The Israeli Publishers’ Authority Database on Wikidata

Publishing our Data

The National Library of Israel’s Israeli Publishers’ Authority Database contains structured and unstructured information in Hebrew, English, Arabic, and Russian on thousands of Israeli publishers. Until now the data was siloed, known only to researchers, librarians, and copyright officers. Structuring, referencing, linking, and opening the data to the world will allow uses the database’s creators never envisaged.

The Goal

- Extracted over 11,000 publisher authority records from the database
- Weeded out records with low information loads
- Loaded remaining ~2,000 records to Open Refine
- Mapped MARC and local authority fields to Wikidata properties

Steps remaining:
- Finish parsing unstructured data into structured data
- Export to QuickStatements
- Upload to Wikidata

How we’re doing it:

Questions we’re facing:
- How to avoid duplicating pre-existing records
- Handling information (such as related persons) for which Wikidata requires an additional item

Plans for the future:
- Uploading a copy of the multilingual, multiscipt Israel National Authority Database (1.5 million+ records) to Wikidata
- Creating a Wikibase for the Israel National Authority Database to encourage creative reuse
- Roundtripping projects

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