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## Researches in Public Administration Conducted by Lecturers in Thai Public Universities

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**Key words:** Research in public administration, motivation for research, identity in public administration and research methodology in public administration

**Abstract:** This research is a qualitative research. This study aimed to study the characteristics of public administration research of public university lecturers in Thailand examine the incentive to produce the research in the Department of Public Administration of public universities in Thailand study the body of knowledge that is the research identity in the Department of Public Administration of teachers in the public university in Thailand. The research instruments consisted of the study of research documents in public administration, participatory observation and in-depth interviews with key informants from 4 public university lecturers, Chulalongkorn University, National Institute of Development Administration, Ramkhamhaeng University and Maha Sarakham Rajabhat University. The research results are as follows: The research of the Public Administration's lecturers has no different characteristics of Public Administration knowledge which will be consistent with the knowledge of Public Administration consisting of 5 knowledges which are knowledge in organization and management knowledge in Public Policy knowledge in Resource management theoretical knowledge in Public Administration and knowledge of Finance and Budget. The factors that motivated the teacher to produce the research that can be divided into 2 factors they are: Internal Factors (attitude towards professions dedication to the organization pride and loyalty to the organization and discipline and self-development) external Factors such as environmental factors (University policy, career growth factors by line performance, evaluation system, educational quality assurance and University policy). The knowledge that is the research identity of the Department of Public Administration consists of the following factors: The knowledge of public administration will consist of theories, concepts related to public administration.

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Also, related to the use ability of various knowledge in Public Administration. In order to find the right performance and also bringing into consideration the surrounding environmental factors. There are 3 types of research methods in Public Administration which are quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods and integrated research methods which using any research methodology, the Public Administration researchers will choose from the research proposal, the format of the research sample, expertise and aptitude including the determination of research problems from research problems. The factors of research production according to the interdisciplinary science

and integration that will bring the knowledge of Public Administration and other sciences from various disciplines combined to find the answer to the research is the science or methodology that have been used many disciplines in the same research causing to complement each other and be more completed. Public research scholarships can be divided into 3 categories; they are internal research funds external research funds and private funds. Utilization of research. The use of research can be classified into 4 dimensions, namely academic use, policy use community/social use and commercial utilization.

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## INTRODUCTION

Higher education institutions are a place to gather intellectual knowledges of the country as well as being the main agency that serves education to have more potential for developing people which is a valuable resource for the development of the country Including higher education institutions are the main institutions of the country that people and organizations can rely on. There are four main tasks that all higher education institutions must adhere to. There are: production of graduates. Researches Academic Services to societies and 4. Preservation of Art and Culture in order to benefit the national development.

Therefore, teachers who are key persons of higher education institutions are an important tool to drive the main mission of higher education institutions. There are four important duties of teachers on teaching, researching and other academic works and the preservation of art and culture and if any person has high competencies, the organization will be able to produce high performance work and be able to advance to the organization of high performance. Upgrading the quality of higher education institutions to move towards for more efficient organization. Self-development continuously will generate knowledge that could beneficial to the academic societies. If teachers produce any researches and create quality of knowledge which will improve the quality of teaching and learners. In particular, preparing the workforce to be prepared for the 21st century changes.

From factor 4 the workload of the professor presented that the quality of teachers is. Therefore, it is essential to produce quality products. It plays an important role in researching and creating new knowledge for development in academic society<sup>[1]</sup> and use for measuring of the quality assurance system. Therefore, higher education institutions must operate in accordance with relevant standards and criteria.

As mentioned above, the research production is essential to the development of various bodies of knowledge. Universities need to support teachers to produce research including supporting activities in all areas for example supporting the dissemination of results in international databases. The establishment of a specialized research unit research funding supporting research for communities or organizing research development projects to increase potential by applying research results to tangible benefits to promote economic and social benefits for example, The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) has been collected data the useful of research. In particular, the 5th area of academic is the application of knowledge from research published in various formats such as international journal, national level, textbook, lesson book to be useful in teaching.

Including the extension of innovation and new technology which all of these utilization factors are based on four benefits of development, for example building the country's competitiveness, creating equality and society equity. Creating the growth of quality of life that is environmentally friendly and when all 3 factors are combined together which will lead to sustainable growth (Report from the research utilization book.

