

Libraries and Wikimedia: Natural Partners



Occupy Library 2020
Bucharest online

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Pleased to meet you!

Israeli programmer, lapsed classicist, digital librarian,
and free software, free culture, and free knowledge
activist

Wikimedia

- Volunteer Wikipedia editor since 2001
- Working at Wikimedia Foundation since 2011
- Grant-making and capacity development of emerging Wikimedia communities



Libraries

- Founder of Hebrew digital library Project Ben-Yehuda, est. 1999.
- Digitized ~ 23 thousand Hebrew works, public domain and by-permission.
- Active in integrating Libraries and Linked Data.

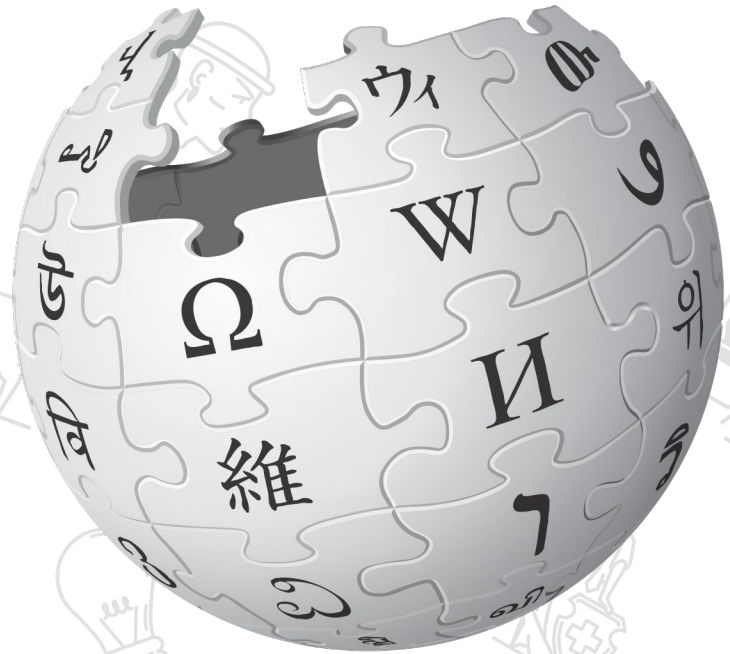
Wiki-what?

Wikipedia

The free encyclopedia we
all use. (since when?)

Useful editions available
in about 100 languages.
(And about 200 more in
earlier stages.)

Over **20 million articles**
total. Over 6 million Eng. 



The Wikimedia Vision

Imagine a world in which **every single human** being can **freely share** in the sum of **all knowledge**.
That's our commitment.



So there are sister projects!

Free digital editions of thousands of public domain works are collected in **Wikisource**.

64 million free media objects (photos, videos, music) are collected in **Wikimedia Commons**

Structured [meta-]data about 90 million things collected in machine-queryable **Wikidata**.



Together, they are Wikimedia

Wikimedia is the family of free knowledge, culture, and media projects.

Wikimedia is also the **movement** of volunteers and organizations supporting this cause.

The **Wikimedia Foundation** raises donations, pays the bills, employs core engineering team, legal support, etc.

About 180 **local affiliates** are groups of Wikimedians who speak the local language and are ready to partner with you!



Who does all this?

Volunteers!

About **80 thousand** regularly active volunteers around the world.

And many more casual contributors.





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Wikimedia Deutschland e.V.

But who are they?

They are folks like you and me!

Students, professors, professionals, teenagers,
retirees...

...and quite a few librarians!

Wikimedia and Libraries are natural partners



**We pursue the same goals,
For the same reasons
To serve the same public...
...in different methods.**

Different methods?

Libraries (traditionally!) curate and store knowledge in the original publications it was published in; it is up to the library patrons (perhaps with librarian help) to do any synthesis, check for up-to-dateness, etc.

Wikipedia offers (ideally) up-to-date **syntheses** of multiple reliable sources, yielding a single general narrative about various aspects of the topic. Wikipedia also **refers** readers to further reading, much of it not online, i.e. in libraries!

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

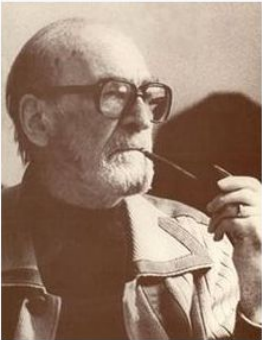
"Eliade" redirects here. For other persons of the same name, see *Eliade (surname)*.

