Linking OpenStreetMap and Wikidata
A semi-automated, user-assisted editing tool

https://osm.wikidata.link/

Twitter: @EdwardBetts
Edward Betts
Stockholm Central

Entity type
Railway station

Coordinates
59.330° N, 18.056° E

Station identifier
Cst

Wikidata: Q54315
OpenStreetMap: node/25948183

Photo by Arild Vågen // CC-BY-SA-3.0
Each item has:

- Labels
- Descriptions
- Aliases
- Site links
- Statements

Item ID: Q54315
OSM

OpenStreetMap contains nodes, ways and relations

Stockholm Central is node 25948183

It has coordinates and a list of tags that describe it
Why add links between OSM and Wikidata?

- OpenStreetMap has detailed geometry
- Wikidata has more labels, images and identifiers
- Linked Open Data (LOD)
Stockholm

The software finds Wikidata items with a matching object in OSM

This map shows all the matches in Stockholm municipality

There are 1,364 matches

OpenStreetMap edits are grouped into changesets
Normalm, Normalms stadsdelsområde, Stockholm, Sveriges Landskap, Stockholm County, Region Svealand, Sweden

category: boundary — type: administrative — OSM: relation 5695409

Latest matcher run: Thu, 08 Aug 2019 11:21

155 candidates found (8 with multiple matches)

Language order preference: edit

1. English [en] (238 Wikidata labels / 23 OSM objects)
2. Svenska / Swedish [sv] (443 Wikidata labels / 33 OSM objects)
3. Français / French [fr] (115 Wikidata labels / 4 OSM objects)
4. Deutsch / German [de] (95 Wikidata labels / 7 OSM objects)
5. Suomi / Finnish [fi] (86 Wikidata labels / 46 OSM objects)
6. Bokmål / Bokmål [nb] (79 Wikidata labels / no OSM objects)
7. Nederlands / Dutch [nl] (64 Wikidata labels / no OSM objects)
8. Русский язык / Russian [ru] (62 Wikidata labels / 3 OSM objects)
9. Español / Spanish [es] (61 Wikidata labels / 1 OSM objects)

Refresh cached data about this place

login to upload wikidata tags

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[Login to upload wikidata tags]
Login via OpenStreetMap OAuth

Don't have an account? Register now

Email Address or Username:
Edward

Password:

Lost your password?

Remember me
Login
Normalm, Normalms stadsdelsområde, Stockholm, Sveriges Landskap, Stockholm County, Region Svealand, Sweden

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Match candidates

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2. Svenska / Swedish [sv] (443 Wikidata labels / 33 OSM objects)
3. Français / French [fr] (115 Wikidata labels / 4 OSM objects)
4. Deutsch / German [de] (95 Wikidata labels / 9 OSM objects)
5. Suomi / Finnish [fi] (86 Wikidata labels / 48 OSM objects)
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Language order preference. edit

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station code: Cst

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Saint John's Church (Q164289) item type: church building / ensemble [show on map]

St. John's Church (Swedish: Sankt Johannes kyrka) is a church located in the Norrmalm district of Stockholm, Sweden. It was designed by Carl Möller in the Gothic Revival style and competed in 1890.

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https://osm.wikidata.link/

- way: Sergelfontänen (OSM) [show tags] [report bad match]


- node: Sheraton Hotel (OSM) 15 m from Wikidata [show tags] [report bad match]

https://osm.wikidata.link/
**Sergelfontänen (Q10666210)**  
item type: fountain [show on map]


- way: Sergelfontänen (OSM)  
  exact location name match [show tags] [report bad match]

---

**Sheraton, Stockholm (Q10667066)**  
item type: hotel [show on map]


- node: Sheraton Hotel (OSM) 15 m from Wikidata name match [show tags] [report bad match]

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[add wikidata tags to OpenStreetMap](https://osm.wikidata.link/)  
(Don't worry, there's a confirmation page)
Norrmalm

back to candidate list

Norrmalm, Normalms stadsdelsområde, Stockholm, Sveriges Landskap, Stockholm County, Region Svealand, Sweden

Please check each match carefully before uploading to OpenStreetMap.
If in doubt, contact the local mapping community before adding Wikidata tags.

