

# Data partnerships in 2021: challenges and future opportunities for collaboration

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# Come talk to us at our table at the Unconference space!

We would like to invite you to come ask us your questions and share your ideas and thoughts with us about data partnerships on [Monday the 16th of August at 11h30 UTC](#)



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# Some background..

- At **Wikimania Stockholm** in 2019, Wikimedia Deutschland presented the data partnerships model for the first time
- Two years later, we want to present the most recent version of the **data partnerships model**
- We also want to share the **questions** and **challenges** that remain, and initiate a dialogue about future **collaboration**

# What are data partnerships?

- Data partnerships refer to Wikimedia Deutschland partnerships with external institutions involving **Wikibase** and **Wikidata**
- [Wikidata](#) and [Wikibase](#) are two open source software products **developed** and **maintained** by the software development department at **Wikimedia Deutschland**

# What is Wikidata?

- **Free** and **open** knowledge base
- **Wikimedia project** started in 2012
- Contains **structured data**
- **Linked** to other databases
- Data available under **CC0 licence**
- Based on **statements** and **references**
- Made for **humans** and **machines**
- **Multilingual**
- **Collaborative**



# What is Wikibase?

**Free, open source** and  
**collaborative software**

launched in 2012 by

**Wikimedia Deutschland** who  
continues to maintain it today.  
Wikibase powers Wikidata and  
a wide range of other projects  
outside of Wikimedia.



# Why are data partnerships important?

- We see partnerships as key component of [our larger strategy and vision](#) for **Wikidata** and **Wikibase**
- Through our data partnerships work, we aim to create a healthy and community driven **Linked Open Data web**
- This web of Linked Open Data should be **accessible** and **usable**, ultimately increasing the sum of **free knowledge**



# And what is the data partnerships model?

- The data partnerships model is our attempt to shed light on the partnerships work we do to achieve our strategic goals
- **Target audience:** potential partners and other Wikimedia chapters and affiliates
- It is a **living document** that resides [on meta](#). This is the 3rd iteration of the model



# What do data partnerships look like in 2021?



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# Partners we work with

- The partners we work with are primarily GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums), science, civil society, government and commercial sector organisations
- Some examples of **current** and **former partners**
  - Institutions (e.g., [Deutsche Nationalbibliothek](#), [the Smithsonian Institution](#))
  - Networks (e.g., [Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur](#))
  - Projects embedded in institutions (e.g., [FactGrid at the University of Erfurt](#))
  - Governments (e.g., [Eu Commission Knowledge Graph/Kohesio.eu](#))
  - Large-scale, grant-funded consortia (e.g., [QURATOR](#), [OPEN!NEXT](#))



# Data partnership scenarios

- The partnership scenarios we work are are typically **split by project** i.e. either Wikidata or Wikibase.
- However, though they may also be a **mix of the two**. They may even start as one and develop into the other.

# Data partnership scenarios: Wikidata

**Structured data donation:** A partner may have a set of data they want to donate to Wikidata, either as new items or as properties to existing items



# Structured data donation: example

The National Library of Wales added metadata from their collection about Welsh landscape prints to Wikidata, creating Wikidata items for the 4650 images in their collection

[Read more about the National Library of Wales adding data to Wikidata here](#)



# Data partnership scenarios: Wikidata

**Linking to data:** A partner may be interested in linking their own database to existing items in Wikidata via identifiers



# Linking to data: example

On the Wikidata item for Aretha Franklin (Q125121) you can see that the Library of Congress Authority ID has been added to link this item to the corresponding item in the Library of Congress ID database.

Identifiers

VIAF ID	<a href="#">71577926</a>	<a href="#">edit</a>
	<a href="#">▶ 3 references</a>	
<a href="#">+ add value</a>		
ISNI	<a href="#">0000 0001 1447 6112</a>	<a href="#">edit</a>
	<a href="#">▶ 1 reference</a>	
<a href="#">+ add value</a>		
Library of Congress authority ID	<a href="#">n84028907</a>	<a href="#">edit</a>
	<a href="#">▶ 1 reference</a>	
<a href="#">+ add value</a>		

[Read more about the Library of Congress linking to Wikidata here](#)

# Data partnership scenarios: Wikibase

**Installing a Wikibase instance:** A partner may want to use the Wikibase software suite to set up and maintain their own structured and linked database





