Digital preservation and conservation: the role of Wikimedia projects in building collective memory

Rubén Ojeda - 20th ICOM-CC
Triennial Conference

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO WIKIMEDIA

WIKIMEDIA
ESPAÑA

WIKIMEDIA PROJECTS

- Set of projects created through an open, free and collaborative model.
- Every day, tens of thousands of people create, expand, translate or update content, working together.
- Wikipedia is the best known (335 languages, +61 million pages), but the Wikimedia universe includes others, such as Commons, Wikidata, Wikisource... each of them focused on an specific area of knowledge.

WIKIMEDIA MOVEMENT

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These thousands of people are organised globally through affiliates, currently more than 180, including chapters, user groups and thematic organisations, all of which are supported by the Wikimedia Foundation.

WORKING WITH GLAMs

- This huge community focuses on different areas of collaboration, such as education, technology, diversity, or culture, as examples.
- And it is because of culture that we are here; the collaboration between Wikimedia and cultural institutions (GLAM-Wiki) makes Wikimedia projects a more reliable source of information, and in return it makes possible that, for example, their collections reach a global audience.

These collaborations cover a variety of initiatives, such as Wikipedians in residence, workshops and edit-a-thons, uploading of multimedia material, texts o databases, digitisation, backstage passes... among others. We will briefly mention a few of them.

MET OPEN ACCESS POLICY

- +388,000 images released on Wikimedia Commons.
- Visits to Wikipedia articles tripled.
- Traffic on the MET website increased by 57%.

"A Ruler in his Palace", Folio from a Kulliyat (Complete Works) of Sa'di MET sf13-228-10-f2-d.jpg
750 × 1311; 298 kB

"A Ruler in his Palace", Folio from a Kulliyat (Complete Works) of Sa'di MET sf13-228-10-f2-r.jpg
750 × 1255; 262 kB

"A Ruler in his Palace", Folio from a Kulliyat (Complete Works) of Sa'di MET sf13-228-10-f2-v.jpg
750 × 1193; 274 kB

"A soldier was signaling to them to stay away" from L'Illustration MET DP874201.jpg
2597 × 3697; 4,44 MB

"A soldier was signaling to them to stay away" from L'Illustration MET DP874202.jpg
2722 × 3678; 4,39 MB

"A Tight Fit" MET DP804678.jpg
2957 × 3793; 2,36 MB

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

- +12,000 images released on Wikimedia Commons.
- +10,000 new Wikipedia articles in Welsh.
- +33,000 new items on Wikidata.
- Served to revitalise the language through the writing of Wikipedia articles.

A group containing two women, a man and a youn boy
NLW3364730.jpg
431 × 588; 59 KB

A group including, two men, two women and four children
NLW3364825.jpg
436 × 590; 57 KB

A group of children and young persons (a choir?)
NLW3365019.jpg
591 × 441; 67 KB

A man with a child
NLW3364965.jpg
439 × 590; 61 KB

A man with a young girl
NLW3364886.jpg
443 × 595; 56 KB

A man, child and woman standing outside a shop
NLW3365044.jpg
443 × 588; 70 KB

SALVADOR ALLENDE'S SPEECHES

- Digitalization of 50 speeches.
- Upload to Wikimedia Commons.
- Transcription on Wikisource.

JOAQUÍN DÍAZ FOUNDATION

- +2,000 old images of Spanish places, people, monuments and landscapes.
- +21,000 oral history files: recordings of popular songs and romances from different provinces of Spain.
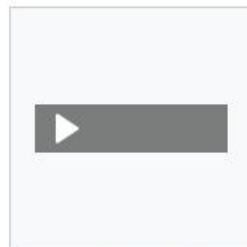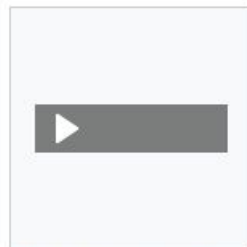

