Wikidata 101

re:publica Accra
15.12.2018

WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

This presentation is based on :
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikidata_-_A_Gentle_Introduction_for_Complete_
Beginners_(WMF_February_2017).pdf

Enock Seth Nyamador

Wikimedia Ghana User Group
enockseth@gmail.com
@enock4seth
Open Source Evangelist

WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

You are lucky!

Data = Oil in today!

Two Key Problems

1. Dated data; lacking triggers, repetitive
2. Inflexible ways of literal queries of knowledge (categories and limitations)

One solution

~~Two key problems~~

An editable central storage for **structured linked data**, on a wiki, under free license

(AKA **Wikidata**)

Wikidata is <3

Structured data you say?

Statement = **Item → Property → Value**

Item
is any topic (Wikipedia article, thing, person, place, concept, etc.)

Property
is a specific single **kind** of data relevant to this tem (e.g. height for mountains, capitals for countries, gender for humans)

Value
is either a reference to another Item (the capital of Ghana is Accra) or a literal value (e.g. 8848 meters)

Items and Properties

An **item** is described by a series of statements, each asserting a single datum or fact about it.

A **property** is a specific kind of information, like a field in a form, and is used to describe what the data means.

Example

An item about a country would have statements about the following properties: population, land area, official languages, borders-with, anthem, capital city, demonyms, Gross Domestic Product, etc. etc.

Statement examples (Item → Property → Value)

- Earth → highest-point → Mount Everest
- Mount Everest → elevation above sea level → 8848 meters
- Earth → deepest point → Challenger Deep
- Challenger Deep → elevation above sea level → -10,994±1 metre

Another way of looking at it

- Earth →
  - highest-point: Mount Everest
  - deepest point: Challenger Deep
- Challenger Deep →
  - elevation above sea level: -10,994±1 metre
- Mount Everest →
  - elevation above sea level: 8848 meters

Once more with ~~feeling~~ numeric IDs

- Earth (Q2) → highest-point (P610) → Mount Everest (Q513)
- Mount Everest (Q513) → elevation above sea level (P2044) → 8848 meters
- Earth (Q2) → deepest point (P1589) → Challenger Deep (Q459173)
- Challenger Deep (Q459173) → elevation above sea level (P2044) → -10,994±1 metre

Once more without squishy humanspeak

- Q2 → P610 → Q513
- Q513 → P2044 → 8848 meters
- Q2 → P1589 → Q459173
- Q459173 → P2044 → -10,994±1 meters

- Labels are ambiguous: What is London?
  - City in England, in Canada, family name, personal name, movie company, hotel?
- Language-neutral - not everybody speaks English!
- Robot-friendly (robots love numbers ;)

Questions so far?

Let's go explore Wikidata!

https://wikidata.org

Let's go query Wikidata!

https://query.wikidata.org

THANK YOU

@WikimediaGH | @Enock4seth

WIKIMEDIA
F O U N D A T I O N