

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, then a vertical bar extending downwards. The bottom-right corner is a horizontal bar extending to the left, then a vertical bar extending upwards.

# ADDING REFERENCES TO WIKIDATA ENTRIES

TUTORIAL BY THE PHILADELPHIA  
WIKISALON

# Wikidata Needs References Also!



[March for Science](#), San Francisco, 2017.

- Just as Wikipedia relies upon proper citations to ensure the verifiability of information contained in biographies and articles, so Wikidata depends upon references to ensure quality data.
- Some statement types in Wikidata require references for authentication, or else they will display an error flag. Examples include:
  - date of birth / date of death
  - place of birth / place of death
- Some Wikipedia templates that use Wikidata as a data source by default will only display data that has been correctly referenced.
  - [{{Infobox person/Wikidata}}](#)
  - [{{infobox scientist/Wikidata}}](#)
- If you see that a reference is missing for a Wikidata statement:  
**You can add a reference!**



# Wikidata References



**Katherine Johnson** (Q11740)

African-American mathematician

Katherine Coleman | Katherine Goble | Creola Katherine Johnson

| Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson

In Wikidata, references provide source information that shows where the information for a statement originated. They are created inside a statement group by clicking on (+) add reference.

date of death

Statement

Value

24 February 2020 edit

3 references **References** copy

reference URL	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography">https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography</a>
quotation	Died: Feb. 24, 2020. (English) <span>copy</span>

stated in	Daily Mail
retrieved	24 February 2020
subject named as	Katherine Johnson
title	Legendary NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson dies at 101 (English)
reference URL	<a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8038399/Legendary-NASA-mathematician-Katherine-Johnson-dies-101.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8038399/Legendary-NASA-mathematician-Katherine-Johnson-dies-101.html</a>

# Adding a Reference

+ add reference

Property	remove
<b>reference URL</b> should be used for Internet URLs as references. Use "Wikimedia import l	
<b>retrieved</b> date or point in time that information was retrieved from a database or we	
<b>stated in</b> to be used in the references field to refer to the information document or c	

- Next to the statement that needs a reference, click on “+ add reference”.
- For a website, click on the line marked “reference URL”.
- To the right of “reference URL”, copy the URL of the reference source website and paste it into the empty box.
- To save, click the checkmark (✓) to **publish** the edit.

# Example Reference Needed

member of




American Academy of Arts and Sciences


▼ 0 references

Anne D. Yoder: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q27899302>

# Example Reference Source

Our Work Members News **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES** Events Get Involved About 

[← TO MEMBER DIRECTORY](#)



*Dr.*  
**Anne D. Yoder**

Duke University  
AREA: Biological Sciences  
SPECIALTY: Evolution and Ecology  
**ELECTED: 2021**

Anne D. Yoder is the Director of the Duke Lemur Center and Braxton Craven Distinguished Professor of Evolutionary Biology at Duke University. Her work integrates field inventory activities with molecular phylogenetic techniques and geospatial analysis to investigate Madagascar, an area of the world that is biologically complex, poorly understood, and urgently threatened. Madagascar

<https://www.amacad.org/person/anne-d-yoder>

# Example: Reference URL

+ add reference

Property remove

**reference URL**  
should be used for Internet URLs as references. Use "Wikimedia import U

**retrieved**  
date or point in time that information was retrieved from a database or we

**stated in**  
to be used in the references field to refer to the information document or c

member of

▲ ■ American Academy of Arts and Sciences ✓ publish remove ✕ cancel ?

+ add qualifier

▼ 1 reference

remove

reference URL remove

■ <https://www.amacad.org/person/anne-d-yoder>

Anne D. Yoder: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q27899302>

# Reference Created!

member of



▲  
●  
▼ American Academy of Arts and Sciences

▼ 1 reference

reference URL	<a href="https://www.amacad.org/person/anne-d-yoder">https://www.amacad.org/person/anne-d-yoder</a>
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Anne D. Yoder: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q27899302>



# Reusing References

▼ 1 reference

reference URL	<a href="https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/">https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/</a>
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- References can easily be reused within a Wikidata page, which avoids duplicating citations.
- To reuse references, you must have the **DuplicateReferences** gadget installed:
  - While logged in to Wikidata, go to “**Preferences**” at the top of the screen.
  - Click on “**Gadgets**”.
  - Make sure the box for **DuplicateReferences** is checked. Click “**Save**” to save.
- Next to the reference you wish to reuse, click on “**copy**”. The link will change to read “**copied**”.
- Then go to the statement where you wish to add a reference and click on “**insert reference**”. The reference will automatically be entered and saved.

# Example: Reference Reuse

Anne D. Yoder:  
<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q27899302>

The screenshot displays two Wikidata items. The top item is 'Society of Systematic Biologists' (ID 2), which has one reference with the URL <https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/>. The bottom item is 'Guggenheim Fellowship' (ID 1), which also has one reference with the same URL. A blue arrow points from the reference in the 'Guggenheim Fellowship' item to the reference in the 'Society of Systematic Biologists' item, indicating that the latter reuses the reference from the former. A 'copied' notification is visible next to the URL in the 'Guggenheim Fellowship' item.

Item	Property	Value
Society of Systematic Biologists (2)	reference URL	<a href="https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/">https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/</a>
Guggenheim Fellowship (1)	point in time	2018
Guggenheim Fellowship (1)	reference URL	<a href="https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/">https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/</a>

# Other Reference Options

## ■ Retrieved (Date)

- Within a reference, click “+ add”.
- Click “retrieved” to add a retrieval date in the format of YYYY-MM-DD.
- Click “publish” to save your edit.

▼ 1 reference

reference URL	<a href="https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/">https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/anne-d-yoder/</a>
retrieved	4 May 2024

## ■ Stated In

- Use for print sources and online databases
- Click “+ add reference”.
- Click “stated in” and add the name of a linked reference source in Wikidata.
- Add the specific ID of the entity in the online database if available.
- Click “publish” to save your edit.

 copy

stated in	Encyclopædia Britannica Online
Encyclopædia Britannica Online ID	biography/Katherine-Johnson-mathematician
subject named as	Katherine Johnson mathematician
retrieved	9 October 2017

# For More Information

- Wikidata Help Files
  - [Wikidata References Tour](#)
  - [Wikidata Help: Sources](#)
- [WikiProject Craft](#)
  - Peruse the project page for articles from this project to practice adding references.
  - While you are logged in to Wikipedia, you can use the **Wikidata Item** link from the **Tools** menu to open the Wikidata Page for the person or entity.
    - [List of WikiProject Craft articles needing cleanup](#), including citations
- Have additional questions? Need some support for editing Wikipedia or Wikidata? Join us at the monthly Philadelphia WikiSalon!
  - Wikipedia: Meetup/Philadelphia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Philadelphia>