



Clermont Auvergne Residence

(August 2021 - August 2022)

“We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours.”
John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, 1159

I would first like to thank those who made my residency possible: Pierre Tribhou, Fabrice Boyer and Xavier Cailleau as well as the institutions: Clermont Auvergne Métropole, the University of Clermont Auvergne and Wikimedia France.

I would like to thank all the people who participated in one way or another and who made this residency a success. I wish them to continue their journey through the Wikimedia projects.

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Introduction

What is a Wikimedian in residence?

A Wikimedian in residence is a person working for an institution to work on and around one or more Wikimedia projects. The missions are generally, on the one hand, to directly improve the content of the projects; on the other hand, to promote and train the agents and the public to contribute by themselves (essential to sustain the residency in the long term). The proportions of these two missions can vary, some residencies are more focused on content, others on training. In all cases, it is a transversal role of coordination and animation.

International context

The concept of residencies - and more generally, that of collaboration between the Wikimedia community and cultural institutions - is already old. The first residencies took place in 2010: a first experience at the British Museum in London, then at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, and at the Château de Versailles.

12 years later, more than 250 residencies have taken place around the world. If the Palace of Versailles was a pioneer, thereafter, residencies remained rare in France; barely ten or so, some of which were of very short duration (sometimes not even counted as a "residence" in their own right).

- More information on https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedian_in_residence/fr

In France and in Clermont-Ferrand

In France, several convergent initiatives have been put in place in favor of Open Content sharing. Among these, we can note the efforts of Wikimedia France as well as the *Plan national pour la science ouverte* (National Plan for Open Science)¹ and various partnerships that formalise and go beyond the minimal requirements of Open Data.

This residence has the particularity of being dual and being shared between a public library and a university library. This duality is not a division, on the contrary; they are not two watertight silos but services that define their scope in a partnership. This is an opportunity to (re-)create links between public and university libraries.

At the beginning of 2021, a tripartite agreement was signed with Clermont Métropole, the University and Wikimedia France. At the beginning of July, the metropolitan city unanimously adopted an "open data - opening of cultural heritage data" resolution. These two decisions greatly facilitated the residency and were even essential to its success.

Finally, the residency would not have been possible without funding from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Clermont Auvergne Métropole, and the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs.

- More information on https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikip%C3%A9dia:GLAM/Clermont_Auvergne

Wikimedia projects

The encyclopedia Wikipedia is the best known of the Wikimedia projects, but there are many others. The main ones are: Wikimedia Commons for multimedia files (mainly images but also sounds, videos, etc.); Wikidata a free knowledge base for data; the digital library Wikisource; and the dictionary Wiktionary.

These projects are part of a movement of openness that we call the Wikimedia movement. They have in common the principles of collaboration and sharing. Multilingualism is also an essential component of this movement (Wikipedia exists in over 320 languages).

The idea is that "every human being can freely take part in the sharing of all human knowledge" (and in their own language).



¹ <https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/deuxieme-plan-national-pour-la-science-ouverte/>

Key figures

Here is a quick overview of the key figures of the residency:

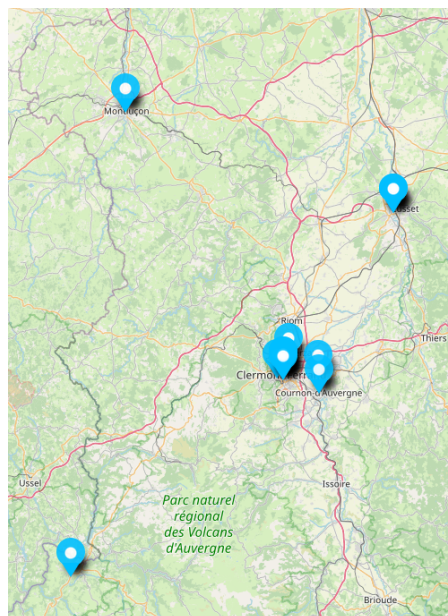
- one year, one wikimedian in residence
- two institutions
- 5320 multimedia files imported
- 4013 pages transcribed on Wikisource
- about 1035 people received a basic presentation
- about 50 people received a more advanced training

Types of activities

The two different priorities (training and contribution) automatically lead to two main types of activity with different preparation and implementation methods.

