

ARTWORK IMAGES ON COMMONS

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Abstract



Many images of artworks are uploaded daily to Wikimedia Commons, some by individual users and some by [GLAM organizations](#). One of the challenges is to retain all the metadata available about each object, especially when doing mass uploads. Most artworks on Commons use [template:Artwork](#) on their file description, which with help of several other templates, allows a large fraction of file descriptions to be translated to the language of the user viewing the page. This is especially important since Commons is a resource shared by all language Wikipedia's and sister projects. Those templates allow for easy translation, therefore promoting localization and internationalization. This tutorial is meant to be a brief introduction to the proper use of the available Commons templates, for both experienced and mid-level experienced users.

Roles of File Infobox Templates



- ◉ File description
 - In case of large collections of images from GLAM institutions, already compiled metadata should not be lost
- ◉ Information allowing verification of the license, like source, author, etc.
- ◉ Internationalization
 - Wikimedia Commons is shared among many projects using many languages. Users might not know English.
 - metadata should ideally be presented in the language of the user
 - links should point into most relevant Wikipedia
- ◉ Repeated metadata should be stored in as few places as possible to ease maintenance
- ◉ Machine readability

Three tiers of infobox templates



1. Most general: *Information* template (used by 88% of files 11.6M)
 - Fields: *author*, *description*, *date*, *source*, *permission* and *other-versions*
 - often (2.8M) accompanied by *Location* template for geo-location
2. Specialized infobox templates for specific types of images:
 - *Artwork*: for 2D and 3D museum artworks (360k)
 - *Photograph*: for museum photograph collections (82k)
 - *Book*: for images of scanned books (500k)
 - Other templates for: images of airplanes, busses, stamps, etc.
3. Customized templates for mass-uploads of images from a single source, are created based on one of above templates
 - Created for images from Bunesearchiv, Deutsche Fotothek, Walters Art Museum, National Archives and Records Administration, and many other
 - Used in case none of the four standard templates is a good match to the provided metadata

Example of Artwork template



```
{{Artwork
|artist      = {{Creator:Cristofano dell'
               Altissimo}}
|title       = {{en|Portrait of
               Christopher Columbus}}
|description =
|date        = 1556
|medium      = {{technique|Oil|on=
               canvas}}
|dimensions  =
               {{size|unit=cm|height=59|width=42}}
|institution = {{Institution:Uffizi}}
|location    =
|references  =
|object history =
|credit line =
|inscriptions =
|notes       =
|accession number =
|source      = {{WGA link|ID=244|pic-
               url=http://www.wga.hu/art/a/altissim/columbu
               s.jpg|info-
               url=http://www.wga.hu/html/a/altissim/columb
               us.html}}
|permission  = {{PD-art|PD-old-100}}
|other_versions =
}}
```

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Artist | Cristofano dell'Altissimo (1525–1605) ◀ ▶ |
| Title | English: Portrait of Christopher Columbus |
| Date | 1556 |
| Medium | oil on canvas |
| Dimensions | Height: 59 cm (23.2 in). Width: 42 cm (16.5 in). |
| Current location | Uffizi Gallery ◀ ▶ |
| Source/Photographer | Web Gallery of Art: Home page Image Info about artwork |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Artysta | Cristofano dell'Altissimo (1525–1605) ◀ ▶ |
| Tytuł | English: Portrait of Christopher Columbus |
| Data | 1556 |
| Medium | olej na płótnie |
| Rozmiar | Wysokość: 59 cm. Szerokość: 42 cm. |
| Obecnie w zbiorach | Galeria Uffizi ◀ ▶ |
| Źródło/Fotograf | Web Gallery of Art: Home page Image Info about artwork |

i18n of {{Artwork}} fields



| Artwork template field name | Recommended i18n template |
|-----------------------------|---|
| author | {{Creator}} |
| institution | {{Institution}} |
| date | Dates should be in YYYY-MM-DD format or {{Other_date}} template should be used for phrases like around..., before..., between..., etc. |
| medium | {{Technique}} can be used for i18n of phrases like “ <i>adjective noun</i> and <i>adjective noun</i> on <i>adjective noun</i> ”. We have a vocabulary of 500 nouns and 60 adjectives translated into about 30 languages |
| dimensions | {{Size}} template is used for i18n of artwork dimension. It can translate width, height, depth, diameter, etc. and display numbers in metric and/or SI units depending on language |
| object history | {{ProvenanceEvent}} template can i18n phrases like “ <i>date</i> : acquired by <i>name</i> , from <i>name</i> ” |