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 05 - Rondeña.ogg
7 min 51 s; 2.9 MB
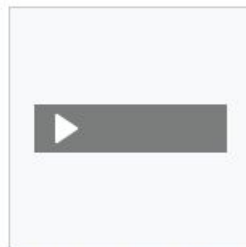
Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 06 - Jota.ogg
2 min 21 s; 904 KB

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 07 - Jota.ogg
16 min 50 s; 7.81 MB

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 08 - Rondeña.ogg
1 min 0 s; 441 KB

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 15 - Estribillo de jota.ogg
53 s; 348 KB

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 16 - Estribillo de jota.ogg
53 s; 347 KB

Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 17 - Estribillo de jota.ogg
1 min 6 s; 440 KB
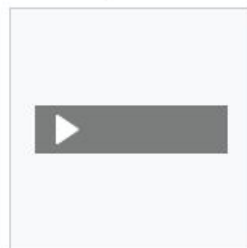
Fundación Joaquín Díaz - ATO 00013 18 - Estribillo de jota.ogg
51 s; 325 KB

Apart from that, Wikimedia projects are excellent tools for digital preservation.

HERITAGE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS

PETROGLYPH DO VILAR

- A Neolithic monument in Galicia that was vandalised.
- Due to the nature of the materials, the restoration of this type of monuments is particularly complex; in some cases it is quite impossible.

SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH, VALPARAISO

It has suffered several fires, the last one in August 2013. While this church survived the catastrophe, other local monuments did not.

FORMER ARTILLERY BARRACKS, VALENCIA

- This gate, along with the building in the background, was demolished a few days after this picture was taken.
- The Parque de Artillería was not what is considered a monument, but it has an interesting history that is linked to the neighbourhood where it is located.

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MILITARY CONFLICTS

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WAR IN UKRAINE

- Full-scale invasion: impact on the community, the economy... and the heritage.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_cultural_heritage_during_the_2022_Russian_invasion

Article Talk   Read Edit source View history ☆ Search Wikipedia 🔍

Ukrainian cultural heritage during the 2022 Russian invasion

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

See also: *War crimes in the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine*

CC by 4.0, Kharkiv Regional State Administration

"As of 13 September 2023, UNESCO has [verified](#) damage to 289 sites since 24 February 2022 – 120 religious sites, 27 museums, 109 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 19 monuments, 13 libraries, 1 Archive.."
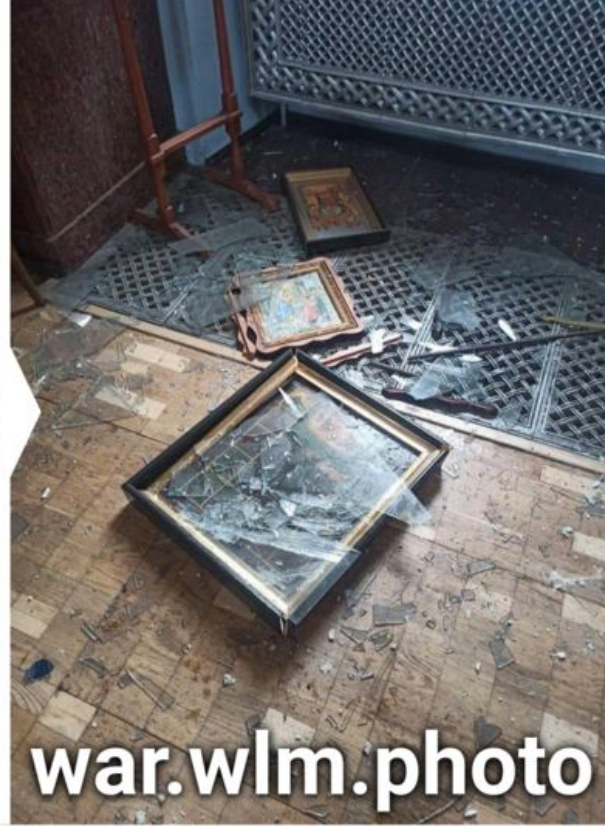
In 2022 the contest happened in the middle of the Russian invasion. Almost 14,000 images from 300 participants. The focus was documentation of cultural heritage. For security reasons, only pre-invasion photographs were allowed. This year, only those taken by June 30, 2023 will be accepted.

