



# WIKIMEDIA CANADA

**Presentation file  
for cultural institutions**

## Introduction

Wikimedia Canada is a nonprofit association founded November 5, 2010 by long-time contributors to Wikipedia; its mission is the dissemination, improvement and advancement of knowledge and culture. For these purposes, the association encourages and promotes the creation and dissemination of primarily online documents under a free licence. The association promotes and actively supports the Wikimedia projects, including Wikipedia. To achieve its objectives Wikimedia Canada needs to work with cultural institutions such as libraries, museums and archives.

## Wikimedia projects

Wikimedia Canada, and 30 other national associations worldwide, support the Wikimedia projects. These projects create and improve educational content in over 270 languages. The contents are developed collaboratively over the Internet by hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world. Wikimedia projects are accessible free of charge and without advertising.

Here are the projects supported by Wikimedia:



*Didier Descouens, a wikimedien photographer during the project Pheobus at the Museum of Toulouse.*

Each of these is in a multitude of languages, and each year several new sites emerge under the umbrella of Wikimedia, making it the world's largest group for free knowledge dissemination.



**Wikipedia**, an encyclopedia with over 17 million items, including over one million in French and three and a half million in English. Wikipedia is the sixth most visited site in the world, and first among non-commercial sites;

**Wikimedia Commons**, a media library with more than 10 million images, sounds and videos;

**Wikisource**, a digital library presenting mainly texts in the public domain;

**Wiktionary**, a multilingual dictionary with 10 million entries, including 2 million in French

**Wikinews**, a news site;

**Wikiquote**, a collection of quotations,

**Wikiversity**, a compendium of pedagogical materials;

**Wikibooks**, a set of instructional texts;

**Wikispecies**, an inventory of life.

## Wikimedia and cultural institutions

Wikimedia and cultural institutions in Canada share a common goal: access to the broadest possible educational and cultural resources. Many partnerships have been concluded between Wikimedia and museums, libraries and archives around the world (see below), these partnerships have demonstrated the significant contribution that cultural institutions may bring to Wikimedia projects, thanks to the richness and the variety of their resources. These partnerships have also been beneficial for cultural institutions involved. More visibility has brought more attendance. They were made possible by agreements with the relevant libraries and archives to make part of their resources available under a free licence (see below).



*Library of Alexandria, Egypt*

For example, in 2010 the British Museum in London and in 2011 the Château de Versailles hosted a "Wikimedian in residence", a volunteer charged with forging links between the museum and its respective Wikimedians. A collaborative agreement between Wikimedia Canada and your institution could bring great benefit to both. Many Wikimedians are willing to photograph your collection or to write a Wikipedia article on a work with the help of specialists. Thanks to the multi-project contributions by Wikimedians, the range of resources available to us is huge; they can vary to meet an institution's needs. Common goals can be developed between the institution and interested Wikimedians at the same time as trust is established and an action plan is designed.

## What is a free licence?

A licence is a contract between the owner of copyright in a work and the user of this work. A free licence does not make a work free of rights; it simply establishes the author's conditions for the use of his work.

A person using a freely licensed work **must**:

- **Credit its author**;
- **Place any derivative works, including translations, under the same licence**, in other words, nobody can become the owner of your work.
- A person using a freely licensed work **may**:
- **Use** the work, read, observe, study;
- **Change** the work, but the work must be modified under the same licence;
- **Distribute** the work, provided you keep the work under the same licence.

Putting the works you have (or their reproduction) under a free licence offers multiple advantages:

- The works become more easily accessible. Indeed, they are viewable by any Internet user anywhere in the world;
- The visibility of your institution and its works increases. Putting a work under a free licence multiplies the number of daily consultations on the website of a museum or library;
- Under the terms of a free licence, the work that you own cannot be "stolen" from you.

## What is a free licence? (Continued)

An often misunderstood aspect of the principle of free licensing is that it does not address the market value of distributed works. A freely licensed work may not be available for free, any more than a work available for free is necessarily free. (This confusion is fueled by the double meaning of the word "free", thus the term "libre" is sometimes used even in non-francophone contexts.)

