the locally installed InvenioRDM publication lifecycle. These support the workflow described here; the authenticated live deposit form was not accessible during preparation. Labels and community requirements may differ.

The example confirms that an existing ARK resolves. This guide was not itself published during preparation, and no new identifier was minted to produce this document.

Support: devops@wacren.net • Companion document: **BAOBAB_Publication_Fields_Checklist.pdf**.