# WIKIDATA

A GAME-CHANGER FOR WIKIPEDIA AND BEYOND

## WIKIDATA

**WIKIDATA** is a collaboratively edited database of the world's knowledge. Its first goal is to support the more than 280 language editions of Wikipedia with one common source of structured data that can be used in all articles of the free encyclopedia.

## ONE DATABASE – FREE TO USE

Maintained in one place, ready for use anywhere! Take the date of birth of a person of public interest, for example. It can be used in all language versions of Wikipedia, once it is stored in Wikidata. Moreover, it will also be freely usable outside of Wikipedia, like any information in Wikidata.

Wikidata aims to support both Wikipedia's editor community and 3rd parties wanting to use a large base of curated data (for example in their applications). The project aims to decrease maintenance burden and help smaller Wikipedias. Decreased maintenance comes

in various forms, besides data maintenance in one place. There will also be automatic list creation, removing the need to create and update lists by hand.

Wikidata can also help smaller Wikipedias by kick-starting some of the articles. This way, writing articles is made easier, because basic information is already given, to which content can be added.

Moreover, by relying on data collected by a much larger community a lot of work can be taken off the shoulders of editors from smaller language communities.

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND IT

The initial development of Wikidata is led by **Wikimedia Deutschland**. The German non-profit organisation is part of the international Wikimedia movement.

It was founded in 2004 as the first local chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia and its fellow free knowledge projects. Today, there are 40 Wikimedia chapters supporting the work of volunteers all over the world. Wikimedia Deutschland is the biggest chapter, dedicating a team of 12 employees to the development of Wikidata. Funding for the first new Wikimedia project in six years is provided by the

Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence [AI]², the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Google, Inc. After the initial development, Wikidata will be handed over to the Wikimedia Foundation for further development and maintenance.

## OUR TIMELINE

The initial development is divided in three phases and is scheduled for one year. The **first phase** is about improving links to an article on the same topic in a different language.

They are usually stored as text annotations in the article text for each language. This will be changed to allow storing them only once in Wikidata to reduce duplication.

The **second phase** is about infoboxes. After its completion, editors will be able to enrich infoboxes with data from Wikidata. This will increase consistency over the Wikipedias.

Lists are the focus of the third and **last phase**. The goal is to allow automatic list creation based on data in Wikidata as opposed to creating and maintaining them by hand.

## LEARN MORE HERE

# WWW.WIKIDATA.ORG

## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

- Write Code
- Take part in discussions about technical issues
- Take part in the project itself by adding and editing data for example
- Help with the integration of Wikidata in the Wikipedias *(technically and non-technically)*
- In many more ways…