Mircea Eliade (Romanian: [ˈmirɨt͡ʃea eliˈade]; March 9 [O.S. February 24] 1907 – April 22, 1986) was a Romanian historian of religion, fiction writer, philosopher, and professor at the University of Chicago. He was a leading interpreter of religious experience, who established paradigms in religious studies that persist to this day. His theory that *hierophanies* form the basis of religion, splitting the human experience of reality into sacred and profane space and time, has proved influential.^[1] One of his most instrumental contributions to religious studies was his theory of *eternal return*, which holds that myths and rituals do not simply commemorate hierophanies, but, at least to the minds of the religious, actually participate in them.^[1] His literary works belong to the fantastic and autobiographical genres. The best known are the novels *Maitreyi* ('La Nuit Bengali' or 'Bengal Nights'), *Noaptea de Sânziene* ('The Forbidden Forest'), *Isabel și apele diavolului* ('Isabel and the Devil's Waters'), and *Romanul Adolescentului Miop* ('Novel of the Nearsighted Adolescent'); the novellas *Domnișoara Christina* ('Miss Christina') and *Tinerete fără tinerețe* ('Youth Without Youth'); and the short stories *Secretul doctorului Honigberger* ('The Secret of Dr. Honigberger') and *La Țigănci* ('With the Gypsy Girls'). Early in his life, Eliade was a journalist and essayist, a disciple of Romanian far-right philosopher and journalist Nae Ionescu, and a member of the literary society *Criterion*. In the 1940s, he served as cultural attaché to the United Kingdom and Portugal. Several times during the late 1930s, Eliade publicly expressed his support for the Iron Guard, a fascist and antisemitic political organization. His political involvement at the time, as well as his other far right connections, were frequently criticised after World War II. Noted for his vast erudition, Eliade had fluent command of five languages (Romanian, French, German, Italian, and English) and a reading knowledge of three others (Hebrew, Persian, and Sanskrit). He was elected a posthumous member of the Romanian Academy.

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- 1 Biography
 - 1.1 Childhood
 - 1.2 Adolescence and literary debut
 - 1.3 University studies and Indian sojourn
 - 1.4 *Criterion* and *Cuvântul*
 - 1.5 1930s political transition
 - 1.6 Internment and diplomatic service
 - 1.7 Early exile
 - 1.8 Final years and death

Mircea Eliade



Born	March 9, 1907 <div>Bucharest, Romania</div>
Died	April 22, 1986 (aged 79) <div>Chicago, Illinois, United States</div>
Occupation	Historian, philosopher, short story writer, journalist, essayist, novelist
Nationality	Romanian
Period	1921–1986

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3. ^ [a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s](#) Silviu Mihai, "A doua viață a lui Mircea Eliade" ("Mircea Eliade's Second Life")^[r], in *Cotidianul*, February 6, 2006; retrieved July 31, 2007 (in Romanian)
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141. ^ Eliade, *Shamanism*, p.43

142. ^ Eliade, *Shamanism*, p.63

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144. ^ Eliade, *Myths, Dreams and Mysteries*, p.63

145. ^ Eliade, *Myths, Dreams and Mysteries*, p.63

146. ^ Eliade, *Myths, Dreams and Mysteries*, p.63

147. ^ [a b c d e](#) Călinescu, p.954



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Wikipedia
absolutely depends on
reliable sources!

You already know
Wikipedia,
so a quick demo of
Wikidata:



Pop quiz: who is the most famous(*) Romanian?

* Let's take "has articles about them in Wikipedia in the largest number of languages" as a proxy measure of "famous".

Famous Romanians according to Wikidata

person	personLabel	personDescription	linkcount
Q wd:Q38049	Herta Müller	German-Romanian novelist, poet and essayist	112
Q wd:Q80504	Nicolae Ceaușescu	Romanian politician ,general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, (1918-1989) , head of state of Romania (1967-1989)	104
Q wd:Q18391	Elie Wiesel	Romanian-born American writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor	98
Q wd:Q46706	Eugène Ionesco	French Romanian playwright	90
Q wd:Q184935	Mihai Eminescu	Romanian poet, novelist, and journalist	81
Q wd:Q33228	Nadia Comăneci	Romanian gymnast	76
Q wd:Q16409	Tristan Tzara	Romanian-French Dadaist poet	75
Q wd:Q193405	Emil Cioran	Romanian philosopher and essayist	73
Q wd:Q57279	Traian Băsescu	Romanian politician, 4th president of Romania	72

* Play with this query yourself: [https://w.wiki/c\\$o](https://w.wiki/c$o)