These actions took place throughout the Auvergne region (and beyond):

- Clermont-Ferrand
 - various places at the University,
 - heritage library,
 - Jaude library,
 - Departmental Archives of Puy-de-Dôme,
 - Roger-Quilliot art museum,
 - Jean Richepin center,
- Chamalières,
- Cournon-d'Auvergne,
- Lempdes,
- Montluçon,
- Montpellier,
- Vichy,
- Ydes (Cantal),
- as well as online.



These territorial actions were often carried out in conjunction with existing programs of the metropolitan city or the University. For example, on the Vichy campus or as part of the *Université foraine* in Ydes.

Presentations and trainings

A residency is necessarily limited in time. One year is long enough to carry out activities, but there is always more to do. It is therefore essential to train library staff to keep the momentum going. These events were also intended for the "general public", notably via the Clermont Metropole library network and for students via the University.

Before learning how to contribute to Wikimedia projects, it is necessary to understand that even if "everyone knows", the precise functioning and the practical rules are still often unknown. This first level of information can be a preliminary to more in-depth training or be sufficient in itself. In public libraries or at universities, there have been about ten such presentations. Example of a one and a half hour presentation on "Wikipedia at the university: why and how?" in November 2021.² Two presentations-debates with LieU'topie, a cultural and solidarity-based student association, allowed to reach a different audience.

After some basics, it is necessary to offer a second level of training. This one is generally more in-depth on a particular project or theme, and often allows one to move from theory to practice.

A joint activity with the National and University Library of Strasbourg was part of the international campaign #1lib1ref. During three video workshops, librarians from Clermont-Ferrand and Strasbourg were invited to add references and improve articles about the period of the Second World War when the University of Strasbourg had retreated to Clermont-Ferrand.

On the university side, there was a great opportunity to reach a wider and more specialized audience. This took the form, in January, of lectures in amphitheatre for students of Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Information and Communication (who will often come across Wikipedia in their careers), of training at INSPE (Institut Supérieur du Professorat et de l'Éducation) and especially of two study days.

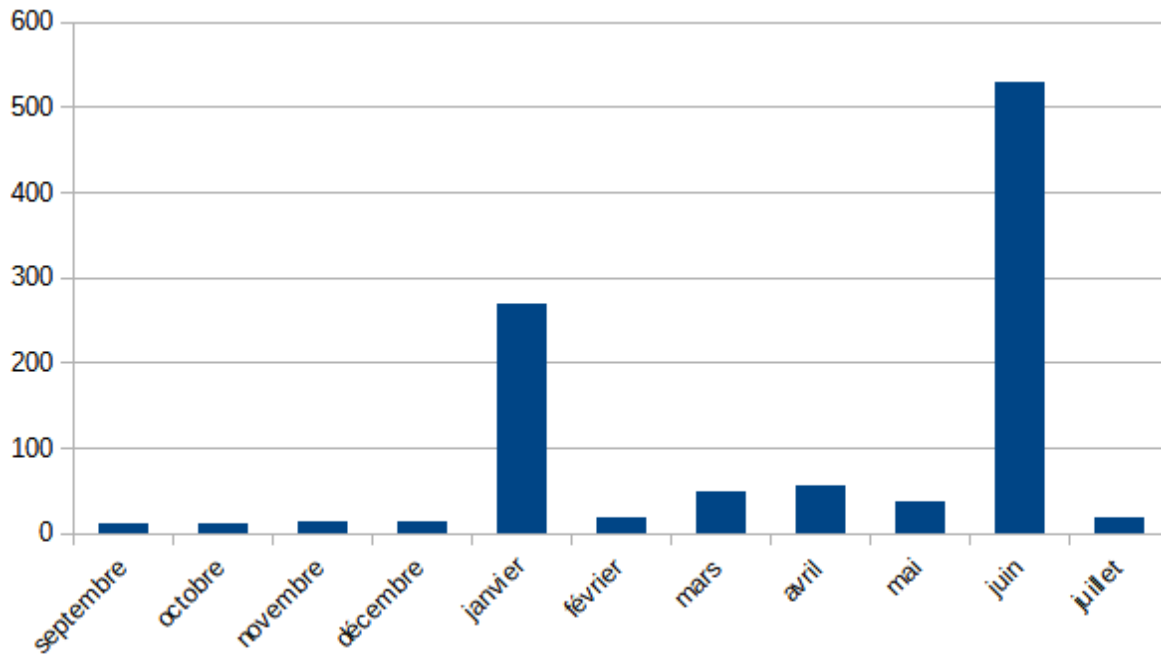
The first day, entitled "Wikimedia today: territories, sciences and open data, informational and collaborative practices, socio-economic issues", was held in Vichy in mid-April, and the second, entitled "Sciences and Wikidata: what possible applications? 3 feedbacks in dialogue", took place at the MSH (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme) on June 1st and 2nd.³