### Research objective:

- To study the nature of research in Public Administration of public university teachers in Thailand
- To study the motivation for the research production in Public Administration of government university teachers in Thailand
- To study the elements of knowledge that could be the research identity in the field of Public Administration of public university teachers in Thailand

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Scope of Research content in Public Administration by lecturers in the field of public administration at public universities in Thailand is between 2012 and 2018 on research which the teacher is the main researcher excluding thesis or other research by analyzing the characteristics of the research issues in accordance with the nature of Public Administration, divided into 5 bodies of knowledge, consisting of 1. Knowledge of organization and management 2. Public Policy Knowledge Group 3. Group of knowledge on human resource management 4. Group of concepts of knowledge on theories in Public Administration and Group of Knowledge on finance and budget. (Announcement of the Ministry of Education on the standard of qualifications at the bachelor's degree in Public Administration, 2015 (TQO 1), Item No. 8, content of the field of study). How the outlook for research direction is. It is a qualitative or quantitative research. Is new research or an extension of research would have been done. How long the research period is including large or small research where the budget for funding is the motivation factors analysis for teachers is to produce research in Public Administration to describing the motivated factors and be able to motivate a person to produce research in line with Herzberg. There are two factors categories as follow:

- Motivation factors related to a person's internal motivation which related with the nature of the job and the environment that person performs for example, job achievement, social acceptance, work progress, job details, job promotion and Opportunities for growth by job position and responsibility by function

Support factors are indirect factors. It is a factor that helps reduce the job dissatisfaction of the person or supported factor which is the external motivation of this factor for individuals to respond to the organization such as Administration Organization Policy, Commanding, Relationship between supervisors and staffs and vice versa, compensation, work security, personal life, working conditions and status.

Population and sample scope which this research is a qualitative research study. Using a unique case orientation method which aims to gain a deep understanding of what is being studied and the samples in this study is the snowball sampling technique.

**Choosing a case study:** Research results or research articles of public university professors that are offered in the field of Public Administration of Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University There are 8 master's

programs and two doctoral programs at the Faculty of Public Administration. National Institute of Development Administration has the programme of Masterer degrees, two doctoral programmes, Ramkhamhaeng University offers five Master degrees and two Doctoral programmes and Rajjapat Mahasarakham University has courses in Public Administration in Master degree in 2 branches, Doctoral degree into two branches as well:

- There are productions of research results continuously
- The research results published in recognized academic journals
- Receive funding to conduct researches from various sources, both internal and external, either national or international between 2012 and 2018 (5 years)
- The public universities that offers master and doctoral degree in Public Administration in and out of Bangkok

They are the pioneer group of universities or institutions or the origin of the Department of Public Administration in Thailand or the beginning of the Department of Public Administration in Thailand or an institution that influence on the education on Public Administration area in Thailand. According to the aforementioned selection criteria, the researcher has selected 4 universities according to the above conditions. They are: Chulalongkorn University, National Institute of Development Administration, Ramkhamhaeng University and Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University.

**Key informant:** The population in this research is the results of research in Public Administration by lecturers in Public Administration in public universities and professors who produces research in Public Administration and use group sampling method. Key contributors participated in the initiative stage and able to suggest in the determining research methods in all dimensions in accordance with the scope of the field of study in Public Administration and represents the identity of a branch of Public Administration for example:

- Organization and management knowledge groups
- Body of knowledge in public policy
- Body of knowledge in human resource management
- Body of knowledge of concepts and theories in public administration

Body of knowledge in Fiscal and Budget by professors affiliated in the field of Public Administration whom produce research results regularly or a teacher who is recommended by a key informant who the mentor

thinks is someone who has the same qualifications as a teacher who provides important information. The researcher selects the key informants based on the desired qualifications in each university. The key informants continued to recommend similar examples until they had obtained sufficient information to lead to a logical conclusion whom lecturers from Public Administration from four public universities.