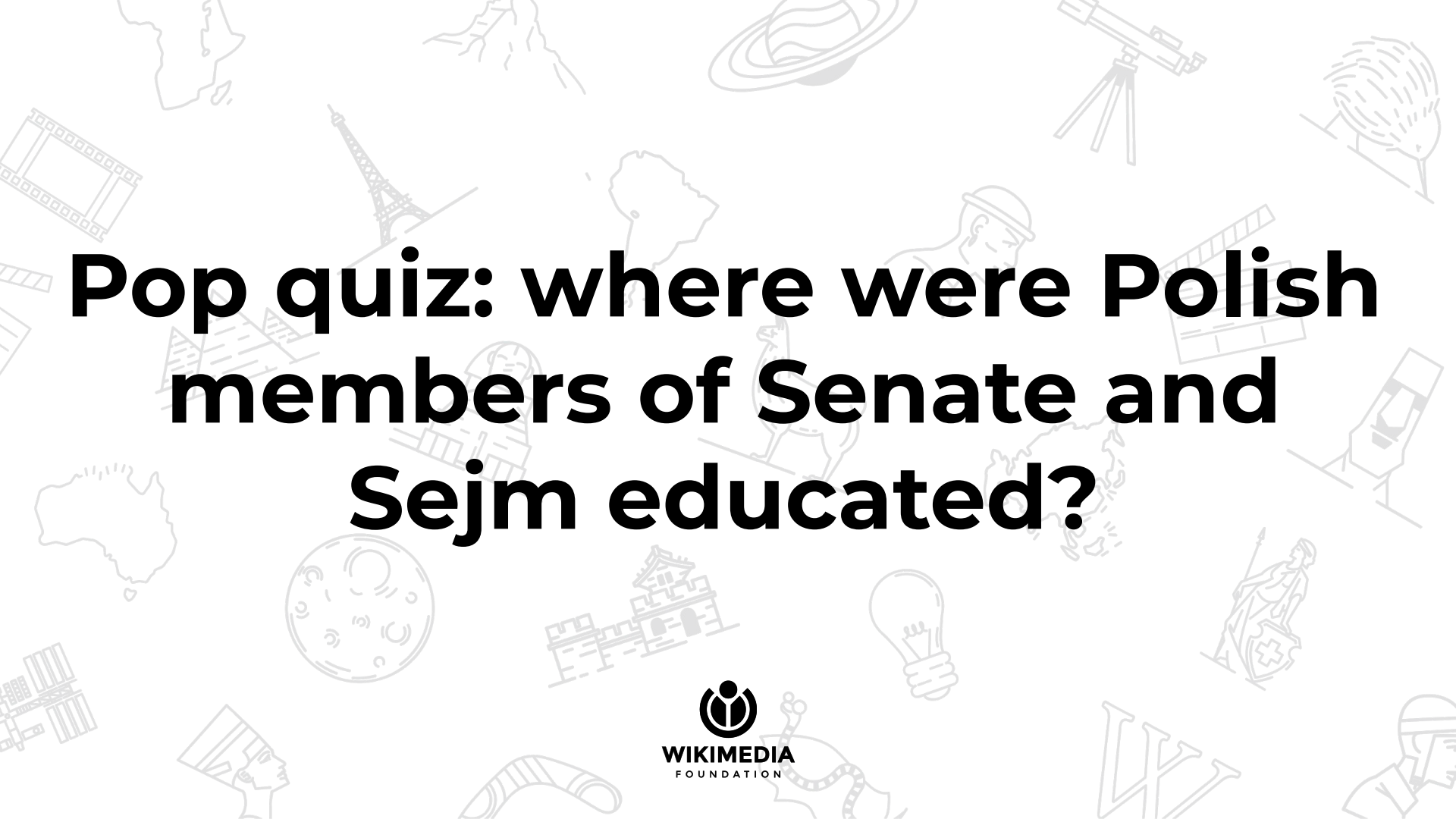


More on Wikidata (7-minute version):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24DOvuZWaD0>