Creator and Institution templates



- ⦿ Metadata about creators (painters, sculptors, writers, etc.) is stored in **Creator** templates (12.5k)
- ⦿ Metadata about GLAM (Gallery, Library, Archive & Museum) institutions is stored inside **Institution** templates (1.5k)
- ⦿ Both sets of templates occupy their own specialized namespaces
- ⦿ Both sets produce in file namespace an collapsed template with mostly a name visible, which when clicked expands into informative infobox
- ⦿ Most templates from both sets introduce links to Wikipedia and/or Wikisource pages, and links to *Authority control* databases.

Creator templates



```


{{Creator
| Name = {{LangSwitch
| de = [[[:de:Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz
|Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz]]
| en = [[[:en:Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz
|Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz]]
| ru = [[[:ru:Виткевич, Станислав
Игнаций|Станислав Игнаций Виткевич]]
}}
| Alternative names =
  {{name|pseudonym|Witkacy}}
| Nationality      = PL
| Gender           = male
| Occupation       = painter / photographer
  / writer
| Birthdate        = 1885-02-24
| Birthloc         = Warszawa
| Deathdate        = 1939-09-18
| Deathloc         = [[[:pl:Jeziory
(Ukraina)|Jeziory]]
| Workperiod       =
| Workloc          =
| Image            = Witkacy Autoportret
  1924.jpg
| Sortkey          = Witkiewicz, Stanisław
  Ignacy
| Homecat          = Stanisław Ignacy
  Witkiewicz
| Linkback         = Creator:Stanisław
  Ignacy Witkiewicz
| Wikisource       = s:pl:Autor:Stanisław
  Ignacy Witkiewicz
| Option           = {{{1|}}}
| Authority        = {{Authority
  control|PND=118807706|VIAF=88039095|LCCN=
  n/79/86775|ULAN=|TSURL=Stanisław_Ignacy_W
  itkiewicz|bare=1}}
}}
```

| Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz (1885–1939) | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
|  | Alternative names | Pseudonym: Witkacy |
| | Description | Polish painter, photographer and writer |
| | Date of birth/death | 24 February 1885 18 September 1939 |
| | Location of birth/death | Warsaw Jeziory |
| | Authority control | VIAF: 88039095 LCCN: n79086775 PND: 118807706 WorldCat WP-Person |

| Станислав Игнаций Виткевич (1885–1939) | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
|  | Альтернативные имена | Псевдоним: Witkacy |
| | Описание | Польский художник, фотограф и писатель |
| | Дата рождения/смерти | 24 февраля 1885 18 сентября 1939 |
| | Место рождения/смерти | Варшава Jeziory |
| | Авторитетный контроль | VIAF: 88039095 LCCN: n79086775 PND: 118807706 WorldCat WP-Person |

Institution templates



| Walters Art Museum | |
|--|---|
|  | Native name Walters Art Museum Location Baltimore Coordinates 39° 17' 45.88" N, 76° 36' 55.10" W Established 1934 Website thewalters.org Authority control VIAF: 153235247 LCCN: no00096900 ULAN: 500279110 WorldCat |

```

{{Institution
| name          = {{Walters Art Museum}}
| native name   = Walters Art Museum
| location      = Baltimore, Maryland
| latitude      = 39.296077
| longitude     = -76.615305
| established   = 1934
| homecat       = Walters Art Museum
| website       = [http://thewalters.org/thewalters.org]
| linkback     = Institution:Walters Art Museum
| image         = Walters-museum-building_1.jpg
| authority     = {{Authority
control|LCCN=no/00/96900|VIAF=153235247|ULAN=500279110|bare=1}}
}}
    
```

| Museo Walters | |
|---|--|
|  | Nombre local Walters Art Museum Ubicación Baltimore Coordenadas 39° 17' 45.88" N, 76° 36' 55.10" W Fundación 1934 Sitio web thewalters.org Control de autoría VIAF: 153235247 LCCN: no00096900 ULAN: 500279110 WorldCat |