In total, about 40 events took place throughout the year for different audiences. In person or online, counting the number of people present at each event (people present several times being counted several times), the total is about 1035 people. The peaks in January and June are respectively presentations in amphitheatre with students of the InfoCom (information and communication) license at the University and the inaugural conference of the ABES (Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur) days.⁴

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syWA-for02w>

³ <https://progedo.hypotheses.org/2731>

⁴ <https://abes.fr/evenements/journees-abes/journees-abes-2022>



Number of people per month

Link with other projects

A colleague has been working within the framework of the Action Plan for Written Heritage (*Plan d'Action pour le Patrimoine Écrit*) on the description, cataloging and valorisation of an unprocessed collection (including a collection relating to Blaise Pascal and a collection from the Library of the former medical school). Part of the work of valorization led to imports on Wikimedia Commons, transcriptions on wikisource, articles created on Wikipedia.

The templates for formatting metadata on Wikimedia Commons allow for a lot of information to be indicated, including the method of acquisition. See for example https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FR-631136102_GRA_J_5044_Jean-François_Millet_Arbres_et_bosquets_aux_environs_de_Vichy.tif which indicates the grants awarded by the Fonds Régional d'Acquisition et Restauration en Bibliothèque (FRRAB).

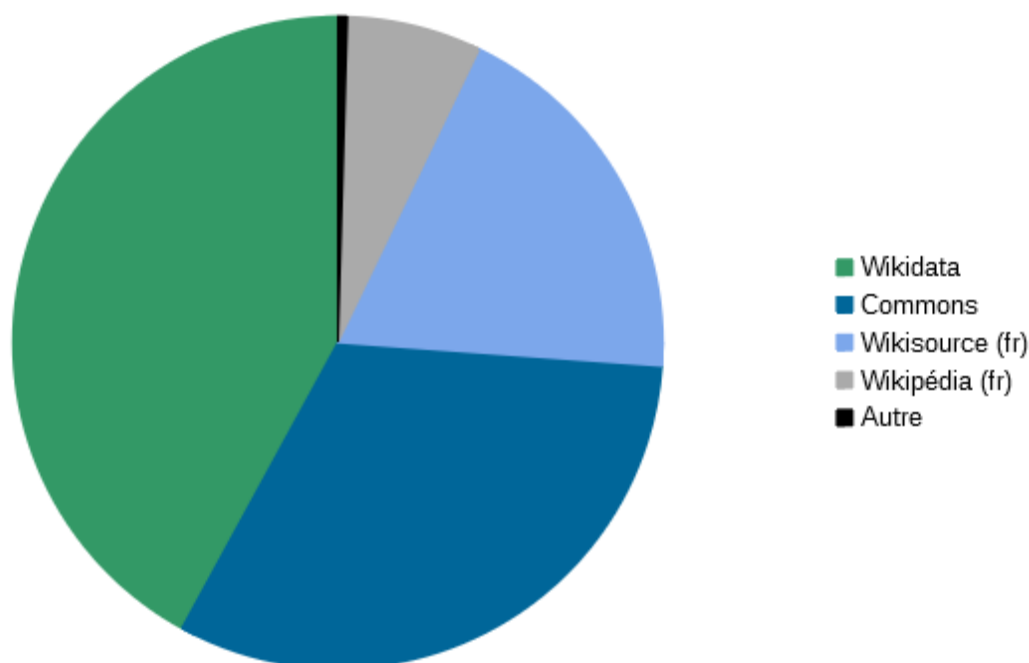
The data.bnf database site has a "See also" insert at the bottom of the page that provides links to Wikidata items and to Wikipedia articles. See for example https://data.bnf.fr/fr/11918679/blaise_pascal/. The two databases can therefore work in synergy and gain in reliability and visibility. Particular attention has therefore been paid to the verification and especially the addition of BnF identifiers on Wikidata elements of personalities from Auvergne.