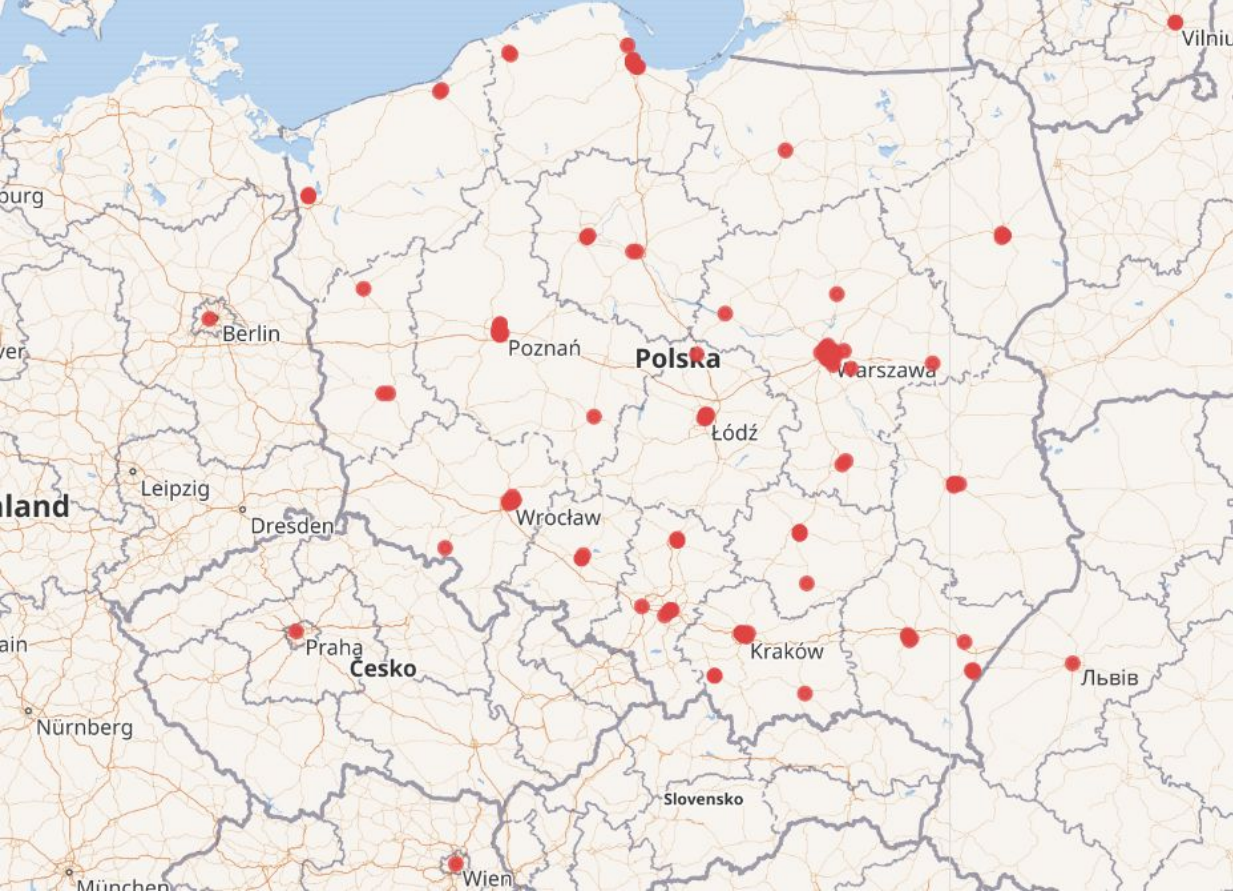
More on Wikidata (3-hour version):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVrAx3AmUvA>



**Pop quiz: where were Polish
members of Senate and
Sejm educated?**

count	educatedat	educatedatLabel
140	Q wd:Q144488	University of Warsaw
94	Q wd:Q189441	Jagiellonian University
91	Q wd:Q315658	University of Wrocław
77	Q wd:Q9379670	Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw
65	Q wd:Q1394594	SGH Warsaw School of Economics
56	Q wd:Q137503	University of Łódź
55	Q wd:Q175529	John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
53	Q wd:Q1758009	University of Gdańsk
47	Q wd:Q414245	AGH University of Science and Technology
47	Q wd:Q1752712	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
45	Q wd:Q681	Warsaw University of Life Sciences
42	Q wd:Q348402	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
42	Q wd:Q1424978	Silesian University of Technology
38	Q wd:Q1718656	Warsaw University of Technology
29	Q wd:Q1752716	University of Szczecin
29	Q wd:Q9379673	Law Faculty of University of Silesia in Katowice



Play with this query: <https://w.wiki/d2w>



**Pop quiz: who are some
Ukrainian politicians whose
fathers were also
politicians?**

youngerLabel	olderLabel
Andrey Leonidovich Derkach	Leonid Derkach
Andriy Chornovil	Viacheslav Chornovil
Artem Pshonka	Viktor Pshonka
Borys Paton	Evgeny Paton
Borys Prykhodko	Viktor Prikhodko
Dmytro Oleksandrovykh Razumkov	Oleksandr Razumkov
Elina Shyshkina	Шишкін Віктор Іванович
Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze	Orest Klympush
Kaliytnik Ihor	Калетнік Григорій Миколайович
Lesya Orobets	Оронець Юрій Миколайович
Maria Gaidar	Yegor Gaidar
Oleksii Azarov	Mykola Azarov
Oleksiy Honcharenko	Oleksiy Kostushev
Oleksiy Poroshenko	Petro Poroshenko
Olena Skoropadska	Pavlo Skoropadskyi

