

# Connected Open Heritage: Visibility and Searchability of Cultural Heritage at Risk through the Wikimedia Projects

#digitalpast2018

8 February 2018, Aberystwyth



WIKIMEDIA  
SVERIGE

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WIKIMEDIA  
SVERIGE

# Wikimedia Sverige – A non-profit working for free access, use and community around free knowledge.



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# WIKI(M/P)EDIA?



# WIKIPEDIA

The encyclopedia.  
The fifth most visited website in the world.  
The largest of the Wikimedia platforms.



# WIKIMEDIA

Includes all Wikimedia platforms.

Wikimedia Commons (media repository), Wikidata (editable databas), Wikipedia (encyclopedia), MediaWiki (software) etc...

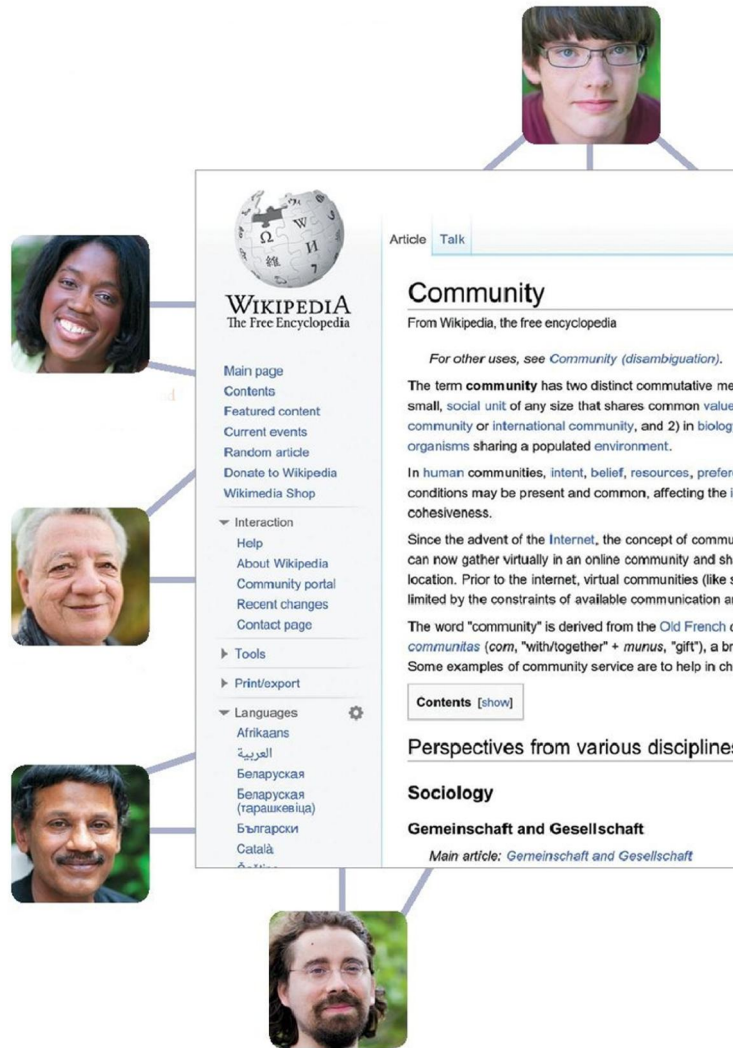
The NGOs have been created by the users on our platforms.

# Wikipedia's Community

“Anyone can edit”.

