OPAC SBN
Catalogo del Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale

SBN and Wikidata

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Summary

1. Introduction to the Italian libraries
2. Introduction to the Italian library catalogs
3. SBN authority file and Wikidata (up to 2023)
4. SBN authority file enrichment via Wikidata (2023-)

1) Introduction to the Italian libraries

a very complex system

Italian libraries: how many?

- 13603 libraries (source: Anagrafe delle Biblioteche Italiane [the official database of Italian libraries], https://anagrafe.iccu.sbn.it/, retrieved 14/09/2024)
- 7425 open libraries, excluding school libraries and university libraries (source: ISTAT [national institute of statistics], https://www.istat.it/comunicato-stampa/le-biblioteche-in-italia-anno-2019/ press release 2019)
- an estimate: somewhere around 10-12 thousands

Italian libraries: hierarchy

- 46 public state libraries
  - 9 of them have the title of “national” libraries
    - 2 of them have the title of **“national central”** libraries; both are entitled to the legal deposit
- Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di **Firenze** (BNCF)
- Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di **Roma** (BNCR)

All public libraries depend from the Ministry of Culture

2) Introduction to the Italian library catalogs

things get still more complex!

Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale (SBN)

The National Library Service (Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale) is the union of the majority of Italian libraries (but with very significant exceptions, particularly among university libraries).

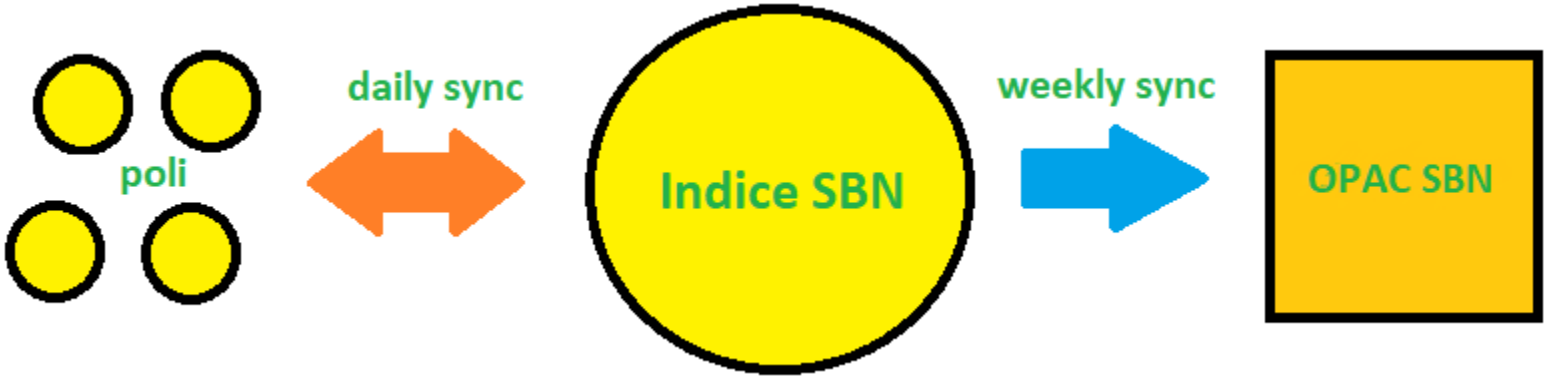
Presently **7191 libraries** are part of SBN (source: https://opac.sbn.it/, retrieved 14/09/2024)

Libraries are grouped into **102 “poli SBN”** (poles): cf. https://www.iccu.sbn.it/it/SBN/poli-e-biblioteche/

SBN mechanism of cooperation

- each library catalogues in the **catalogue of its “polo”** (all the libraries of a “polo” use the same ILS)
- on a daily basis the catalogues of the “poli” are synchronised with the **Indice SBN** (the complete catalogue, not public)
- on a weekly basis the data are exported from the Indice SBN to the **OPAC SBN** (the public catalogue: https://opac.sbn.it/)

SBN mechanism of cooperation



SBN coordination

- the 102 “poli” are coordinated by the Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche Italiane e per le informazioni bibliografiche (**ICCU**) [Central Institute for the Unique Catalogue of the Italian Libraries and for the Bibliographic Information], which is also responsible for the Italian cataloguing policy (cf. https://norme.iccu.sbn.it/)
- so ICCU is also responsible for the SBN authority file(s)

ICCU (https://www.iccu.sbn.it/) also manages, among others:

- **EDIT16** (https://edit16.iccu.sbn.it/): the national catalogue of 16th century books printed in Italy and/or in Italian language
- **Manus Online** (https://manus.iccu.sbn.it/): the national catalogue of manuscripts preserved in Italy
- **Anagrafe delle Biblioteche Italiane** (https://anagrafe.iccu.sbn.it/): the database of Italian libraries

SBN authority file(s): basic data

Three authority files:

- persons and organizations (> 4.2 M in total, specifically divided in **3.7 M persons** + **0.5 M organizations**): https://opac.sbn.it/voci-controllate-nomi
- **works** (> **1.7 M** records): https://opac.sbn.it/opere
- **places** (2560 records): https://opac.sbn.it/luoghi

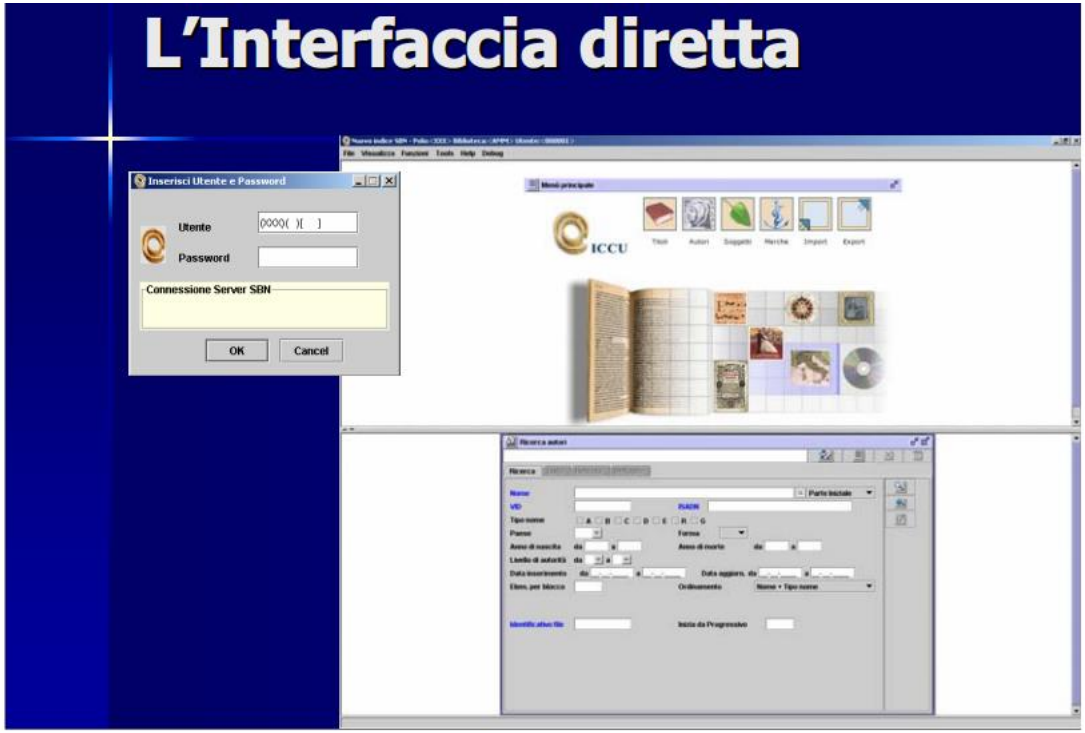
From now on we will consider the first one, and mainly persons.

SBN authority file: hierarchy of cooperation

- all records (bibliographic and authority) in the Indice SBN have **“levels”**; also, all accounts of editors (librarians) in the Indice SBN have “levels”; each account can create new records only with their maximum level (or below) and can edit only records with their maximum level (or below)
- most librarians can only edit their **“polo” catalogue**
- a few librarians have access to a “direct interface” that edits the Indice SBN, **Interfaccia Diretta** (cf. http://id.iccu.sbn.it/)

Interfaccia Diretta

Source: http://www.urfm.braidense.it/documentazione/lezioni/Bergamo_2004.pdf



3) SBN authority file and Wikidata (up to 2023)