Play with this query: <https://w.wiki/d32>

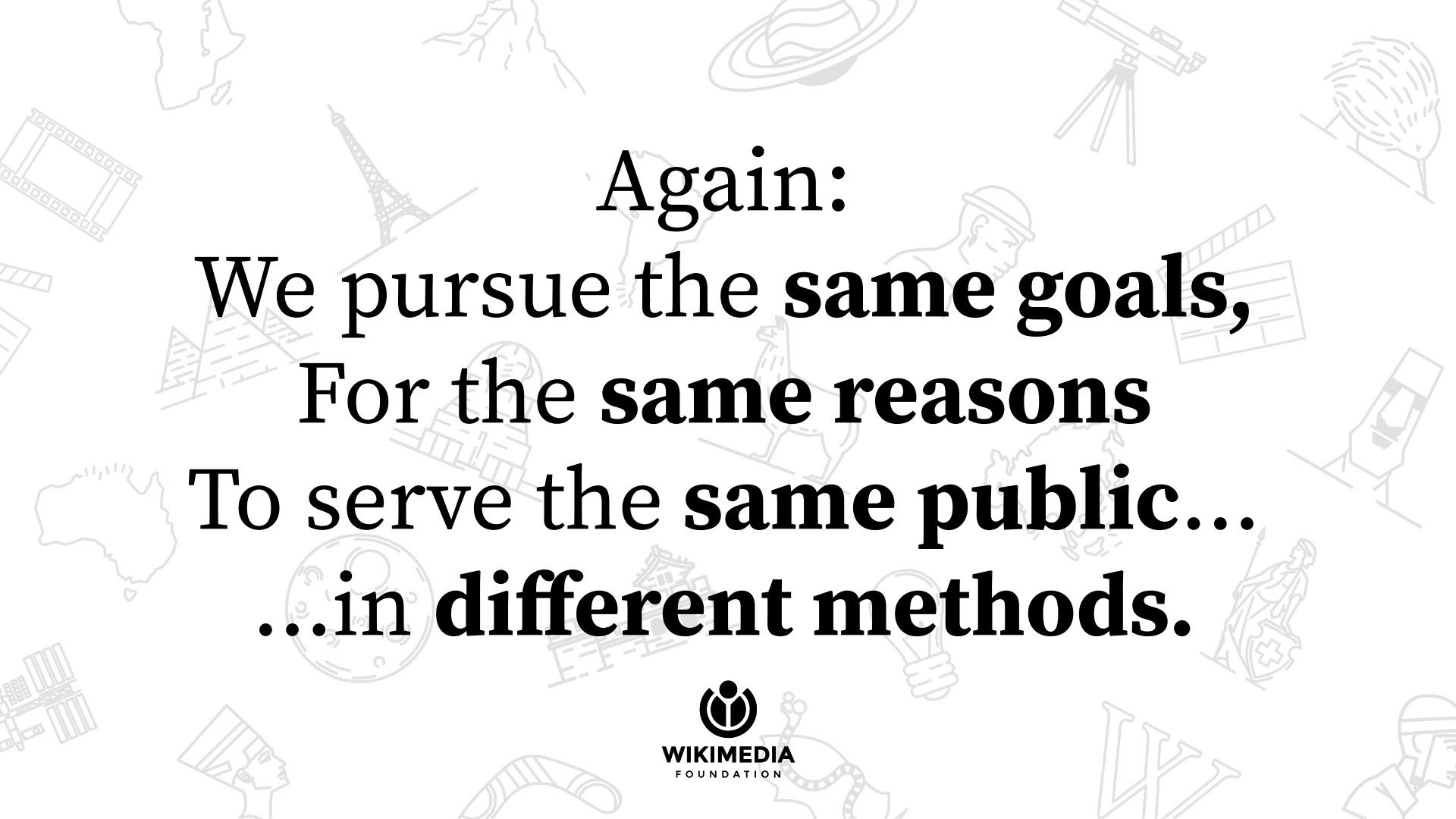


**This is fun, but what does it
have to do with libraries?**

All this magic depends on structured data.

You know, like MARC and other kinds of meta-data!





Again:
We pursue the **same goals**,
For the **same reasons**
To serve the **same public...**
...in different methods.

**Wikimedia is a natural partner
to libraries as they evolve from
serving consumers to
encouraging makers, from
observers to participants, etc.**





**So what can Wikimedia
volunteers and libraries do
together?**

Opportunities for Collaboration



WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Opportunities for collaboration

1. **Partner** with your local Wikimedia community (or start one!)
2. **Host** Wikimedia events
3. **Teach** information literacy using Wikimedia
4. **Contribute** directly to the wikis
5. **Provide** an online reference desk for Wikimedians

Partner with local Wikimedians

Chances are good that there is a lively Wikimedia community around you. Invite them to the library for coffee and a chat!

This general equation really works well:
Library resources + volunteer energy and initiatives = great projects



Email asaf@wikimedia.org
if you need help connecting
with your local community.

Partner with local Wikimedians

Engaging your local Wikimedia community in a **long-term dialogue** will open the way for **ideas and initiatives** to be born.

Creating this relationship will make pursuing the following recommendations easier.





**Special Collections
Tour** for Wikimedia
volunteers at the
National Library of
Israel, 2012.

Photo by Deror_avi /
[CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

What if there's no community?