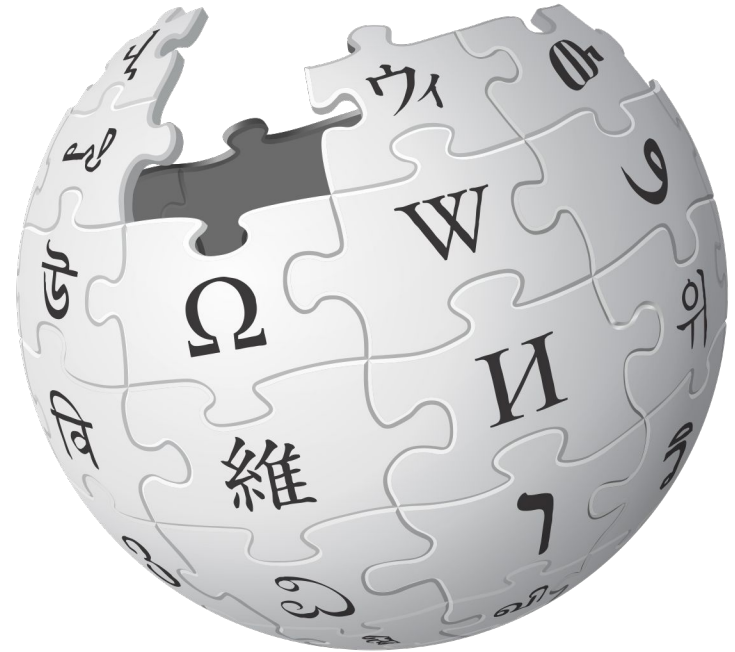
Wikipedia is run by individual volunteers such as you and me.

For people such as you and me.



“Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge.

That's what we're doing.”



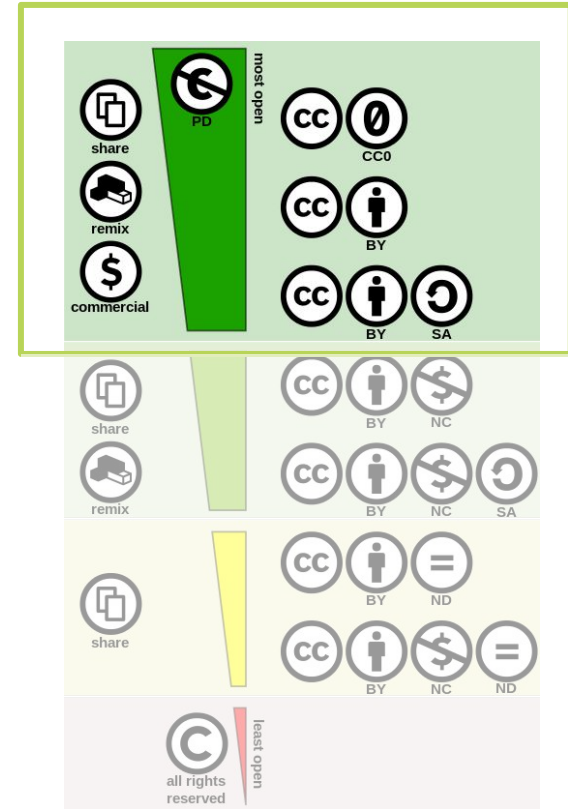




# What is free knowledge? Why free knowledge?

# Free Knowledge Through Free Licences

When the creator gives everybody (students, libraries, NGOs, public education, companies) the right to create derivative works, distribute, and reuse the work in advance.





# Wiki?

## “Fast” on Hawaiian.



# Wikimedia and **G**alleries, **L**ibraries, **A**rchives and **M**useums (GLAM)



- Overlapping interests
  - Aligned goals
- Complementary expertise



# Work Here In the UK

Wikimedia UK has worked with over 50 organisations. Often through a Wikimedian in Residence:

- Bodleian Libraries
- National Library of Wales (where the residency became a permanent role in 2017)
- National Library of Scotland
- Scottish Libraries and Information Council
- University of Edinburgh
- Wellcome Library



# Connected Open Heritage – What is it All About



Focused on improving and create knowledge about the built cultural heritage of the world and make it available digitally, under **open and free licenses**. Especially on threatened built heritage.



