

# Categories

Proposal to migrate them from Wikitext to Wikidata

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# Problems of categories in Wikitext

- Inconsistent
- Incomplete
- Scattered
- Duplicate work
  - Specific for each Wikipedia, or Wikimedia project
- Difficult to search

# Problems with searching

- Information pages can't be easily found
- Searching depends on the language
- Impossible to systematically search (categories) via Wikidata

# Proposed solution

Centralise the category tree in Wikidata

Shared amongst platforms and languages.

One unique item ID for each category

with labels for each language

and tree structure links (up and down navigation).

Wikidata item IDs are used to attribute categories to Wikipedia pages in Wikidata.

Existing instance: [Wikimedia category](#) (new property required)

# Wikidata advantages

- “Automatically” translated
- In one place
- Eventually consistent
- Available to all Wikimedia platforms
- (Wikipedia) Page does not need to be edited if category (list/tree) changes

# We did something related already

- Interwiki sitelinks migrated successfully in 2013 to Wikidata
  - First function of Wikidata

# Migration strategy

- Create Category hierarchy in Wikidata
- Migrate Wiki content
  - Start with Wikimedia Commons
  - Then the English Wikipedia?
  - Then the other Wikipedias
  - Ongoing (maintenance) process
    - Labels for all languages

# Was already proposed as a Wishlist

- [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2019/Archive/Language-neutral\\_Wikidata-based\\_Commons\\_categories](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2019/Archive/Language-neutral_Wikidata-based_Commons_categories)
- [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2021/Multimedia\\_and\\_Commons/Make\\_subcategory\\_browsing\\_multilingual\\_using\\_Wikidata](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2021/Multimedia_and_Commons/Make_subcategory_browsing_multilingual_using_Wikidata)
- [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2021/Categories/Support\\_multilingual\\_category\\_names](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2021/Categories/Support_multilingual_category_names)[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2021/Archive/Add\\_Wikipedia\\_categories\\_to\\_the\\_Wikidata\\_element](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2021/Archive/Add_Wikipedia_categories_to_the_Wikidata_element)
- [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2022/Archive/Integrate\\_Wikipedia\\_categories\\_into\\_Wikidata#Integrate\\_Wikipedia\\_categories\\_into\\_Wikidata](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2022/Archive/Integrate_Wikipedia_categories_into_Wikidata#Integrate_Wikipedia_categories_into_Wikidata)
- [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Wishlist\\_Survey\\_2022/Multimedia\\_and\\_Commons/Make\\_category\\_browsing\\_multilingual\\_using\\_Wikidata](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wishlist_Survey_2022/Multimedia_and_Commons/Make_category_browsing_multilingual_using_Wikidata)



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# Presentation

- WikiconNL, 2024, Hilversum
- General Assembly Wikimedia Europe, 2024, Prague
- Wikimania, 2024, Katowice