DISASTERS

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF BRAZIL

CC by 3.0, Halley Pacheco de Oliveira

- 20 million items in the museum's collection
- Between 8-25 thousand items on display

On the Wikimedia projects:
- Commons category had 471 images
- pt.wikipedia had 8 articles
- Wikidata had 8 items

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CC by SA 4.0, Dornicke

CC by SA 4.0, Dornicke

- But in September 2nd, 2018…

- 18,5 million items were destroyed, 92.5 % of the collection
- Luzia's skull was destroyed
- The building got complete burned down

Campaign
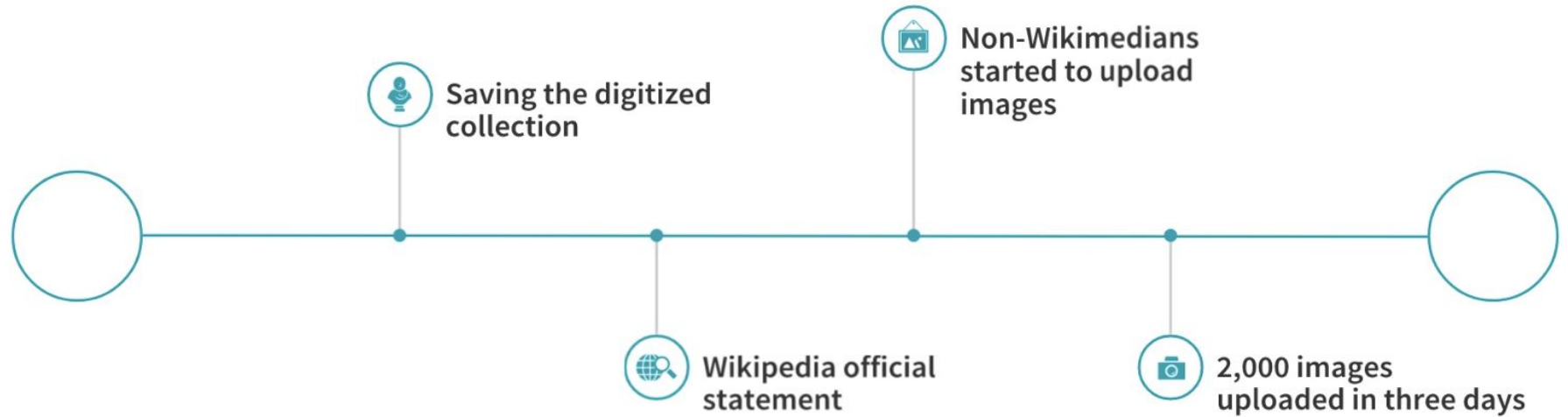
Saving the digitized collection

Non-Wikimedians started to upload images

Wikipedia official statement

2,000 images uploaded in three days

Wikipedia:Notice on the National Museum

The Portuguese Wikipedia community is in mourning

On the evening of September 2, 2018, a massive fire broke out at the National Museum of Brazil at Quinta da Boa Vista, Rio de Janeiro, destroying almost all of the historical collection spanning over two hundred years, which included over twenty million items in its catalog. In addition to this rich collection, the building itself was the former residence of the Emperor of Brazil. It was extremely damaged, experiencing cracks, the collapse of its roof, and failures of the internal slabs.