Пожар Троице-Измайловского собора  
by Олег Сыромятников, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

# The Rational

- We wanted to raise awareness about the world's cultural heritage so that people would care for it
- We could support and work with GLAM institutions across the world
  - We could bring dispersed collections together

# Connected Open Heritage – What We Have Been Doing

Project during 2016-2017

Worked with UNESCO, Cultural Heritage without Borders, Wikimedia Italia and the International Wikimedia movement

Supported by the the Culture Foundation of the Swedish Postcode Lottery



# Searchable Cultural Heritage



# Connected Open Heritage – What We Have Been Doing

1. Making Wikimedia projects more **user friendly**
2. Making cultural heritage data from more countries **available**
3. **Updating** existing cultural heritage data
4. **Cooperating** with heritage organizations to make media files available on Wikimedia Commons
5. **Spreading** information about the resources created and our work



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The Free Encyclopedia

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## Eiffel Tower

A C-class article from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. A former good article nominee. Coordinates: 48°51′29.6″N 2°17′40.2″E﻿ / ﻿

*For other uses, see Eiffel Tower (disambiguation).*

The **Eiffel Tower** (/ˈaɪfəl/ *EYE-fəl*; French: *tour Eiffel* [tur\_ɛfɛl] (listen)) is a wrought iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower.

Constructed from 1887–89 as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair, it was initially criticized by some of France's leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognisable structures in the world.<sup>[3]</sup> The Eiffel Tower is the most-visited paid monument in the world; 6.91 million people ascended it in 2015.

The tower is 324 metres (1,063 ft) tall, about the same height as an 81-storey building, and the tallest structure in Paris. Its base is square, measuring 125 metres (410 ft) on each side. During its construction, the Eiffel Tower surpassed the Washington Monument to become the tallest man-made structure in the world, a title it held for 41 years until the Chrysler Building in New York City was finished in 1930. Due to the addition of a broadcasting aerial at the top of the tower in 1957, it is now taller than the Chrysler Building by 5.2 metres (17 ft). Excluding transmitters, the Eiffel Tower is the second-tallest structure in France after the Millau Viaduct.

The tower has three levels for visitors, with restaurants on the first and second levels. The top level's upper platform is 276 m (906 ft) above the ground – the highest observation deck accessible to the public in the European Union. Tickets can be purchased to ascend by stairs or lift (elevator) to the first and second levels. The climb from ground level to the first level is over 300 steps, as is the climb from the first level to the second. Although there is a staircase to the top level, it is usually accessible only by lift.