**Research tools:** This research is a qualitative research that to be a case study which emphasizes the importance of individual studies by relying on a small number of cases or samples for important purposes is to gain in-depth knowledge and provides a holistic comprehensive overview of the information on the subject of studying<sup>[2]</sup>. There were two sources of information used in this research: primary information was obtained from in-depth interviews and studies from various related documents.

**Data collection:** The tools used for data collection were: the researcher, interview form, questionnaire, voice recorder and notebook for collecting the data using in this research in various formats including:

Study and search from documents included academic texts, academic papers, research papers that have been published and disseminated. Researches of lecturers in the Department of Public Administration included relevant regulations/notices applicable to each case studies and other documents. The researcher studied information from the above mentioned document and make notes or comparison tables and store the database. They were separated into categories and a reference index created and enable to be traceability. Interview with key informants that used an in-depth interview technique with 19 key informants.

**Data analysis:** In data analysis of this research that applied chai Bodhisita's approach (2009, pages 359-400) with three components as follow.

**Data organizing:** Visualization Conclusions by examining the reliability of detailed analysis results using a triangular method. Data triangle investigation. Investigating triangle research.

**Theory triangular examination:** Triangular Examination of Data Collection Method by examining the information with triangle method, the procedures for the implementation that are in line with the requirements for the audit are as follows: Designation of case studies into four public universities, classified by educational institutions which are in the universities, group focusing on graduate production and research. The nineteen key informants in each case study consisted of professors of Public Administration in public universities who worked

with much experience and seek problems arising from influenced circumstance related to the research characteristics of Public Administration disciplines.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the result obtained from the research. The researcher views the research results as follows: Direction of this research in the field of Public Administration. In the viewer's perspective, there will be factors from government agencies that regulate the research. The research organization responsible for the research that will determine the direction of the research problem from trends from the changing of the uncertain environment. Therefore, research disciplines of Public Administration must be directed towards research funding sources or in accordance with the year 2017-2021. Research and Innovation Strategy which will have a scope for funding from various strategic issues as well as internal capital sources will be reduced and teachers must mainly seek external research funding. Moreover, there will be more integrated research across science to meet the needs of funding sources. Policy mission and national and government strategies or missions in the area because research funds will be allocated in a form of distributed research to various departments in the universities.

Most of the research in Public Administration by professors in Public Administration is the direct production of research and the scope of Public Administration. As of the research methodology, the approach is based on the master's own expertise observed by most key contributors; the traditional research methodology of their expertise will have not been changed. In terms of funding sources, the researcher thinks that it can be divided into two forms.

Experienced groups are most of teachers with high experience or with academic positions are accepted from funding sources and do not encounter any problems in applying for research funding from various funding sources. In other words, professors with little experience or who have just started researching are not yet recognized by external funding sources. Most of these groups will either request internal funding from the university itself or join an experienced group team and most of the usage of research will be used for academic purpose in teaching and learning. The useful of writing textbooks for example for students and apply for an academic position. This is in line with interviews by key informants that most of the research uses are academic and the utilization in other few areas.

Motivating factors driving teachers to do research from the conclusion that was found that the motivating factors for research work were. The duties of being a "teacher" because the main workload of a teacher has 4 tasks: teaching, research, academic service and

preserve art and culture Causing teachers to do research according to their roles and responsibilities In addition, teachers must be knowledgeable and always up-to-date with the changing world. The factors of the academic position that most professors see it as an obligation and may present as a normal condition of being a teacher that requires the development of their own knowledge and potential. It is like building credibility confidence in any societies.

In addition, another important factor is the quality assurance of education. This is because the pointers have used the research as a basis for scoring. Therefore, it is imperative that in order to score from quality assurance indicators, there must be quality research supposed to be done according to criteria such as national or international publications, research papers and presentation in an international conference.

As the above mentioned about the opinion of the researchers that the quality of research in Public Administration. They supposed to develop in 3 components. There are:

- The researches solve problems as of the field of study Public Administration under five areas of knowledge
- The support of researchers, personnel and environment are ready to conduct to the researches

The support from responsible research agencies to reduce problems resulting from the research of the faculty members. Public Administration which able to process in three elements managed by lecturers of the Department of Public Administration in Thailand where should be done the research in societies and able to get the results to develop the country efficiently.