Finally, when the appropriate data are present on Wikidata, it is possible to make an IIF export: <https://wd-image-positions.toolforge.org/item/Q109683495> (example of the Four Evangelists and their symbols, taken from the MS 84 book of hours).

Contributions to Wikimedia projects

After one year and tens of thousands of contributions, it is difficult to make a concise summary.

Breakdown by Wikimedia project



Of the 43,330 edits in total, 18,212 (or 42%) were made on Wikidata and 13,787 on Wikimedia Commons (or 32%). This is not surprising, as these are two projects that are conducive to micro-contributions and therefore naturally have a higher number of edits. This is largely due to the import-creation of about 2,400 portraits from the Boyer collection,⁵ which generates at least four edits for each portrait: creation of the work record on Wikidata (with a link to the Overnia digital library as source), then import of the files (in JPG and TIFF) on Commons and finally reattachment of the image to the Wikidata record. These "mass" modifications were done semi-automatically using the OpenRefine tool (in its version 3.7) and many manual corrections or completions were done afterwards. The integration of these images in Wikipedia is notably left to the community.

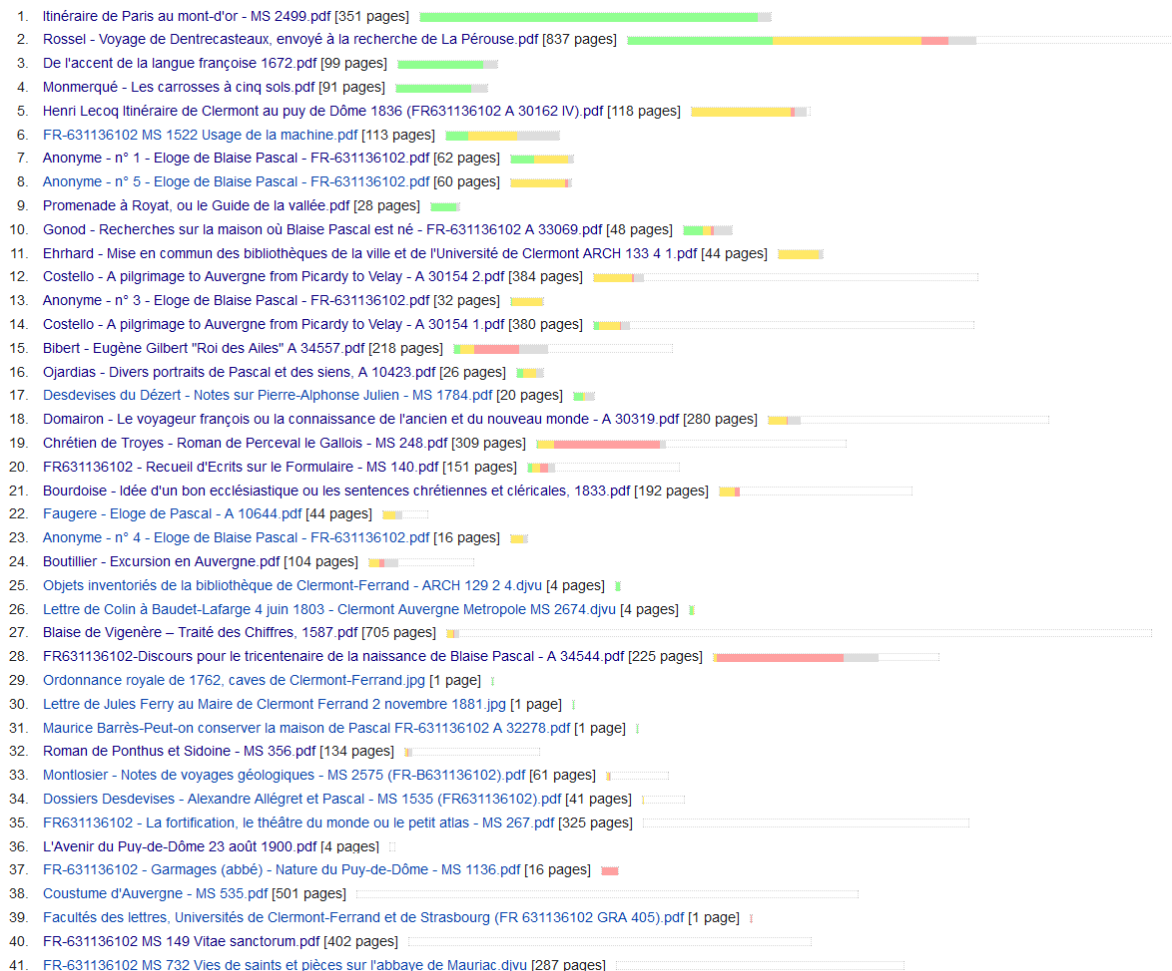
In third place, less commonly, is Wikisource. It is also a project conducive to micro-contributions (because of the page-by-page rereading of facsimiles, a document, even a short one hundred pages, generates 100 contributions) but it is often neglected in partnerships with cultural institutions.