Just a summary: you find everything in

https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:SBN

Interlinking between SBN authority records and Wikidata items

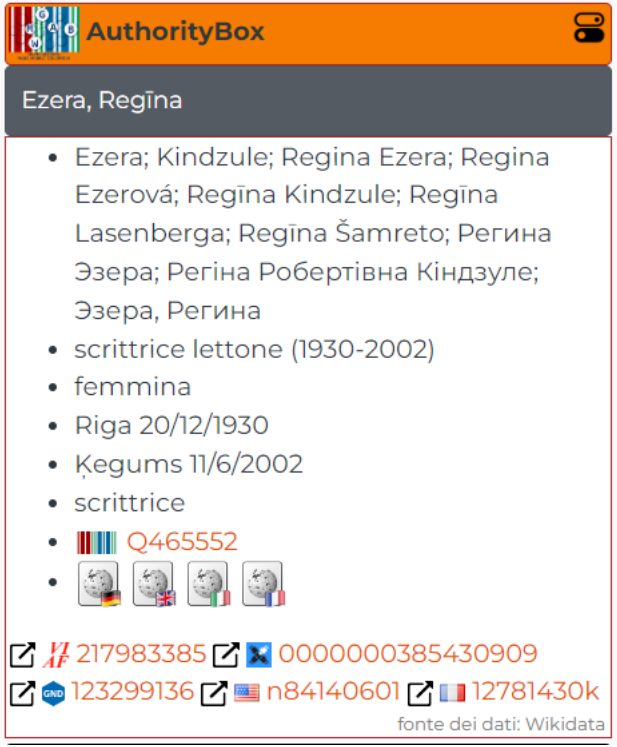
- **from 2013** Wikidata items link to SBN authority records (persons and organizations) via **P396** (https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Property:P396)
- SBN authority records (which are in UNIMARC) don't have a field to put the Wikidata QID; they only have a field 010 for ISNI; however, the **field 017** for IDs different from ISNI (including Wikidata) should be implemented **soon**

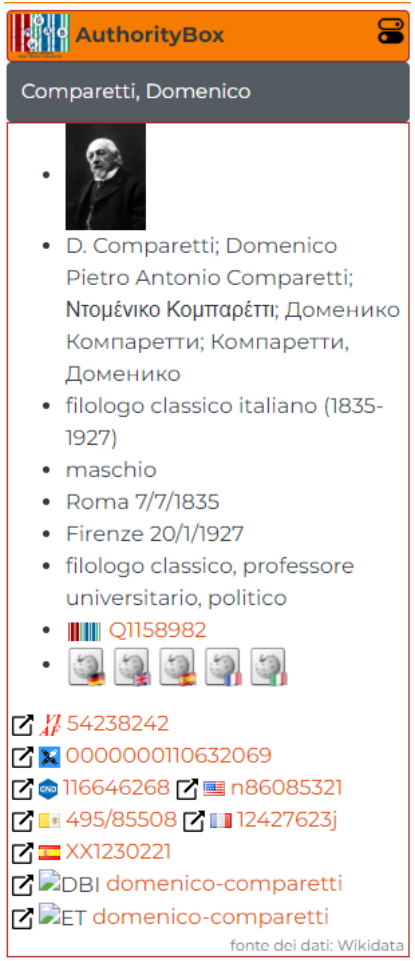
Efforts of interlinking, Wikidata side

- Wikidata has **143536** values of P396 (as of 14/09/2024)
- we have a guide for librarians about adding SBN authority IDs to Wikidata (https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progetto:GLAM/Biblioteche/VIAF/SBN)
- we have videotutorials about adding SBN authority IDs to Wikidata (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY44LcfRVCXVsOnTt3_IdkbR8UQhvoKEJ)
- we have a browser gadget that facilitates the reconciliation (https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Bargioni/MnM_gadgets/WikiLinker_per_SBN)

Possible data reuse on SBN side

- we have created an authority box for SBN, available as a browser gadget (https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Bargioni/AuthorityBox_SBN_installer.js)





AuthorityBox SBN

LIVELLO BIBLIOGRAFICO	Monografia
TIPO DOCUMENTO	Testo
AUTORE PRINCIPALE	Ezera, Regīna
TITOLO	L'uomo ha bisogno del cane / Regīna Ezera ; a cura di Margherita Carbonaro
PUBBLICAZIONE	[Como ; Pavia] : Finis Terrae, 2022
DESCRIZIONE FISICA	133 p. ; 21 cm.
COLLEZIONE	La luce nascosta
TITOLO DI OPERA	Cilvēkam vajag suni | Ezera, Regīna › Scheda di autorità
NUMERI	**[ISBN] :** 978-88-6904-021-4 **[BNI] :** 2023-3536
NOMI	**[Autore]** Ezera, Regīna › *Scheda di autorità invisibile* **[Curatore]** Carbonaro, Margherita › Scheda di autorità
CLASSIFICAZIONE DEWEY	891.9333 (23.) NARRATIVA LETTONE. 1900-1991
LINGUA DI PUBBLICAZIONE	ITALIANO
LINGUA DELL'OPERA ORIGINALE	LETTONE
PAESE DI PUBBLICAZIONE	ITALIA
CODICE IDENTIFICATIVO	IT\ICCU\RL1\0090643

