Introducing Wikimedia

Fiona Romeo
ICOM-CC, 2023, Valencia

Help us share museums' knowledge with communities everywhere

Wikimedia x ICOM

1.

International Museum Day campaign

For several years, Wikimedia affiliates from around the world have been documenting museums on Wikipedia and Wikidata.

2.

Illustrating and disseminating Red Lists

Wikimedia Switzerland and Wikimedia Czech Republic are helping to protect cultural heritage in Afghanistan and Southeast Europe.

3.

Developing shared perspectives

Wikimedia Argentina organised a discussion about decolonisation and image description with ICOM CECA LAC.

4.

Joint advocacy for open access

Wikimedia Italy and ICOM are working together to empower Italian GLAMs to share content related to their digital collections.

New definition of museum

"...Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing."

Video available at:
https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Communications/A_Wiki_Minute

Wikipedia

Free encyclopedia written by volunteers and supported by reliable, published secondary sources.

Digitised collection images can be found on a range of articles, such as biographies, historic events, and broader concepts like 'play' and 'love'.

Editathon jointly organized by Museo Egizio di Torino, Wikimedia Italia, and Archivio Storico Ricordi. Photo by Museo Egizio di Torino, 2022, CC BY-SA 4.0

Other collaborative projects

1.
Wikimedia Commons

Repository of openly-licensed media, which is used to illustrate Wikipedia and close representation gaps online.

2.
Wikidata

Open and collaborative database that connects knowledge across institutional and national boundaries.

3.
Wikibase

Open-source software for creating knowledge bases, leading to linked open data for cultural heritage.

4.
Wikisource

Transcription platform for books and manuscripts, which is creating digital libraries for underrepresented languages.

Case studies

Willi Illger, Bundesarchiv, Bild
183-2008-0516-500, CC BY-SA 3.0 DE

Werner Haberkorn, Museu do
Ipiranga, Public domain

One of the first large contributions to Wikimedia Commons was made by the Bundesarchiv. They shared 80,000 images relating to German history and invited Wikimedians to identify the people shown in these images by linking to the people authority file of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.

To keep the museum open while it was closed for renovation, Brazil's Museu do Ipiranga contributed images of their collections to Wikimedia, attracting three million views each month. After a catastrophic fire at the Museu Nacional, the Wikimedia community in Brazil crowdsourced images of displays to preserve what knowledge remained.

Case studies
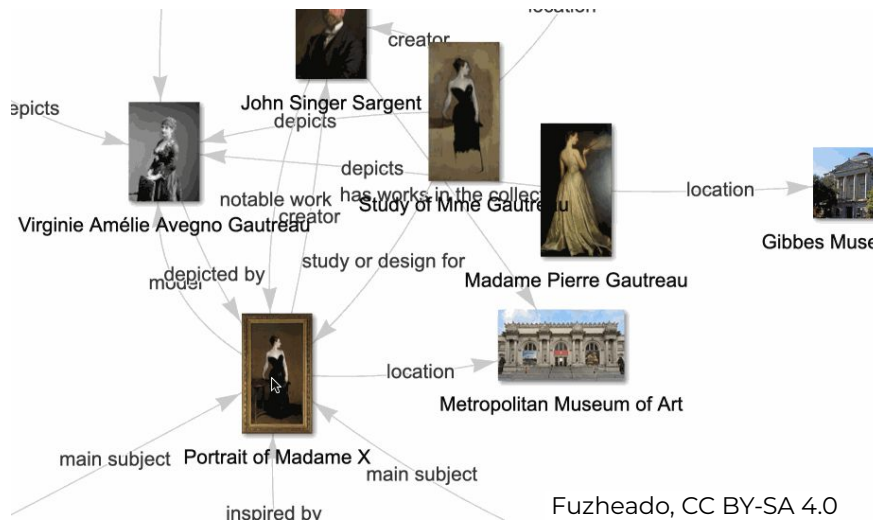
The London Science Museum used Wikidata to reveal new connections between people, institutions, and objects. The national libraries of France and Germany are experimenting with Wikibase to develop authority files that connect library records to museum objects, archival documents, and research, fostering a more diverse community of practice.
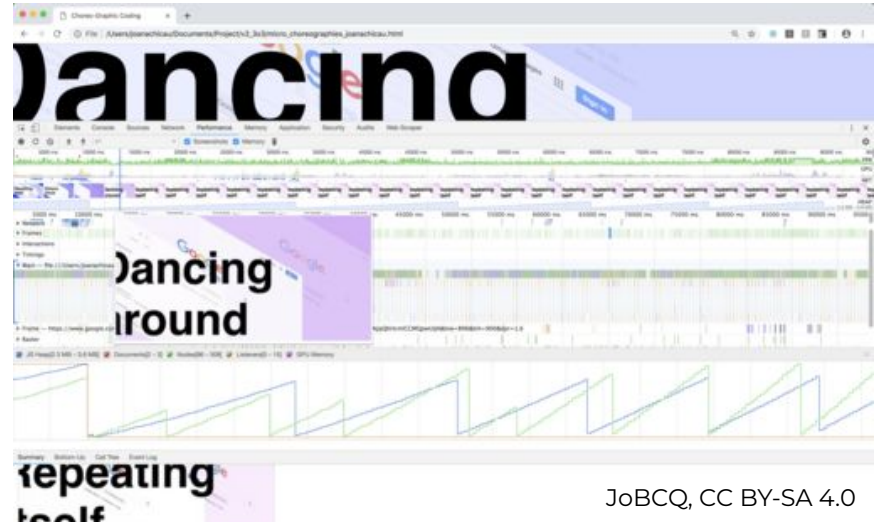
Arts organization Rhizome uses Wikibase to document its archive of born-digital art and digital preservation activities. They said that only Wikibase was flexible enough to describe an ever-changing field like internet art. Wikibase also allows researchers to formulate complex data queries via an accessible graphical user interface.