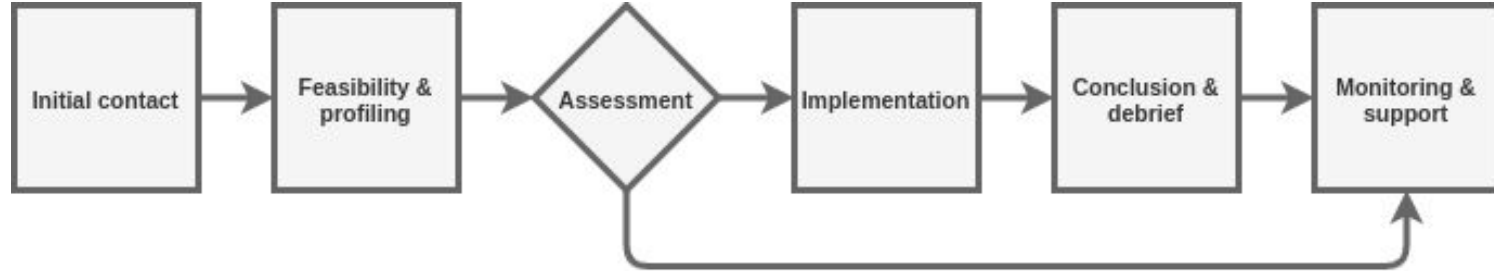
# Installing a Wikibase instance: example

The German National Library (DNB) is piloting Wikibase for its **Gemeinsame Normdatei** -- the German language integrated authority file. The Gemeinsame Normdatei represents and describes entities that are then used in cataloguing across German-speaking countries

[Read more about the Wikibase project at the German National Library here](#)



# Phases of Data Partnerships



# Phases of Data Partnerships

**1 of 6**

**Initial contact** A potential partner reaches out to us or we to them

**2 of 6**

**Feasibility and profiling** We have a conversation and make initial evaluations based on technical capacity, alignment, impact and feasibility

**3 of 6**

**Assessment** We trigger a number of internal and external assessments to gather in-depth information about the partner and their use case. From here, we either proceed to phase 4, or, when there is not a match, skip to phase 6

Note: these phases are explored in further detail in the data partnerships model [on meta](#). Take a look there if you would like to know more about each of the phases.



# Phases of Data Partnerships

**4 of 6**

**Implementation** We carry out all the activities on the agreed upon roadmap

**5 of 6**

**Conclusion and debrief** With the project completed, a final evaluation and debrief takes place

**6 of 6**

**Monitoring and support** We reflect on the longer term impact of the partner project and the degree to which it can sustain itself beyond our involvement

Note: these phases are explored in further detail in the data partnerships model [on meta](#). Take a look there if you would like to know more about each of the phases.



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# Challenges and questions

- There are a number of current challenges and unanswered questions regarding our work
- Current challenges to be tackled include, but are not limited to:
  - **Resource delegation**
  - Accessing **marginalised knowledge**
  - How the data partnerships team can contribute to the **Wikibase ecosystem**

# Challenges and questions: Resource delegation

- Our resources are limited, which means we need to consider how to delegate our resources as interest in Wikidata and Wikibase grows.
- **Related questions:** how do we ensure fair and consistent decision making? Are there collaborative structures we could begin to build so others (e.g. chapters) can be involved in data partnership work?



# Challenges and questions: Marginalized knowledge

- A key goal of the [2030 Movement Strategy](#) is to increase access to marginalized knowledge. We need to dedicate time to consider how to begin to work towards this goal in our work.
- **Related questions:** How do we find and connect with partners from marginalized knowledge communities? How do we ensure the software we develop continues to develop in an inclusive way?

# Challenges and questions: Wikibase ecosystem

- We need further clarity around the role of data partnerships in the growing Wikibase ecosystem
- **Related questions:** How do we convince partners in the Wikibase ecosystem to give back to that ecosystem? What is our place in guiding partners to those decisions? How do we encourage users to make their data collections free and open?



# We want to hear from you

- Are you also working on data partnerships and have your own experiences to share?
- Do you have follow up questions about our work?
- Do you have feedback on the data partnerships model?
- Are you interested in collaborating?

Reach out to us! [swe\\_partnerships@wikimedia.de](mailto:swe_partnerships@wikimedia.de)



**Thank you!**  
**Happy Wikimania**



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# Further links

- [The data partnerships model on Meta](#)
- [The 2019 Wikidata and Wikibase strategy papers](#)
- [2021 development plan for Wikidata and Wikibase](#)
- [2019 Wikimania Stockholm presentation on Open Data Partnerships](#)