**Objective 1:** To study the composition of the body of knowledge that is a research identity in the Department of Public Administration of government university professors in Thailand, the results were found to be no different because the research topic framing came from funding sources from the region state in which each fiscal year there will be a research problem that will support research funding for researchers. Researchers are able to study and prepare research proposals from national research policies and strategies. It will be expressed in the form of (draft) research strategy and research development strategy plan such as: 1. Public relations research funding of the National Research Agency. (Scholarships to promote young researchers 2020, announcement of various types of research grants), etc. The body of knowledge to use in the research topic depends on the social factor, economic, environment at the time. What research questions do when the universities need supports? University policies that

support the researches. The consistent of the research of Sinthawakamdit, according to the research issue of 2P4M. They are:

- Guidelines for promoting research in private higher education institutions stated that “Guidelines for promoting research in the higher education institutions must have factors of 2P4M including
- The plan that consistent with the policy and can be implemented
- It is the knowledgeable for any people whom ready to produce quality researches
- Universities have an adequate budget and have channels to seek from outside

Universities have research resources that facilitate researchers and 6. Universities have a systematic and flexible management. This source will encourage teachers to do research according to the research framework of the agency, the research funding source and the research of the faculty members will accord with the body of knowledge in Public Administration. The nature of the research in Public Administration will have been relevant to Public Administration in all activities by the body of knowledge in Public Administration are consisted of: 1. Knowledge of organization and management. Knowledge of public policy.

**Knowledge of human resource management:** The theoretical body of Public Administration and. The knowledge of finance and budget which all five areas are able to reflect the identity of the field of public administration with details consistent with the research of Samrit Yotsomsak mentioned that public administration has an academic meaning. The study or field of study which studied in Public Administration or any operations and in the part of Public Administration. This constitution is an operational aspect related to the various operations/activities that the government should perform for the public.

The meaning of Public Administration may be summarized and referred to a knowledge or field of theories. Guidelines for the academic administration of the public sector and theories to explain the cause and effect or various impacts arising from various activities that are implemented in order to perform the job or the operations of various departments with the achievement or objectives. All these knowledges were brought to (Table 1) by a research dipper that included the explanation of prediction using the accepted method of the field of science. Knowledge of truth, concept, principle, new theory or invention which is a new body of knowledge causing advancement of science in various disciplines and creating intelligence for all humanity. Research method book).

Table 1: Number of key informants of case study

Educational institution	Amounts
Chulalongkorn University	5
Faculty of Political Science, Department of Public Administration	
National Institute of Development Administration	3
Faculty of Political Science, Department of Public Administration	
Ramkhamhaeng University	5
Faculty of Political Science	
Rajabhat Maharakham University	6
Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration	
Total	19

**Objective 2:** To study the motivation for the production of research in Public Administration of teachers in public universities in Thailand. The results presented that there was no difference in motivation of research production which was the motivation factor that led the faculty of Public Administration to produce research results divided into two factors which are internal and external factors, there are. Internal factors (attitudes towards the teaching profession dedicated the organization to be proud and loyal to the organization which being part of the organization achievement motivation related to power, discipline and self-development) including. Factor of the Functions of the professor of universities. Factors of the needs of everybody, for example good environment (policy promotion of universities and be supported from supervisors and pressure factors from surrounding society) included.

Factors for career growth by line. Performance Evaluation System. Education quality assurance. University policy Consistent with the research as of Kanjanawong<sup>[4]</sup> from the research on the factors that Influencing researching of the personnel of Faculty of Business Administration, Mae Jo University found that “Many factors affecting the research decision of the Faculty of Business Administration personnel, Mae Jo University, were divided into two factors, there are:

- Internal factors including the progress in the position, created a good attitude on job duties towards conducting research on job responsibilities and knowledges or research skills

External factors are materials, equipment, tools and facilities on academic environment and research on environment agency policies. Many of research funds for financial regulations, supplies and others related to research funding source, research advisors and getting support from the universities and related with Kamolpan Nontasen whom did the research factors affecting the research of new Rajabhat university lecturers in Northeastern Region. The research results were found that the factors affecting the research including agency support, research skills, organization acceptance and job

achievement” found in the research by Suda etc. The research on factors affecting the researching of academic staff of Faculty of Liberal Arts, Prince of Songkla University. The research results were found that the way to promote research is to provide teaching assistants and substitute manpower in teaching and learning. Decrease teaching workload to meet the minimum workload standard. Organize groups and workload for teachers that focus on teaching and researching.

