Wikidata for authority control

Sharing museum knowledge with the world

Alicia Fagerving
Wikimedia Sverige
alicia.fagerving@wikimedia.se
Background

Wikidata would not be where it is today without data from GLAMs!

Volunteers do a lot of work with it...

But GLAM professionals can make excellent Wikidatans.

They take Wikidata seriously!
Our work

Usable authorities for data-driven cultural heritage research

- WMSE + Nationalmuseum (art museum) and Statens Historiska Museer (historical museum)
- Investigate whether vocabularies as Linked Data stimulate new data-driven research on museum collections and whether Wikidata is a suitable platform for linking different authority files and vocabularies
Two main parts

1. Upload the data about the people in the museums' authority files to Wikidata
2. Visualise that data to make it interesting, show connections – to see whether the use of Wikidata can stimulate new data-driven research
Welcoming GLAM professionals to Wikidata

- A small project group with some previous knowledge of Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons.
- Regular meetings, training
  - How does Wikidata work?
  - How are cultural heritage items (artworks, institutions, artists) modelled?
  - SPARQL
OpenRefine is great!

- It looks like a spreadsheet!
- Easy to import and export data in different formats
- Covers all the steps
  - analyse the data at hand
  - clean up – using basic GREL
  - reconciliation
  - Wikidata schema and upload
- Good documentation
- Actively maintained, the effort to learn it pays off long-term
Internal work

OpenRefine turned out to be a great tool to work with the museums' data internally and prepare them for a Wikidata sync

- Discover posts with missing data
- Clean up duplicate posts
- Opportunity and time to get an overview of what's exactly in there
On Wikidata...

- **P2538** – Nationalmuseum Sweden actor ID
  - 9795 uses, some of which had been added previously by the community

- **P9495** – National Historical Museums of Sweden agent ID
  - 7140 uses, new property, all added within this project
**Beskow, August**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Förnamn</th>
<th>August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efternamn</td>
<td>Beskow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Födelsedatum</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dödsdatum</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrke/verksamhet</td>
<td>Ämbetsman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externa källor</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q5574680">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q5574680</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visualisation experiments!

https://byabbe.se/datadriven-samlingsforskning/karta/

By Albin Larsson (User:Abbe98)

Dynastic marriage politics – where are the spouses of the monarchs of Sweden from?
Visualisation experiments!

https://byabbe.se/datadriven-samlingsforskning/jamforelse

By Albin Larsson (User:Abbe98)

Comparison – works by an artists in the collections of the two museums
Skills involved

- SPARQL
- GREL
- Wikidata structure
- Wikidata community norms
  - how to create a property?
  - what are the notability criteria?
  - who can delete items?
  - how to discuss with others?
So cool! I had no idea about these!
They love Integraality!

https://integraality.toolforge.org/

Provides an easy overview of data coverage for a subset of items – here all items with **P9495** (National Historical Museums of Sweden agent ID) grouped by occupation.
Thanks for your attention!

Get in touch with us:

Alicia Fagerving
WMSE x GLAM
alicia.fagerving@wikimedia.se

Karin Glasemann, PhD
project manager, Nationalmuseum
karin.glasemann@nationalmuseum.se

Albin Larsson
visualisations
albin.post@gmail.com