Because of the presence of digital libraries (Overnia for the Heritage Library and the UCA Digital Library) that can provide facsimiles, and because of the time available during public service for librarians, transcribing on Wikisource has become a popular activity. Transcription

⁵ Description du fonds Boyer sur Overnia :

https://overnia.bibliotheques-clermontmetropole.eu/decouvrir_collection.php?titre=L%27Auv%20ergne%20en%20portraits

is an activity that naturally falls within the traditional missions of heritage librarians, and it is a good example of the use of Wikisource as a dissemination platform and professional tool. In total, 8,226 modifications were made on 4,013 pages of about forty works of various kinds: manuscripts or printed works, ancient or modern works (from the 13th century to 1923). Some works, especially the shortest ones, have been completely retranscribed, the transcriptions for each page being reread and validated; others are still in progress.



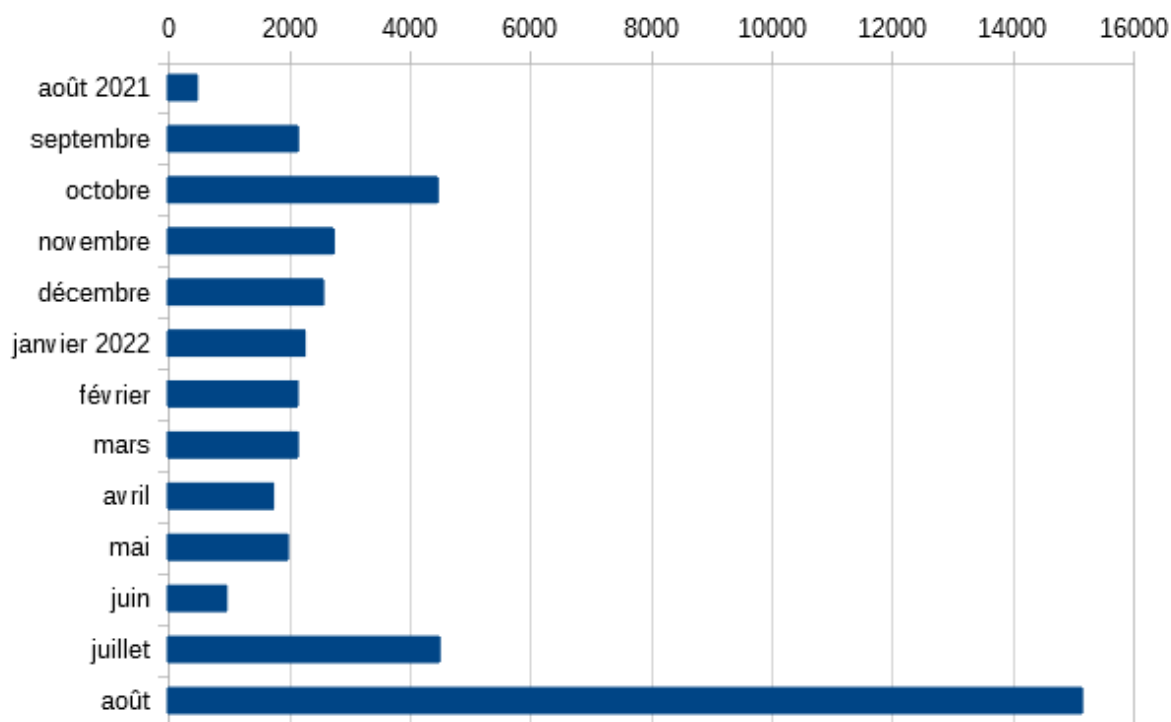
List of works by progress (green for validated pages)