The Adjustment of the process of funding research faster, concise, cleared and standardized. Organizing the standard inspection system, Update the database for humanities and social sciences to be updated as well. There is a teacher advisor system that organize activities to foster a research environment and promote positive attitudes. Establish regulatory measures for reward and incentive compensation to drive for further study until completion of doctoral studies and accelerate work towards applying for academic positions.

**Objective 3:** Studying of the composition of knowledge that the research identity in the field of Public Administration of public university teachers in Thailand. The consideration of the body of knowledge and the knowledge components to find the subject identity of the Public Administration disciplines of public university teachers in Thailand and able to classify the knowledge components which is the research identity of the public theological disciplines. The research results were found that the cognitive component which is the research identity of the branch of Public Administration consists of the following factors:

**Body of knowledge in public administration:** The body of knowledge in Public Administration consists of theories and concepts related to Public Administration It also has a relationship with the application of various knowledges to be used in Public Administration and to seek suitable performance and also take into account the surrounding environment factors. It is also a branch of theories and knowledges related to Public Administration or government administration. It also connected with organizational theories, behavioral science management of strategic management analysis of public policies project management, project evaluation on human resource management and evaluation<sup>[5]</sup> in line with Tin Prachayapruet has given the definition of Public Administration as a branch or activities related to government administration. “In English, the term” Public Administration “refers to the academic field of government administration while public administration (small letter) refers to the activities or processes of government administration and the meaning in the Thai

language that the word public administration refers to the field of public administration. Public administration Refers to activities or processes related to government administration.

**Characteristics of research methods in public administration:** Research methodology in Public Administration consists of 3 research methods: quantitative research methodology, qualitative research methodology and integrated research methodology in order to apply any research methodology. The Public Administration researchers will select from the factors of the research problems, the format of the research sample group and the determination of the research problem from the research question, etc.

As of the research of Nuttanai Prathuang Booriboon mentioned the concept of problem determination in Public Administration states that the key steps in problem determination leading to Public Administration research are beneficial to health and the well-being of the people in the first order, the researcher needs to understand the research paradigm and the next is to consider the guidelines that will lead to research consisting as:

- What researches will have been chosen?
- Why will the research be conducted
- What methods will be used in the researches?

The good formulation of problems will be clarifying clearly lead to valuable research results and used in solving problems and developing the country. Factors of Research production according to cross science and integration science.

**Educational issues:** Knowledge in Public Administration will cause of bringing knowledges in Public Administration as a tool to help formulating an integrated research topic. It is to combine research knowledge, concepts, theories and science from different disciplines to get answers through integrated research. It connects the answers to the homogeneous knowledge that able to answer many research questions or may answer all aspects completely. It is a concept of using science or methodology from many disciplines in the same research to get result to support each other to be more trust and perfect than split or single use Integrated research which is the principle of applying knowledge, theory, methodology from a mix of different disciplines, resulting in holistic productivity and academic cooperation that aim to get answers completely and get the most accurate and comprehensive answers to research problems in the area where the answer is either holistic or not. The result of integration is a new broader and more advanced of the body of knowledge as of Jarunee Moombansao mentioned

in the article on the cross-science integrated research said that "Integrated research across science also known as (Interdisciplinarity) or Crossdisciplinarity or Trans disciplinarity. It is a complex truth-seeking effort and cannot be studied by scientific, meaning that, Integrative research across science involves 3 knowledges: systematic knowledge. Objectives of knowledge and knowledge of change in response to the need to solve problems in the living world through research which related with the research of Sue L.T. McGregor, integrative research across science is research to explain and understand the present situation, increasingly complex of the world's problems. It cannot be explained clearly with just one science or one body of knowledge.

The interdisciplinary integrative research consists of two key concepts. The peculiarities of interdisciplinary research with and without scientific method and. New learning styles. And cooperation in solving problems in various parts of society.