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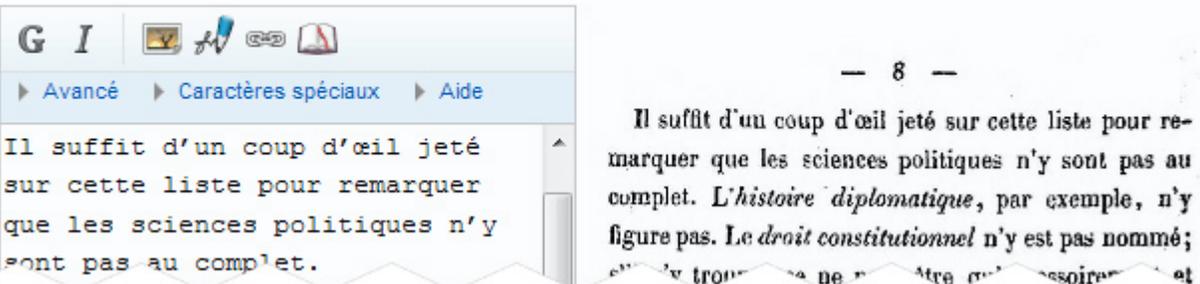
*Example of the notice of a free licence in the description page for a work in Wikimedia Commons.*

## Some activities undertaken

Once a partnership is established between Wikimedia and an institution, numerous projects can be set in motion: whether digitizing works, photography, retouching damaged works, correcting typos in text, classification, etc.. In the pages that follow, you'll see some examples of work performed by Wikimedians working with cultural institutions:

- **The National Library of France:** In 2009, an agreement between Wikimedia France and the National Library of France makes available 1400 scanned books, in exchange for the correction by the Wikimedian community of the optically recognized texts. An average of 376 characters were corrected on each page of the digitized works. Contributors can view the original image face-to-face with digitized text, while correcting the typos and errors inherent in the optical character recognition of texts.

Modification de Page:Boutmy - Projet des sciences politiques



Il suffit d'un coup d'œil jeté sur cette liste pour remarquer que les sciences politiques n'y sont pas au complet.

Il suffit d'un coup d'œil jeté sur cette liste pour remarquer que les sciences politiques n'y sont pas au complet.

*A book is scanned and published in Wikisource. Then, thousands of Wikimedians can correct the text from their own computer. The multi-input allows for a lot of work in a short time.*

## Some activities undertaken (continued)

- **Library of Congress, United States:** Battle of Wounded Knee (photo Dec. 29, 1890). A restoration by a Wikimedian reveals three Lakota Sioux bodies (maybe four) wrapped in blankets. In 2009, staff of the Library of Congress of the United States confirmed the discovery of human remains in the foreground and revised the description: "Big Foot's camp three weeks after the Wounded Knee Massacre (Dec. 29, 1890), with bodies of several Lakota Sioux people wrapped in blankets in the foreground and U.S. soldiers in the background." The following year the photograph was part of the exhibition "Grandeur Nature" at the Musée des beaux-arts of Montreal, displaying, in its official program, details discovered during the restoration.



*Albumen print of Camp Big Foot after the Battle of Wounded Knee (South Dakota, December 29, 1890).*

- **Museum of Toulouse (France):** In October 2010, Wikimedia France signs a partnership agreement with the Museum of Toulouse bearing on the collections of the city museum. Launched under the name "Project Phoebus", more than 300 photographs are taken and retouched by Wikimedians; these represent rare and fragile pieces in the collection of the Museum copied to Wikimedia Commons. These images were seen almost 400,000 times in June 2010.