change comment: add wikidata tags within Norrmalm, Stockholm, Sweden

136 matches to upload

Untick the checkbox next to a match if you don't want the wikidata tag added to OSM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wikidata</th>
<th>OSM</th>
<th>distance</th>
<th>matching tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Skandia (Q693444)</td>
<td>Skandia</td>
<td>(node, 47 m)</td>
<td>amenity=cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Esselte building (Q798666)</td>
<td>Esselte-huset</td>
<td>(relation)</td>
<td>building, building=office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Grand (Q921471)</td>
<td>Grand</td>
<td>(node, 5 m)</td>
<td>amenity=cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Saint James's Church (Q1477827)</td>
<td>Jakobs kyrka</td>
<td>(way, 11 m)</td>
<td>religion=christian, building=church, amenity=place_of_worship, building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Klara church (Q1540683)</td>
<td>Klara kyrka</td>
<td>(way)</td>
<td>amenity=place_of_worship, religion=christian, building=church, building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ City Palace (Q2289261)</td>
<td>Citypalatset</td>
<td>(relation)</td>
<td>building=yes, building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Embassy of Denmark, Stockholm (Q2841870)</td>
<td>Danmarks ambassad</td>
<td>(node, 11 m)</td>
<td>amenity=embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Filmsstadens Sergel (Q3072166)</td>
<td>Filmsstadens Sergel</td>
<td>(node, 34 m)</td>
<td>amenity=cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Rigoletto (Q3431963)</td>
<td>Rigoletto</td>
<td>(node, 14 m)</td>
<td>amenity=cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Zita (Q3575618)</td>
<td>Zita</td>
<td>(node, 45 m)</td>
<td>amenity=cinema</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Save edits

The mapper double checks the matches
Save edits

The mapper double checks the matches

A suggested change comment is provided

The save button uploads the changes to OpenStreetMap
Tag added

The Stockholm Central station node in OpenStreetMap now has a 'wikidata' tag.
Some OpenStreetMap objects have a ‘wikipedia’ tag.

These tags are sometimes wrong.

The matcher is not considering the ‘wikipedia’ tag.

There is a matcher user option to add ‘wikipedia’ tags.
OpenStreetMap and Wikidata match criteria

- entity type AND
- coordinates AND
- name OR street address OR identifier
This is a Wikidata item to represent the concept of a railway station.
OSM tag

Wikidata has a property for OSM tag or key

The Wikidata item for railway station has the OSM tag ‘railway=station’
Match on identifier
instance of

Stockholm Central Station has a property ‘instance of’ with the value ‘railway station’
Adding links to Wikidata is hard because OSM identifiers are unstable.

- OpenStreetMap uses database IDs as identifiers.
- Editing the map can change the IDs for an object.
- There is a proposal to use Wikidata IDs as persistent IDs in OpenStreetMap.
Relation ID

Wikidata does have a property for ‘OSM relation ID’

The assumption is that relation IDs are unlikely to change

Adding an ‘OSM relation ID’ is a separate process, not part of the OSM matching tool.
Large places

The matcher is not able to handle very large areas
Large places

The matcher is not able to handle very large areas

The whole of Sweden is too big
Large places

The matcher is not able to handle very large areas

The whole of Sweden is too big

There is a browse interface to find smaller areas to match
Browse

The browse interface uses the Wikidata Query service to find the next level territorial administrative subdivisions.

The choice of languages is from the official language property in Wikidata.

The page banner is from Wikidata.
Languages

The Sweden (Q34) item in Wikidata lists six official languages
Top level

The browse interface shows a list of continents with the number of countries in each one.

Again, the page banners are from Wikidata.
Mappers are using the tool

- Uploads by 200 mappers
- 8,800 changesets uploaded to OpenStreetMap
- 235,250 Wikidata links added
Tag count

There are 1,372,000 objects with a ‘wikidata’ tag in OpenStreetMap.
Different licenses

- Wikidata is licensed CC0 or Public Domain
- OpenStreetMap uses the Open Database License (OдбL)
- Copying data from OpenStreetMap to Wikidata would violate the OдбL
OpenStreetMap asserts database rights which exist under European law.

Wikidata operates under US intellectual property rules which asserts that facts are not protected.

Different intellectual property jurisdiction.
Robot edits

Adding links individually is laborious

OpenStreetMap has strict rules about robot editing

Candidate matches need to be checked for false positives

Machine-assisted editing is a good compromise
The software is written in Python with websockets.
Building on the work of others by using APIs

- Wikibase API
- Wikipedia API
- Wikidata Query service
- Commons image API
- OSM Overpass
- OSM Nominatim
- OSM map API
Improving the information in Wikidata

- Merging duplicate Wikidata items
- Incomplete next level territorial administrative subdivisions data in Wikidata
The difference between buildings and institutions

- OSM and Wikidata can have separate items for institutions and their buildings
- But not always
- The matcher has to handle this
Tunnels

Wikidata usually represents tunnels as a single item

OSM often represents them as two ways, one for each direction of traffic or tunnel bore

The software should be changed to recognise tunnels and add the Wikidata tag to both ways
Rivers

OSM represents rivers as linear relations.

The matcher uses a tool called osm2pgsql to load OSM data into Postgis for querying.

The only type of relation supported by osm2pgsql is a polygon.

The data model it uses has no support for linear relations.
Tram stops

Wikidata represents tram stops in both directions as a single item

OSM represents tram stops as a two node, one for each direction

The nodes are combined into a single relation

These relations are unsupported in osm2pgsql, so the matcher fails to identifier the relation
T221541

Wikimedia maintains a copy of the OpenStreetMap database

The Wikimedia OSM database is accessible from the toolserver, but my queries are too slow due to missing indexes

It would help a lot of these indexes could be added
Linking OpenStreetMap and Wikidata
A semi-automated, user-assisted editing tool

https://osm.wikidata.link/

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