### Contents [hide]

- 1 History
  - 1.1 Origin
  - 1.2 Artists' protest

### Eiffel Tower

Tour Eiffel



The Eiffel Tower seen from the Champ de Mars



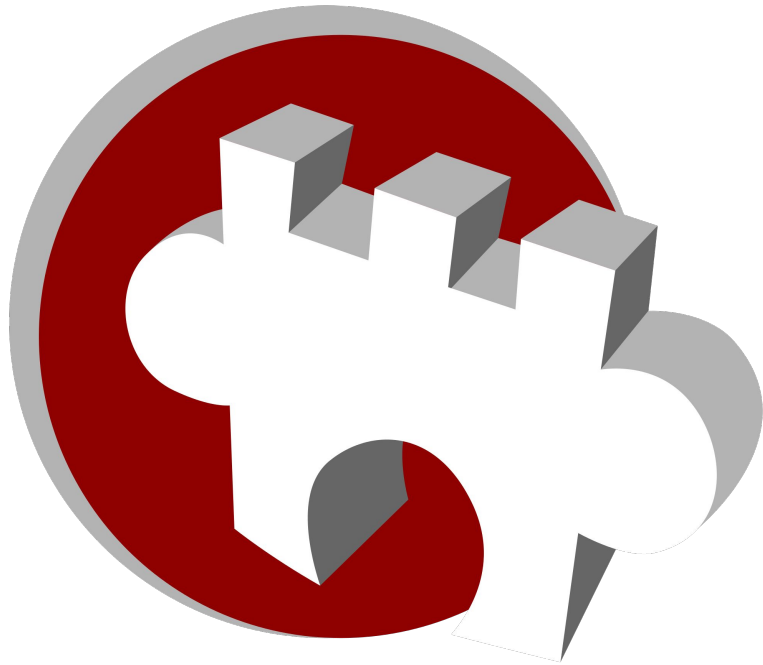
Location within Paris

### Record height

Tallest in the world from 1889 to 1930<sup>[l]</sup>

### General information





WIKI **loves**  
monuments

## The Monuments Database to Wikidata

- Database serving the the world's largest photo contest
- Contains **structured data** on cultural heritage sites from countries participating in Wiki Loves Monuments
- Contains over **~1.5 million listings** in over **50 countries**, in over **25 languages**
- Tracks over **2.5 million images** of cultural heritage objects on Commons
- We migrated this database to **Wikidata** to make it truly searchable

# Data Migration

- Creating required **items** (content) and **properties** (structure) on Wikidata, e.g. ID numbers, protection status etc.
- Creating a **framework** for data processing (unifying disparate data), **controlling** (to avoid duplication) and **upload** of data
- Investigating **copyright** status of previously collected data
- **Support** for other actors migrating specific data sets



Main page  
Community portal  
Project chat  
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Random item  
Query Service  
Nearby  
Help  
Donate

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Wikiversity  
Wikivoyage  
Wiktionary

Tools  
What links here  
Related changes  
Special pages  
Permanent link  
Page information  
Wikidata item

In Wikipedia

A screenshot of the Wikidata main page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "English", "John Andersson (WMSE)", "Talk", "Preferences", "Beta", "Watchlist", "Contributions", and "Log out". Below this is a search bar labeled "Search Wikidata". The main content area features a large grey box with the text "Welcome to Wikidata" and "the free knowledge base with 42,907,376 data items that anyone can edit." Below this are links for "Introduction", "Project Chat", "Community Portal", and "Help". A message says "Want to help translate? Translate the missing messages." The page is divided into three main sections: "Welcome!", "Learn about data", and "Get involved". The "Learn about data" section includes a description of Wikidata as a free and open knowledge base, its role as central storage for structured data, and its support for other sites and services. It also features two images: a globe and a stack of papers. Below the images are labels for "item: Earth (Q2)" and "property: highest point (P610)". The "Get involved" section has a red header and a link to "Learn about Wikidata".

# New Data on Wikidata

## What

- Encourage data providers to share their data
- Identified data providers by creating over **40 country reports**
- Data provided by:
  - National institutions
  - GLAMs
  - Any other data provider

## External activities

- **Support** the national institutions
- Give **technical support**
- Give support to find the best way to release data via **free licences**
- Encourage institutions to join and take advantage of this **network**

# Visible Cultural Heritage



Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna  
by Giovanni Boccardi, CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO

# Image Collections

## Batch uploads

- Collections from 5 GLAMs
- 187,000+ images uploaded

## Outreach to new GLAMs

- Sweden
- Georgia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Uganda
- Kenya



# Visualization

## Supported development of Monumental

- A **web application** displaying information about cultural heritage monuments based on data gathered on Wikidata, Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons.
- Display:
  - Page for monument
  - Monuments in territorial entity
  - Map of all monuments located on visible part of map
- <http://bit.ly/MonumentalWales>

MONUMENTAL Search for monument or location LOGIN

**Eiffel Tower** WIKIDATA  
tour Eiffel

Paris · Île-de-France · France

385 images and 19 subcategories 144 wikis

registered historic monument toureffel.paris

Wikipedia DE EN ES FR IT JA PL PT RU ZH

The **Eiffel Tower** (/ˈaɪfəl ˈtaʊə/ ***EYE**-fəl **TOWR***; French: *tour Eiffel*, pronounced: [tuʁ ɛfɛl]  listen) is a wrought iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower.