If there's no truly local Wikimedia volunteers in your vicinity, **you** can help **seed** a local volunteer community! We can **connect** you with volunteers elsewhere in the country or the world, offer **curriculum**, do distance-training, to help you **train** and gather a new free-knowledge volunteer community **centered on your library!**



Email asaf@wikimedia.org
if you need help starting a
local community.

Host Wikimedia events

Libraries are perfectly positioned to host events related to Wikimedia's Vision of free knowledge for all.

These events can range from **trainings** and **workshops**, through **free-culture performances**, to **lectures** and **discussions** on a variety of topics.

Focus on Information Literacy

- Information literacy is a crucial 21st-century skill
- The Wikimedia ecosystem, both as readers/consumers and as participants and co-curators, offers an excellent real-world context for teaching **information literacy and critical thinking**, and **dynamics of discourse and debate**, as well as valuable lessons on **knowledge production** and **what is truth**.

Trainings and Workshops

- How to **make the most of Wikipedia**
 - Teaching **information literacy** (assessing sources, detecting bias, evaluating tone, ...)
 - Demonstrating less-known features of Wikipedia (categories, talk pages, history, ...)
- Basic **Wikipedia editing workshop**
 - How to edit articles; **focusing on principles**, not technique.
 - Wikipedia's **approach to controversy**.



**Wiki
Marathon**
editing event
at the
National
University
Kyiv Mohyla
Academy
Library,
Ukraine,
2018.

Photo by
Aniskov [CC](#)
[BY-SA 4.0](#)

Workshops with an Agenda

- Editing get-togethers (including or after a basic editing workshop) **focused on addressing a content gap** or a **participation gap**
 - E.g. improving coverage of women scientists; people of color; national minorities; etc.
- ...or on **local history**, local notable people
- ...or on curation of existing materials (media into articles, articles into categories, inter-linking,...)

(systemic bias; recentism;
copyright-induced outdatedness)



Black Lives Matter

editing event
at the New
York Public
Library
Schomburg
Center, 2015

Photo by
Terrence
Jennings / [CC
BY-SA 4.0](#)

Contribute directly to the wikis

- Library staff (and volunteers) can make valuable direct contributions to the various Wikimedia wikis
- For example, add **references to reliable sources** to Wikipedia articles. (see the [#1lib1ref](#) campaign)
 - In 2019, more than half of the total participants in the campaign were **new editors**. Participants made **13,261 edits** in **more than 50 languages** with over **4.12 million words added**.

Contribute directly to the wikis

- Upload **unique media from library holdings** (minding copyright, but also avoiding copyright paralysis!), like local history documents, photos, archival material.
- Upload **recordings of cultural events** or lectures held at the library (with permission)



Zero hosting or maintenance costs to your institution!

Contribute directly to the wikis

- For example, the **State Library of Queensland, Australia**, donated **50 thousand historic photographs** to Wikimedia Commons.
- The **British Library's** Mechanical Curator project released one million images via Flickr, from which Wikimedia volunteers extracted and catalogued more than **50 thousand historic maps**.



Examples from IFLA's "Opportunities for Public Libraries and Wikipedia", 2016.

Start an online reference desk

- Wikimedians are always needing access to sources. They mostly work **outside** your library, and won't come in just to use your reference desk.
- **But what if they could submit requests online?**
- Create a channel (e-mail, real time chat, whatever) and **announce** it to your local-language Wikimedia communities. It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. :)

For example: the National Library of Israel maintains a "virtual reference desk" inside Hebrew Wikipedia!



Fits within your existing workflows.

Add a Wikimedia angle to existing workflows

- Do you **run a book club**? Encourage reading (and improving?) Wikipedia coverage of the author, the book, the subject matter, etc.
- Are you **hosting lectures** or concerts? Review quality and coverage of performers, composers, etc. **Secure permission** to contribute the recording to Wikimedia Commons.

Add a Wikimedia angle to existing workflows

- Do you **run computer literacy courses for senior citizens**? Teach them how to proofread OCRed scans for the digital editions in **Wikisource**!
 - In the Czech Republic, more than [40 courses](#) on **editing Wikipedia** for seniors were delivered at local libraries!



SENIORŮ

PÍŠÍ WIKIPEDII

CC-by-sa 4.0 by Klára Scholleová



**Seniors
Write
Wikipedia**
course at the
**Moravian
Library** in
Brno, Czech
Republic,
2015

Photo by
Martin
Strachoň /
Wikimedia
Commons /
[CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

Think long-term

- Wikipedia is a long-term project: small actions add up to huge impact.
- So is your library's relationship with the Wikimedia communities in your country/language.
- **Dream big, start small, and grow together.**

Summary of Major Benefits

- Information and media literacy are crucial 21st century skills, valued by your funders and public.
- Working with Wikimedia requires **no long-term commitment, upkeep costs, or maintenance nightmares.**
- Wikimedia provides **eye-opening statistics** on both contributorship and readership; easy to visualize and prove impact!

× Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Chart type

Permalink

Download

☐ Show values

☐ Begin at zero

☒ Logarithmic scale

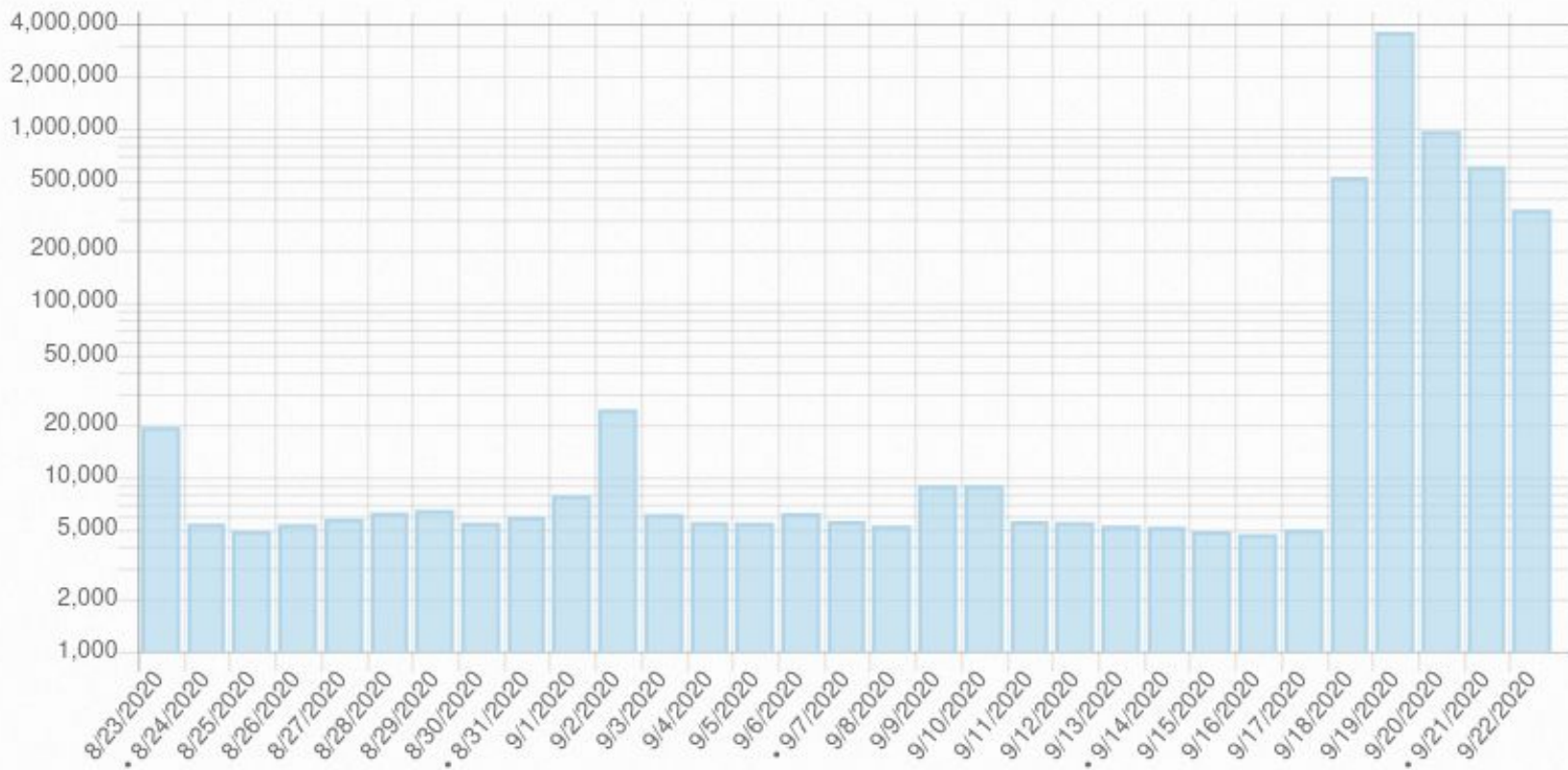


Chart type

Permalink

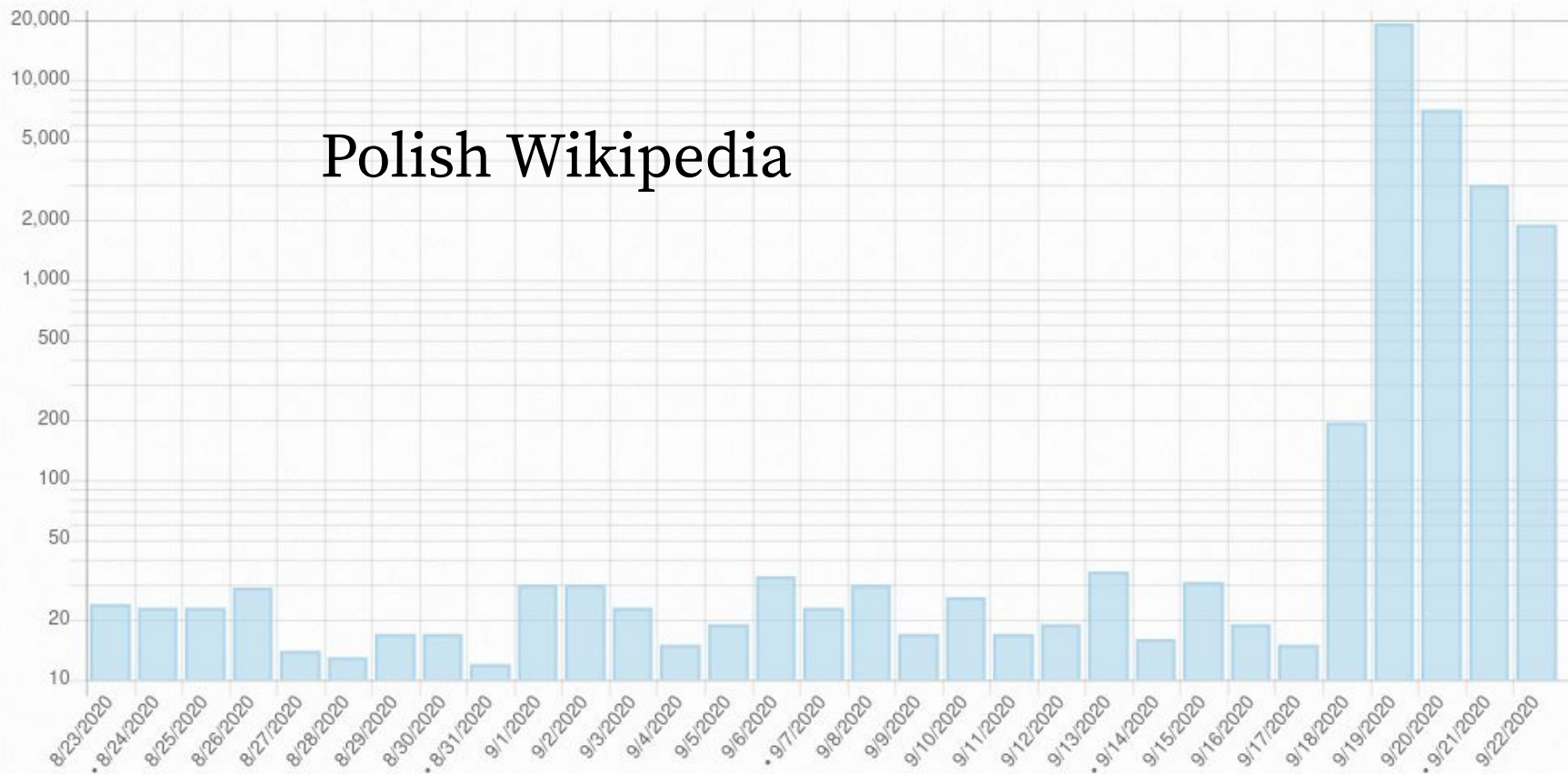
Download

☐ Show values

☐ Begin at zero



☒ Logarithmic scale

Polish Wikipedia



Category "Images contributed by the National Library in Warsaw" has 4351 files.

Site	Images used
pl.wikipedia	1037
wikidata.wikidata	408
ru.wikipedia	106
en.wikipedia	103
uk.wikipedia	78
de.wikipedia	64
fr.wikipedia	39
arz.wikipedia	37
it.wikipedia	26
be.wikipedia	19
sv.wikipedia	19
cs.wikipedia	19
ca.wikipedia	18
fr.wikibooks	16
lt.wikipedia	16
vi.wikipedia	14
es.wikipedia	13
bg.wikipedia	11
eo.wikipedia	11
ro.wikipedia	8
hy.wikipedia	8
nl.wikipedia	7
pl.wikimedia	7
ar.wikipedia	7

File name	File path	Views
<p data-bbox="13 380 264 399">Adam_Ludwik_Czartoryski.jpg</p>		<p data-bbox="1846 380 1895 399">5,492</p>
<p data-bbox="13 880 513 899">Alleluja!_Poczt%C3%B3wka_wielkanocna%2C_1900_rok.jpg</p>		<p data-bbox="1846 880 1881 899">219</p>

In conclusion...



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THANK YOU

Questions welcome!

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