In fourth place by number of contributions, 2,906 changes have been made on Wikipedia, including 28 new articles. These are mainly topics related to Blaise Pascal - Blaise Pascal's birthplace, Discours sur les passions de l'amour - and to the University - university herbaria of Clermont-Ferrand, Pierre-Alphonse Julien, various campuses of the University. Conversely, and this is also part of the quality improvement, a hoax article (created on a first April about an existing person) was detected and removed. There have been many improvements that are as small as they are necessary. For example, on the update of the names of the University and its components or on the change of the URL of the Overnia site, the AutoWikiBrowser software allowed users to semi-automatically correct all of the relevant pages. This is a tedious task as even before the corrections are made, it is necessary to find the articles to be corrected spread out in the mass of millions of articles.

If the number of articles is low, the quality is high and there is at least one remarkable article: Discourse on the passions of love. This article was assessed as a "good article" in early

September 2022, a label awarded after community debate. There are only 3,746 "good articles" out of a total of 2.4 million on the French Wikipedia.

Finally, 199 contributions were made to other projects in other languages: Wikisources in Latin and English, Wikipedias in English, Russian, Portuguese, Breton and Occitan. Multilingualism is an essential point to reach a wider audience.



Excluding the first and last month, the number of monthly contributions is on average 2,500. As the residency started on August 23, 2021, this explains the low contribution of the first month. Conversely, the peaks in October 2021 and August 2022 can be explained by the use of the OpenRefine tool, on Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons respectively.

All these statistics were produced using the "Programs and Events Dashboard"⁶ and processed with OpenOffice Calc. For the curious, a mid-term review was published in March 2022. This one is originally - in less detail - the methodology used above which allows comparisons with this final review.⁷

Impacts

Wikipedia is the fifth most visited website on the Internet. The number of visits to Wikipedia can quickly become very large, sometimes larger than to the institutional site. This can even have an impact on the local economy.⁸

⁶ <https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/>

⁷ <https://alambic.hypotheses.org/7129>

⁸ On average +9% of overnight stays in cities with an improved Wikipedia article (*Wikipedia Matters*, Hinnosaar et al. 2021)

To give an order of magnitude, all the 5,573 files of the heritage library have been viewed 221,314 times in July 2022; there are some highly viewed files but also a long tail effect with many little viewed files which together represent more than 50% of the total.⁹

