

# Wikidata as an open, collaborative bibliographic database

The case of the National Library of Sweden

Alicia Fagervig  
alicia.fagervig@wikimedia.se



June 24, 2020  
LIBER 2020 Online

# Wikimedia Sverige

- Non-profit association based in Sweden
- Local chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation
- We work towards making knowledge freely accessible to all humans
- Our focus: the Wikimedia projects (Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata...)
- We support organizations such as libraries, schools and universities, museums...

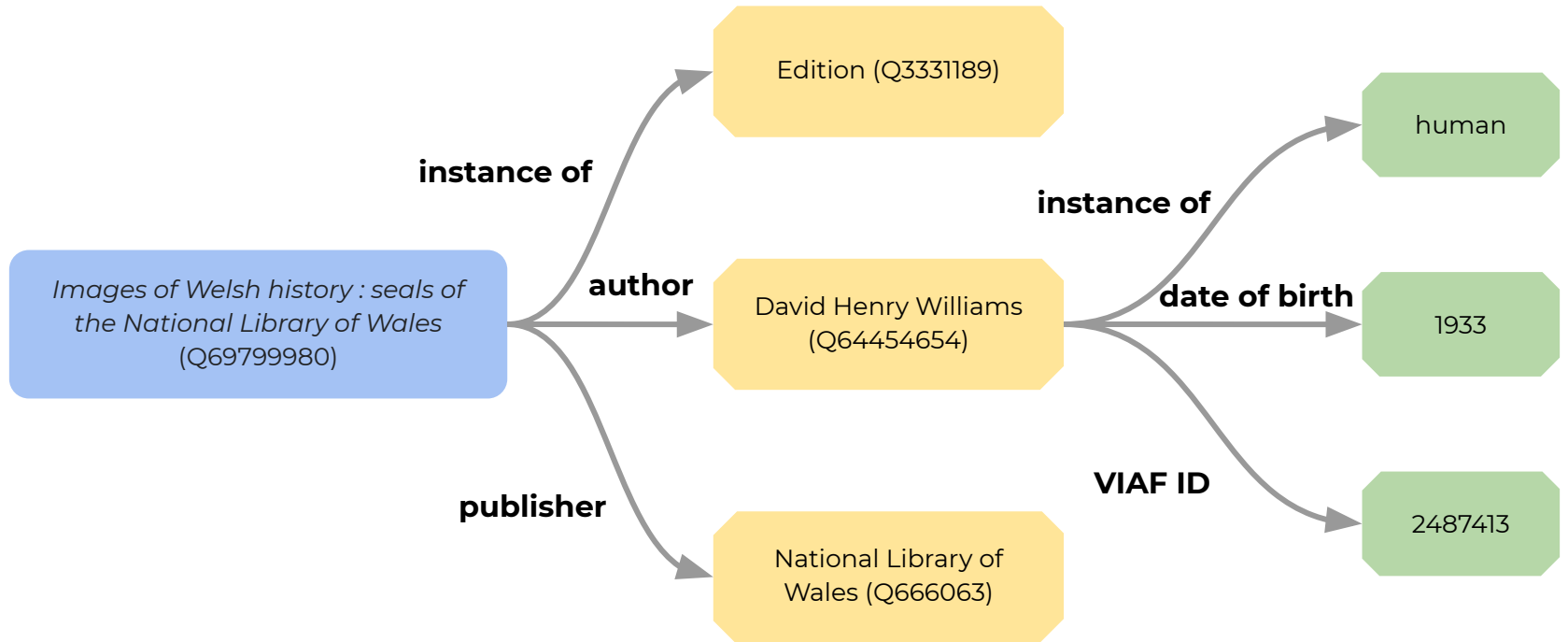
# Wikidata

- <https://wikidata.org>
- One of the sister projects of Wikipedia
- Linked and structured data
- Anyone can edit – collaborative and multilingual
- Open license: **CC0** makes for easy re-use (no need to credit the source)



# Wikidata

- Flexible, content-agnostic structure
- Resource Description Framework
- Data can be accessed via API, displayed on Wikipedia or other websites
- SPARQL endpoint:  
<https://query.wikidata.org/>
- Over 87 million data items representing topics, contents and objects: people, works of art, geographical objects, events, taxons, publications...



Every **item** has a unique ID:

<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q69799980>



**Properties** are used to make **statements** about the **items**.

# How is it possible?

- Data from external sources can be imported to Wikidata
- It needs to be truly free – Public Domain or CC0
- For example data about 21,000 public libraries in the US has been imported from the Public Libraries Survey

# How is it possible?

- Thousands of volunteer editors add, edit and improve data
- Just like on Wikipedia, decisions are made by the community
- Many subject areas have dedicated projects where data modelling, imports, problems are discussed

# Wikidata and bibliographic data

- [http://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject\\_Books](http://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Books)
- The community is creating standards on describing books and other publications
- Based on the FRBR model – work/edition distinction
- This makes it possible to model different editions, translations etc.



# National Library of Sweden

- Collaborates with Wikimedia Sverige over open data and the Wikimedia projects
- Maintains the Swedish National Bibliography: 700,000 entries of books, periodicals and other publications
- Libris Authority Database
- These are CC0

# National Library of Sweden

- The first national library in the world to transition to linked data in its catalog
- Libris XL is based on Bibframe 2.0, making the data easier to understand, analyze and re-use
- Linked data is more compatible with the rest of the web, including platforms such as Wikidata and Wikipedia

# Swedish bibliographic data on Wikidata

- We have been experimenting with importing some of this data to Wikidata
- Created 500 items for the books that are most often used as sources on Swedish Wikipedia
- Added Libris authority identifiers to over 60,000 person items
- Learning a lot about how linked bibliographic data could be improved – feedback for the library

# Wikidata and bibliographic data around the world

- **Wikibase**, the software behind Wikidata, has been evaluated by the **German National Library** as a possible platform for the Integrated Authority File (GND)
- The **Library of Congress** has added Wikidata identifiers to over one million entries in its authority file
- The **Association of Research Libraries'** white paper on Wikidata gives examples of how Wikidata and LOD can benefit cultural heritage organizations and scholarly communication

# Wikidata and bibliographic data around the world

- **WikiCite** is an international initiative to develop open citations and linked bibliographic data to serve free knowledge, using Wikidata and Wikibase as its platform
- Conferences and workshops
- <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiCite>

# The future...

- The world's largest bibliographic database?
- More libraries releasing their data?
- Wikidata identifiers in library catalogs?
- Training for librarians about Linked Open Data and the Wikimedia projects?

# Thank you!

Your feedback is welcome

[alicia.fagerving@wikimedia.se](mailto:alicia.fagerving@wikimedia.se)