Category:Uploaded via Campaign:MuseuNacional

De Wikimedia Commons

Multimídia na categoria "Uploaded via Campaign:MuseuNacional"

Esta categoria possui os 169 arquivos a seguir, de um total de 169.
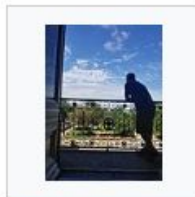
2nd Floor Balcony View from inside Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro.jpg
960 × 1 280; 171 kB
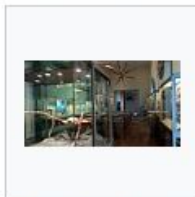
Acervo Invertebrados caranguejo e lula gigantes (Museu Nacional).jpg
4 000 × 2 248; 2,48 MB

Albatroz-gigante (Diomedea exulans).jpg
4 160 × 3 120; 1,63 MB

Anéis e jóias de Pompéia.jpg
4 912 × 3 264; 3,72 MB
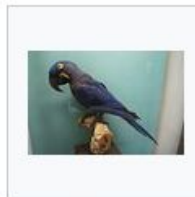
Arara azul empalhada.jpg
4 912 × 3 264; 4,44 MB
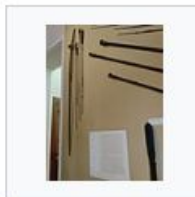
Arcos e flechas de Indígenas Sul-Americanos.jpg
3 120 × 4 160; 2,28 MB
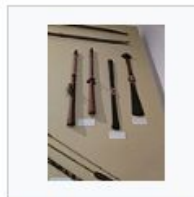
Armas de concussão de Povos Indígenas Sul-Americanos.jpg
3 120 × 4 160; 2,07 MB
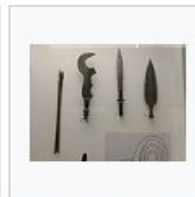
Armas de diferentes povos da África.jpg
4 160 × 3 120; 2,17 MB
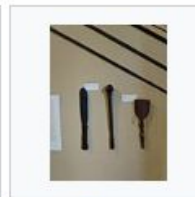
Armas de Povos Indígenas Sul-Americanos.jpg
3 120 × 4 160; 2,2 MB
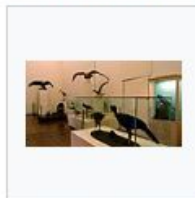
Aves empalhadas (Museu Nacional).jpg
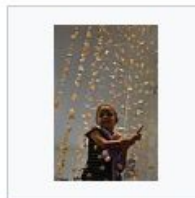4 000 × 2 248; 1,73 MB
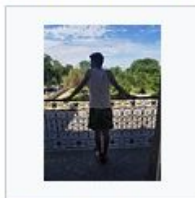
Balcony View from inside Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro.jpg
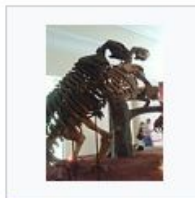960 × 1 280; 210 kB

Bendegó meteorite.jpg
800 × 600; 64 kB
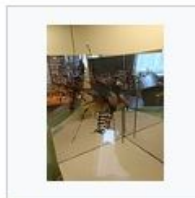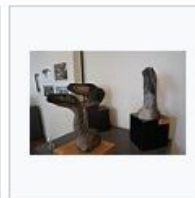

Besouro em Vista Explodida.jpg
3 120 × 4 160; 2,12 MB

Borboletas e sofia.jpg
2 304 × 3 456; 2,68 MB

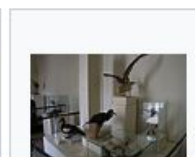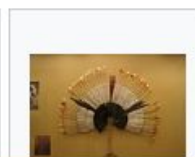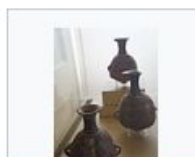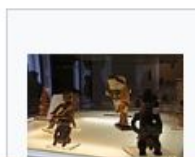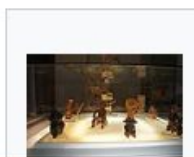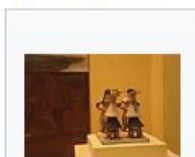Brazilian megafauna.jpg
600 × 800; 61 kB

Brazilian Sloth.jpg
600 × 800; 47 kB

Cabeças de dinossauros.jpg
4 912 × 3 264; 4,28 MB

Caranguejo - Museu Nacional-RJ.jpg
4 160 × 3 120; 2,94 MB

Thank you!
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