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[SHOW MORE](#)

**Properties**

heritage status	registered historic monument
structural engineer	Émile Nouguier Maurice Koechlin
main building contractor	Gustave Eiffel
located in the administrative territorial entity	7th arrondissement of Paris
architect	Stephen Sauvestre
image	Tour Eiffel Wikimedia Commons.jpg
country	France
material used	iron
named after	Gustave Eiffel

Picture by Yarl (UI) / Benh (main Tour Eiffel photo) - Own work, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

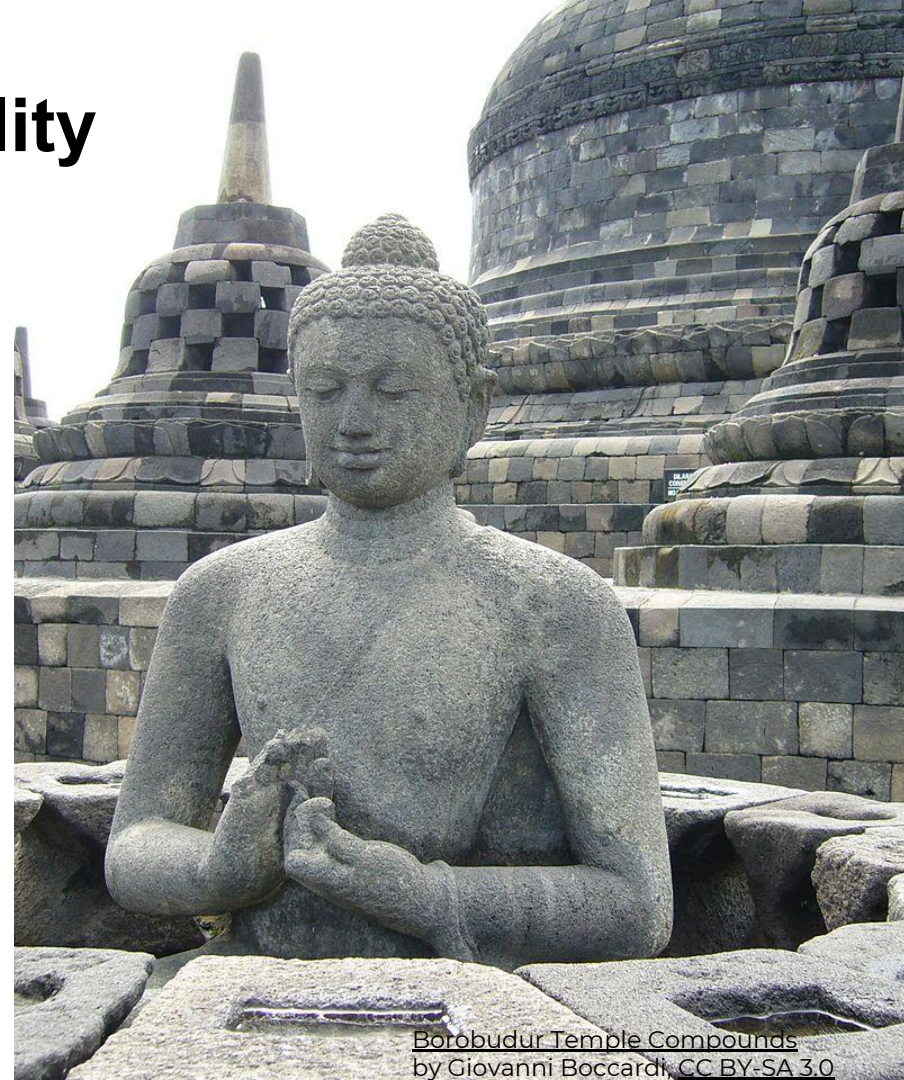
# Visibility

## Photo exhibition and usage

- Photo exhibition in Italy, France (at UNESCO HQ), Sweden, Canada, Spain and Switzerland (at UNESCO HQ)
- Tens of thousands of visitors
- Official partner of #Unite4Heritage
- Planned to continue in more countries