Batch uploads of artwork images



- ⦿ Preparation
 - Create needed templates and categories
- ⦿ Metadata preparation
 - Match artwork artists with Commons creator templates and categories. Create new ones if needed
 - Match institutions with Commons Institution templates and categories. Create new ones if needed
 - I18n of other {{Artwork}} fields
- ⦿ Possible approaches:
 - i18n before upload using spreadsheet (DB)
 - I18n after upload using multiple passes with a bot
- ⦿ Both approaches take a lot of time with ~10% of odd cases taking 90% of time






Customization of existing infobox templates



- *Information*, *Artwork* and *Photograph* templates were designed to allow modifications by child templates
 - new fields can be added by using *other_fields* field and *Information field* template
 - unneeded fields can be left intentionally blank
- Modifications should be kept to minimum for consistency and common experience
- New fields should be internationalized

Example of Walters Art Museum artwork template



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Artist | La'l (Lal) |
| Author | Amir Khusrow (1253–1325)   |
| Scribe | Muhammad Husayn Zarrin Qalam |
| Title | <i>An Old Sufi Laments His Lost Youth</i> |
| Description | English: This folio from Walters manuscript W.624 presents a garden scene that relates the 17th maqala (discourse). The elderly sufi makes a romantic gesture to the young handsome man in the orange jama. This illustration is the work of 'amal-i La'l (Lal). |
| Date | between 1597 and 1598 (Mughal) |
| Medium | ink and pigments on laid paper |
| Dimensions | Height: 28.5 cm (11.2 in). Width: 19 cm (7.5 in). |
| Current location | Walters Art Museum  |
| Accession number | W.624.35A  |
| Exhibition history | Pearls of the Parrot of India: The Emperor Akbar's Illustrated "Khamasa," 1597-1598. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. 2005-2006. |
| Credit line | Acquired by Henry Walters |
| Ownership history | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muhammad Zaki, 1241 AH/AD 1825-1826 [mode of acquisition unknown] [oval seal, fols. 1a, 211a]• 'abd al-raji Muhammad Shafi', 1247 AH/AD 1831-1832 [mode of acquisition unknown] [rectangular seal fols. 1a, 211a]• Muhammad 'Ali [date and mode of acquisition unknown] [large oval seal with no date on fol. 211a]• Henry Walters, Baltimore [date and mode of acquisition unknown]• 1931: bequeathed to Walters Art Museum by Henry Walters |
| Place of origin | Lahore, Pakistan (?) |
| Source/Photographer | Walters Art Museum:  Home page   Info about artwork  |

Example of *NARA-image-full* template



| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Title | <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> |
| Author | Mathew Brady (1823–1896) ◀ ▶ Brady National Photographic Art Gallery (Washington, D.C.) (1858 - ?), Photographer (NARA record: 1135962) |
| Record creator | War Department. Office of the Chief Signal Officer. (08/01/1866 - 09/18/1947) |
| Date | ca. 1860 - ca. 1865 |
| Current location | National Archives and Records Administration, College Park ◀ ▶ Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS-S) |
| Record ID | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>This media is available in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, cataloged under the ARC Identifier (National Archives Identifier) 527722.</p><p>This tag does not indicate the copyright status of the attached work. A normal copyright tag is still required. See Commons:Licensing for more information.</p><hr/><p>English español français italiano македонски മലയാളം Nederlands русский Türkçe Tiếng Việt +/-</p></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record group: Record Group 111: Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 1860 - 1985 (ARC identifier: 440)• Series: Mathew Brady Photographs of Civil War-Era Personalities and Scenes, compiled 1921 - 1940, documenting the period 1860 - 1865 (ARC identifier: 524418)• NAIL Control Number: NWDNS-111-B-3546• 111-B-3546 |
| Source | U.S. National Archives and Records Administration |