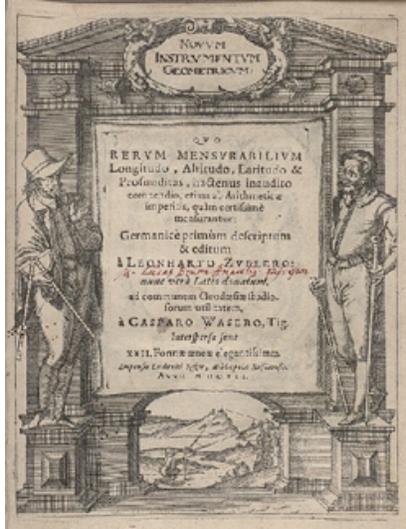
*Théviac Grave - Museum of Toulouse, France.*

## Some activities undertaken (continued)

- **German Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv):** In 2009 and 2010, Wikimedia Deutschland works with the German national archives, to make approximately 100,000 images from their patrimony available under a free licence.
- **German Photogallery (Deutsche Fotothek):** In March 2009, the German library provides Wikimedia over 250 000 images.
- **Tropenmuseum Amsterdam (Netherlands):** The Dutch museum in November 2009 authorizes the copying to Wikimedia Commons of 40,000 photographs from two former Dutch colonies: Surinam and Indonesia.



Konrad Adenauer and prisoner-of-war mother. Bonn, 1955. Bundesarchiv.



Treatise on geometry from the 17th century. Deutsche Fotothek.



Three young girls in Borneo in 1925. Tropenmuseum.

- **United Kingdom and United States:** As part of the celebration "**Wikipedia Loves Art**", thousands of photographs are taken by Wikimedians in museums in the U.S. and U.K., with the support of the museums concerned.



Peter von Anlauer, Mater Dolorosa, 1480. The Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Albert Bierstadt, A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, 1866. Brooklyn Museum.



Indian sculpture from the 9th century. Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

## Contact

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## Credits and References

### Wikimedia project Logos

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Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Wikimedia\\_official\\_logos](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Wikimedia_official_logos)

### Didier Descouens at the Museum of Toulouse

Self portrait, freely licensed CC-BY-SA 3.0.

Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Archaeodontosaurus/profile>

### Bibliotheca Alexandrina Plaza

Author: Moushira (<http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Moushira>)

Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bibliotheca\\_Alexandrina\\_plaza\\_003.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bibliotheca_Alexandrina_plaza_003.jpg)

### Screenshots (free licence and Wikisource)

Made by Benoit Rochon, free licence CC-BY-SA 3.0

### Photographic Print from the Battle of Wounded Knee

Authors: Trager & Kuhn, Chadron, Nebr . Source: Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007678212/> Restoration by Durova

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Durova>)

### Grave Teviec - Project Phoebus (3 pictures)

Author: Didier Descouens (<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Archaeodontosaurus>)

Source: Project Phoebus ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Projet\\_Phoebus](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Projet_Phoebus))

### Konrad Adenauer

Author unknown 1955. Image given by the German Federal Archive (Deutsches Bundesarchiv). Source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv\\_B\\_145\\_Bild-107546\\_K%C3%B6nig-Bonn,\\_Adenauer,\\_Mutter\\_eines\\_Kriegsgefangenen.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_B_145_Bild-107546_K%C3%B6nig-Bonn,_Adenauer,_Mutter_eines_Kriegsgefangenen.jpg)

### Treaty geometry

Leonhard Zubler & Kaspar Waser, Novum instrumentum geometricum, 1607.

Public domain. Image given by the Deutsche Fotothek. Source :

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fotothek\\_df\\_tg\\_0000001\\_Geometrie\\_%5E\\_Vermessung.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fotothek_df_tg_0000001_Geometrie_%5E_Vermessung.jpg)

### Indonesia

Anonymous, 1925. CC-BY-SA 3.0. Image given by the Tropenmuseum.

### Mater Dolorosa

Peter Hemmel von Andlau, 1480. Photographed by the "Shooting Brooklyn" team with the permission of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WLA\\_metmuseum\\_1480\\_Mater\\_Dolorosa.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WLA_metmuseum_1480_Mater_Dolorosa.jpg)

### Storm in the Rocky Mountains

Albert Bierstadt, 1866. Photographed by the team "Shooting Brooklyn" with the permission of the Brooklyn Museum.

Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bierstadt-storm-in-the-rocky-mountains-1886.jpg>

### Indian Sculpture

Author unknown, ca 850-900, Rajasthan. Photographed by the "Artifact" team with the permission of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.