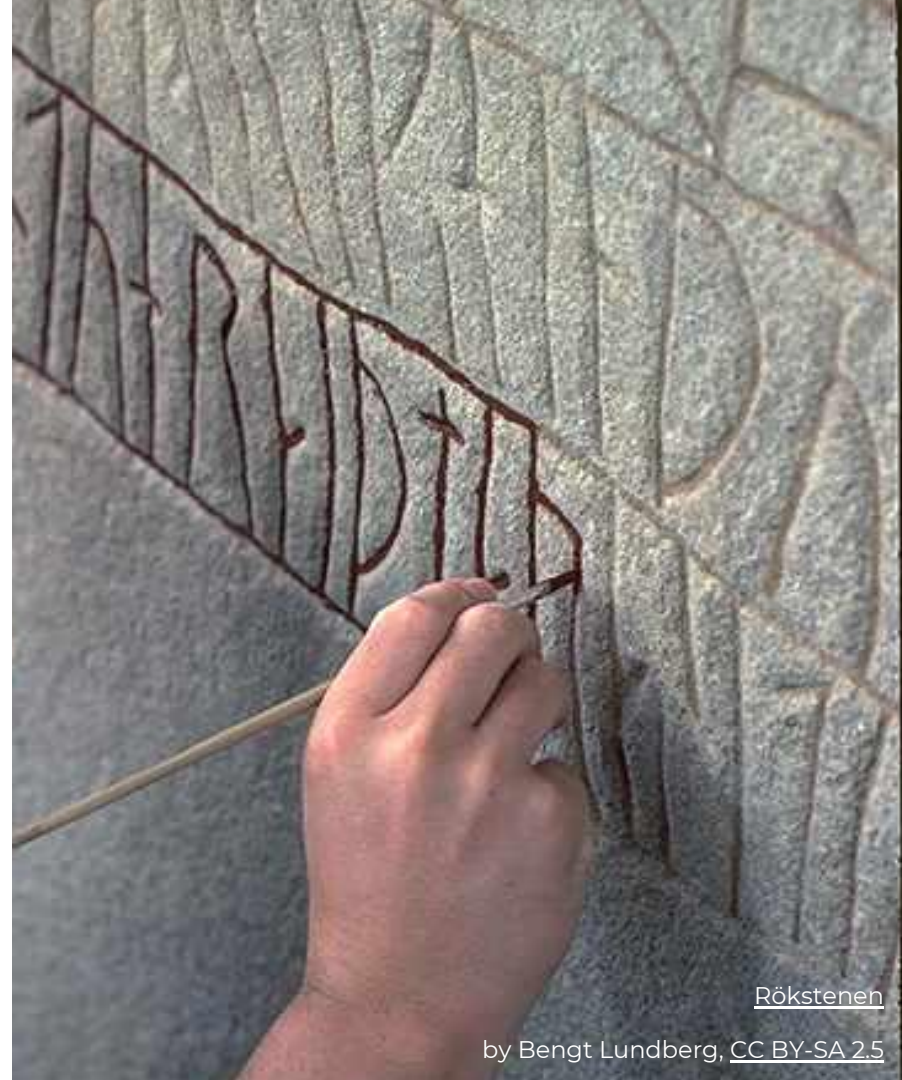
Images use ensured through 15 events:

- Estimated more than 173 million image views/year
- Online contests: *UNESCO Challenge* focusing on writing (1,700 A4 pages) and *COH Challenge* focusing on image use



# Things We Struggled With

- Finding GLAMs – due to limited focus on what collections to include
- The countries with the largest needs are often lacking data and digitized resources







# Things We Struggled With

- Agreeing on a reasonable level of expectation
  - Quantity vs. quality?
  - Possibility to improve over time?
- Long term impact – it took us years in Sweden



A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, white waves, and a sandy shore. In the background, there is a dense line of palm trees and other tropical vegetation under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# What will happen next?

**International GLAM project 2018-2019:**

- 1. Collect data about the GLAM institutions**
- 2. Investigate how to get more digitized material onto the Wikimedia platforms**
- 3. Discussions with ICOM, IFLA, UNESCO**



# THANKS!

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Connected\\_Open\\_Heritage](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Connected_Open_Heritage)

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