

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 and adjective noun on 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: acquired by name, from 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