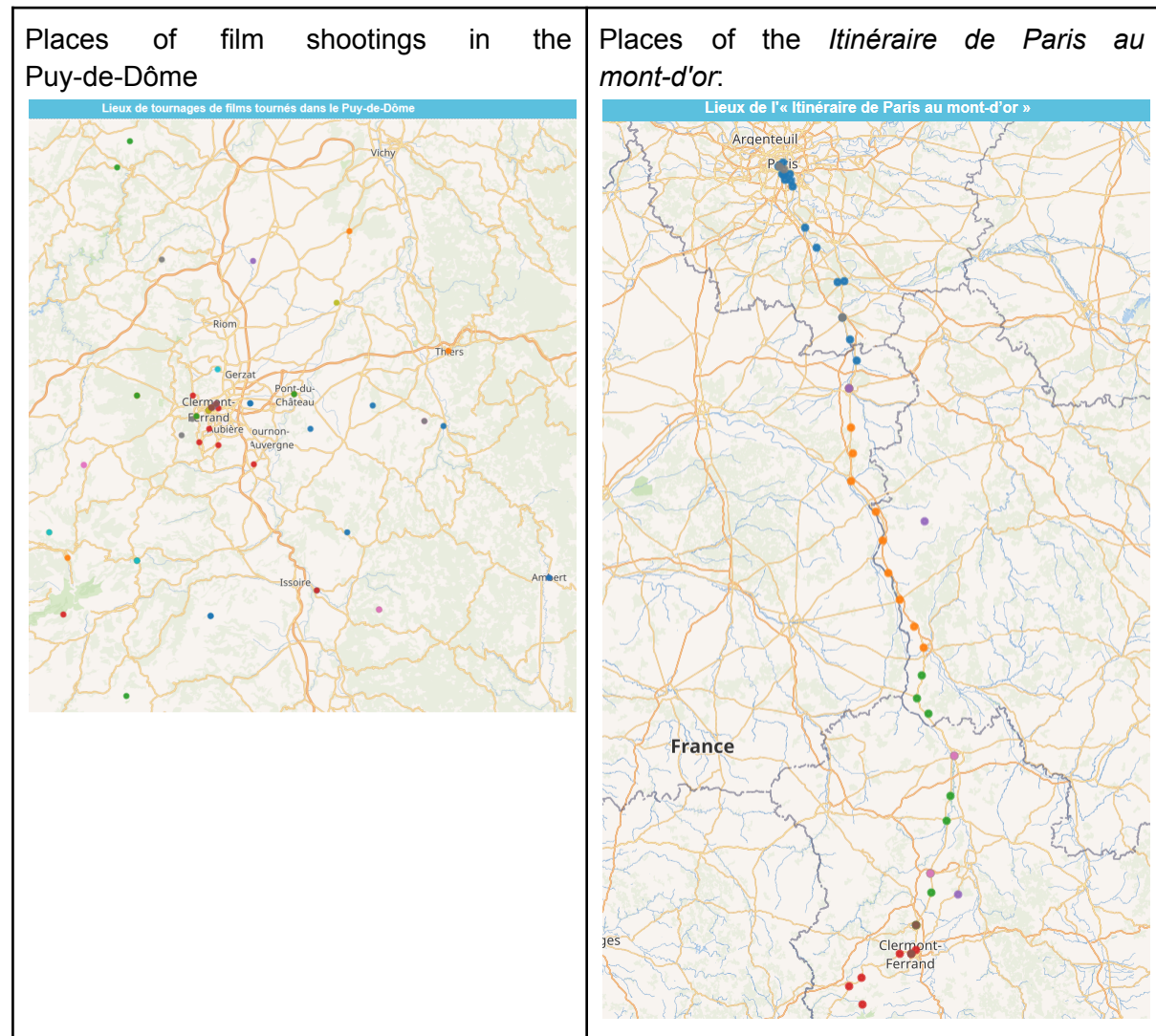
Thanks to Wikidata, portraits from the Boyer collection are automatically included in foreign language Wikipedia articles. For example, the portrait of Gilbert Motier de La Fayette on the Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia and the Ukrainian Wikipedia.

Wikimedia projects allow for the development of a kind of digital public service, and people have contacted the library to get more information about certain documents. They probably wouldn't have spotted these contents if they hadn't been put online on Wikimedia.

The residency was also an opportunity to get in touch with the local Wikimedia community. Several meetings took place, for example a contribution workshop (edit-a-thon) was held at the Musée d'Art Roger-Quilliot on March 12 around the exhibition Arts of Islam.

⁹ Nombre de vues uniques selon l'outil GLAMorgan :
https://glamtools.toolforge.org/glamorgan.html?&category=Clermont_Auvergne_M%C3%A9tropole_Library&depth=3&year=2022&month=7

On the social media side, in addition to a rather classical communication (mainly for the announcement of events) many tweets were published. They are SPARQL queries under the hashtag [#1jour1requete](#) following the improvement of data on Wikidata:



Finally, the residency was covered by the press: in the written press, radio or television (France 3 Auvergne) and in internal communication.¹⁰

¹⁰ See the complete press review on https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikip%C3%A9dia:GLAM/Clermont_Auvergne/Revue_de_presse

Surprises and lessons learned

In conclusion, here are some personal impressions. As in any human project, there are risks that lead to surprises, sometimes good and sometimes bad. Here are some examples:

- + strong enthusiasm for Wikisource
- + Invitation to the ABES days to give the opening speech on "The place of Wikidata in education libraries" in front of about 500 people (in person or online)
- + diversity, synergy (1lib1ref)
- + efficiency of the support (either administratively or from the IT services)
- + long and sometimes wasted time (preparation of a workshop which was eventually canceled, presentation/training time for people who ultimately "won't use it")
- little response and interest from computer science and formal science departments (which have a historical affinity with wiki projects)

Photo credits

- https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:R%C3%A9sidence_Clermont_Auvergne_-_collage.png mosaic collage of 21 images representative of the residency
- Map of the places of the actions, personal work with uMap
- List of works according to the progress, screenshot of the French Wikisource <https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Sp%C3%A9cial:IndexPages?key=Facsimil%C3%A9s+isus+de+Clermont+Auvergne+M%C3%A9tropole&order=quality&limit=50>
- Maps from the SPARQL terminal <https://query.wikidata.org/>