Developing a Wikidata Project



Will Kent, Wiki Education LD4 Conference - 30 July 2020



Wikidata is ideal for projects!

- Anyone can participate
- Open and free
- Multilingual
- Lots of gaps and places to improve
- Nearly all data is appropriate*
- ...maybe too many ways to start?



First trick to Wikidata projects is: Scope

Define your scope

Wikidata is vast and there are many ways to help out. Figuring out what you want to do, and setting some limits is a great way to make a project more manageable.



Second: the data

Add data, pull data, combine

Do you have data you want to add to Wikidata? Is there some kind of data you wish you had? Do you have an idea for a tool that cycles data from one collection to Wikidata and back again?



Projects that pull data from Wikidata

Queries (WDQS)

There are hundreds of queries that exist that others have written. You can adapt them to show a different set of data. You can also write your own queries!

API

Point a tool to Wikidata's API and pull data that way. Pick any set or subset to pull into a project and manipulate it as you see fit!

https://www.wikidata.org/w/api.php



Adding data to Wikidata

- Create a new property
- Contribute to a data model
- Batch upload a collection
- Reconcile identities
- Coordinate a WikiProject
- Clean up Wikidata's taxonomy
- Translate labels, descriptions, and aliases



Pushing and pulling data to and from Wikidata

- Write scripts and bots
- Build a tool that uses
 Wikidata's data to power that tool
- Use queries to make a lists to monitor knowledge gaps or progress in a project
- Use a query to generate timesensitive data and share those visualizations



Third: documentation

- Tool walk-throughs
- Step by step processes for a project
- Share a set of useful queries
- Gather resources to train other community members (videos, example items, queries, workflows, maintenance queries, useful external links)



Fourth: Project Dynamics

- Scope/goal
- Relationship with the data
- Community involvement
- Resources
- Patience (Wikidata has a learning curve)
- Being okay with not finishing and letting others contribute



Thank you!

Examples:

- WikiProject // WikiProject Source Metadata
- Linked Open Data Workflow
- Hay's Tool list
- Inventaire About Page
- Download Wikidata

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