**Research grants in public administration:** The allocation of research funding from various departments is aimed at fostering, building and supporting research in line with national research policies and the needs of various funding sources including the public and private sectors to meet the objectives and obligations for funding. According to government policy and a capital allocation system under the objectives of each capital management and management unit. Prepare the rules for applying for scholarships screening applications for scholarships and allocate funds to scholarship recipients in order to encourage and coordinate funding recipients to join and receive and implement sponsored projects. The monitoring and assisting the sponsored projects to achieve. The evaluated projects that are sponsored including synthesize analysis. The results of the overall funding of various projects to get the results success as of the higher education, science, research and innovation programs in order to create professional researchers to be able to compete internationally, building a research network through a new knowledge creation process that is fundamental to national development with various types of research funding such as research grants for research grants for academic publication or various awards, etc. The type of research funding can be divided into 3 types. Internal research funding, External research funds and Personal funds characteristics of research in public administration.

The field of Public Administration has an Interdisciplinary. The nature of research in Public Administration is to bring the body of knowledge in Public Administration to be the best alternative of studying getting the answer by using scientific processes,

research methodology as an educational process as well. The body of knowledge in Public Administration consists of the development of Public Administration from the past to the present that could related the concepts and theories; Paradigm concepts of Public Administration which is the science that focuses on finding facts from the administration of government organizations consisted with the research of Nannicha Haasunthree in public administration that "Public Administration is an applied science that focuses on the knowledge and facts of the administration of government organizations including non-profit organizations. The applied science allows Public Administration to open up knowledge from other disciplines to be integrated together in the development of public organization administration.

Because of being a science, knowledge and facts must be sought through a process known as "Research". The Public Administration must be carried out according to scientific concepts although it is an art in management but the process of acquiring knowledge is carried out in accordance with the research methodology of social science that references strict scientific concepts. It is an administrative principle that relies on other factors for example values, culture, beliefs, personal behavior, historical background on Social, economic and political context<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Types of research in public administration has classified the type of research as a whole According to content of research such as the local administration (PAO, Tambon Administrative Organization) and the provincial administration of the ministries, bureaus, departments, policies, plans and state projects public service, personnel management and administrative behavior, personnel development, training, organizational structure, administrative principles, administrative techniques, executive and leadership, finance management, budgeting, development management, politics and administration, project management and planning, labor administration, police administration, privatization of state affairs and so on.

### **SUGGESTION**

From the study and analysis of research in the Department of Public Administration by teachers of the Department of Public Administration in the public universities in Thailand. There is a recommendation from the research results that can be divided into 3 ways: policy recommendations, implementation suggestions and academic suggestion.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The university should initiate the study of principles of education and learning about in centivizing the research production of the lecturers in the Department of Public Administration and push the research that is still being studied or giving less educated research topics for example the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Political Science should promote research in Government organization and management on public policy and human resource management, Faculty of Government. The Graduate Institute of Administration supposed to promote research in Public Administration in Human Resource Management, Faculty of Political Science, Ramkhamhaeng University should promote research Public Administration in public policy and the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration. Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University should promote research in Public Administration, public policy, etc. (Reference from the analysis table to categorize research results of professors in the Department of Public Administration according to the characteristics of knowledge, research in public administration, page 135).

Lecturers of Public Administration should set up a work plan to find guidelines for bringing research in Public Administration in teaching and learning in the field of study and put it into practice in teaching and learning stage. Any development should be encouraged and create learning for students which lecturers need to apply in accordance with the approach to integrating learning from the body of knowledge from research in public administration.

Lecturers should bring knowledge from research in the field of Public Administration as a guideline for teaching and learning and the creation of knowledge from the research:

- University administrators Government agencies and the stakeholders should cooperate and the results from research could be a guideline for working by enhancing organizational efficiency
- Government agencies and universities should cooperate by bringing research answers to the community
- Teachers should use the research results as a guideline for teaching and learning, integrated with research in order to develop new knowledge
- Suggestions for the next research
- There should be ongoing research on how to use research in the field of public administration that it can be utilized
- There should be an extension of the research by switching to a study of other cross-science research



- There should be a study of knowledge in the process of conducting research in public administration

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