AuthorityBox

Ezera, Regīna

- Ezera; Kindzule; Regina Ezera; Regina Ezerová; Regīna Kindzule; Regīna Lasenberga; Regīna Šamreto; Регина Эзера; Регіна Робертівна Кіндзуле; Эзера, Регина
- scrittrice lettone (1930-2002)
- femmina
- Riga 20/12/1930
- Ķegums 11/6/2002
- scrittrice
- Q465552
-

VIAF 217983385 0000000385430909
GND 123299136 n84140601 12781430k
fonte dei dati: Wikidata

Carbonaro, Margherita

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Info e Impostazioni

Joint activities ICCU-Wikidata users (1)

- ICCU signed a **convention with Wikimedia Italia** (the Italian chapter of Wikimedia Foundation) in **2015**; it has been always renewed afterwards; ICCU has usually been receptive to the initiatives of Wikimedia users interested in collaborations
- the collaboration between ICCU and Wikidata users increased from late **2021**, when the website of the OPAC SBN was completely renewed after ten years

Joint activities ICCU-Wikidata users (2)

- the new OPAC SBN made possible using to a wider extent **Mix'n'match catalogs** to increase the matching with Wikidata; the values of P396 passed from **46039** on 16/12/2021 to **96919** on 02/04/2023 and to **143536** on 14/09/2024 – it is evident that the growth has been much faster in the last years
- in 2023 ICCU implemented **redirects** for the cases in which an authority record has been merged into another one

Joint activities ICCU-Wikidata users (3)

- from late 2021 there has been a significant growth in the collaboration of Wikidata users to the improvement of SBN authority records, through reports of typos, **duplications**, **conflations**, imprecise and obsolete data
- two **monthly contests** (February-March 2023) among Wikidata users regarding SBN authority records have had excellent results: more than 11 thousands P396 values added to Wikidata and nearly 400 mistake reports for SBN authority records

Joint activities ICCU-Wikidata users – bibliography

Two scientific articles (submitted in June 2023 and published on ***JLIS.it*** in January 2024) have been written to assess the collaboration between ICCU and Wikidata users, one by ICCU functionaries and one by a Wikidata user (the presenter):

- Atturo-Ravelli, ***The evolution of authority work in SBN. From origins to Alphabetica and future prospects***
- Pellizzari di San Girolamo, ***The reconciliation of SBN authority records with Wikidata. Progresses and perspectives after a decade of work (2013-2023)***

4) SBN authority file enrichment via Wikidata

Project started in 2023 and ongoing

SBN authority records' need of enrichment

- As we said, SBN authority file has more than **3.7 M** persons
- Although there are no complete statistics publicly available, we esteem that more than half of these authority records are **empty** (i.e. contain only the heading)
- And, as we said, nearly **0.15 M** persons have already been linked from Wikidata through P396

Enrichment procedure

- In July 2023 ICCU started a project aimed to the enrichment of empty authority records linked from Wikidata using data extracted from the corresponding Wikidata items
- Basic procedure:
  - **selecting**, from the authority records linked by Wikidata, the empty ones
  - **extracting data** from Wikidata items about them
  - **rework data** and add them to the authority records

Criteria and challenges on Wikidata side

- Data extraction criteria: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Property_talk:P396#Tabella_per_estrazione_dati_per_ICCU
- Challenges on Wikidata side:
  - missing Italian labels
  - missing references
  - contrasting data (e.g. two birth dates) with the same rank
- Either these issues are fixed manually, or data are not extracted

Issues on SBN side

- absence of a field to structure the Wikidata ID (should be overcome soon by the adoption of UNIMARC field 017)
- necessity to concatenate structured data (birth and death dates and places, occupation(s), position(s) held, religious order, canonization) into a text string; if each Wikidata property corresponded to one field in the authority record, the import would be much easier
- contrasting data (especially discording ISNI) should either be addressed manually, or Wikidata data should be discarded

Enrichment first phase and ongoing second phase

- In August 2024 the procedure was completed for a first batch of about **16200 SBN authority records**; a detailed press release of ICCU is available (https://www.iccu.sbn.it/it/SBN/catalogazione-e-manutenzione-del-catalogo-sbn/progetti-di-implementazione-dei-dati-dellindice-sbn/arricchimento-dei-dati-di-authority-di-sbn-attraverso-il-confronto-e-lo-scambio-con-wikidata-/)
- We are now working on a **new batch** of authority records to be enriched (a similar number); we are experimenting the extraction of data from Wikidata through the API instead of through WDQS

Thanks for your attention!

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