Case studies

Tojan 8, CC By-SA 4.0

Ricordi, CC BY-SA 4.0

Thousands of manuscripts were digitized to create a Balinese Wikisource. The interface supported students and communities to type in their own script and their transcriptions trained a better Optical Character Recognition model. Recently, the British Library shared their manuscripts with Javanese- speaking volunteers.

The Fundación Joaquín Díaz and the Musikverket (Swedish Performing Arts Agency) have shared recordings of traditional music to Commons. The Archivio Storico Ricordi published music files alongside transcribed scores on Wikisource, making it possible to read and listen to music in the same place.

Wikimedia strategy

Knowledge equity

We act as a social movement to break down the social, political, and technical barriers preventing people from accessing and contributing to free knowledge.

Knowledge as a service

We provide a free knowledge infrastructure to enable Wikimedia projects and others to collect and use different forms of free, trusted knowledge.

Better together

Collaboration between Wikimedia and museums promotes open access so everyone can enjoy culture as a global public good.

Museums provide the expertise and essential source material to make Wikimedia projects more reliable, better illustrated, and connected through linked open data.

In turn, museums make their knowledge more visible and accessible to new audiences in more than 300 languages.

Image available at
https://www.moma.org/calendar/events/1005
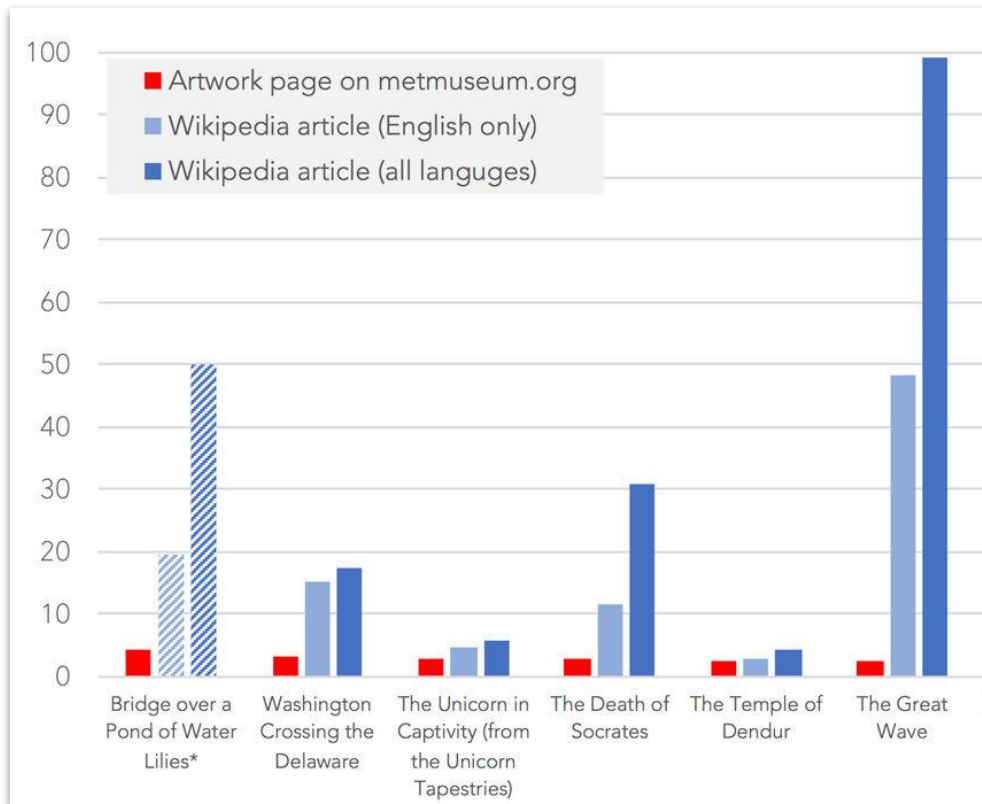
A Sort of Joy (Thousands of Exhausted Things). April 4, 2015. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo by Manuel Molina Martagon.

MoMA

Andreas Gursky
German, born 1955

Wikipedia entry ∧

Introduction

Andreas Gursky (born January 15, 1955) is a German photographer and Professor at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany. He is known for his large format architecture and landscape colour photographs, often employing a high point of view. Gursky shares a studio with Laurenz Berges, Thomas Ruff and Axel Hütte on the Hansaallee, in Düsseldorf. The building, a former electricity station, was transformed into an artists studio and living quarters, in 2001, by architects Herzog & de Meuron, of Tate Modern fame. In 2010-11, the architects worked again on the building, designing a gallery in the basement.

Wikidata
Q497712

View or edit the full Wikipedia entry ⊡

Information from Wikipedia, made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License

Getty record ∨

10 works online

Andreas Gursky
Rhine II
1999

Andreas Gursky

"Rather than seeing the crowd-sourced encyclopedia as a natural antagonist to its curatorial authority, the museum has begun to embrace Wikipedia as a partner in a hyper-connected, ever-expanding information network."

Museums Open Up to Power of Wiki
Wall Street Journal

Screenshot of artist page on the MoMA collection website, moma.org

National Portrait Gallery, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Khalili Collections, CC BY-SA 4.0

Ask a Wikimedian

Effeietsanders, CC0
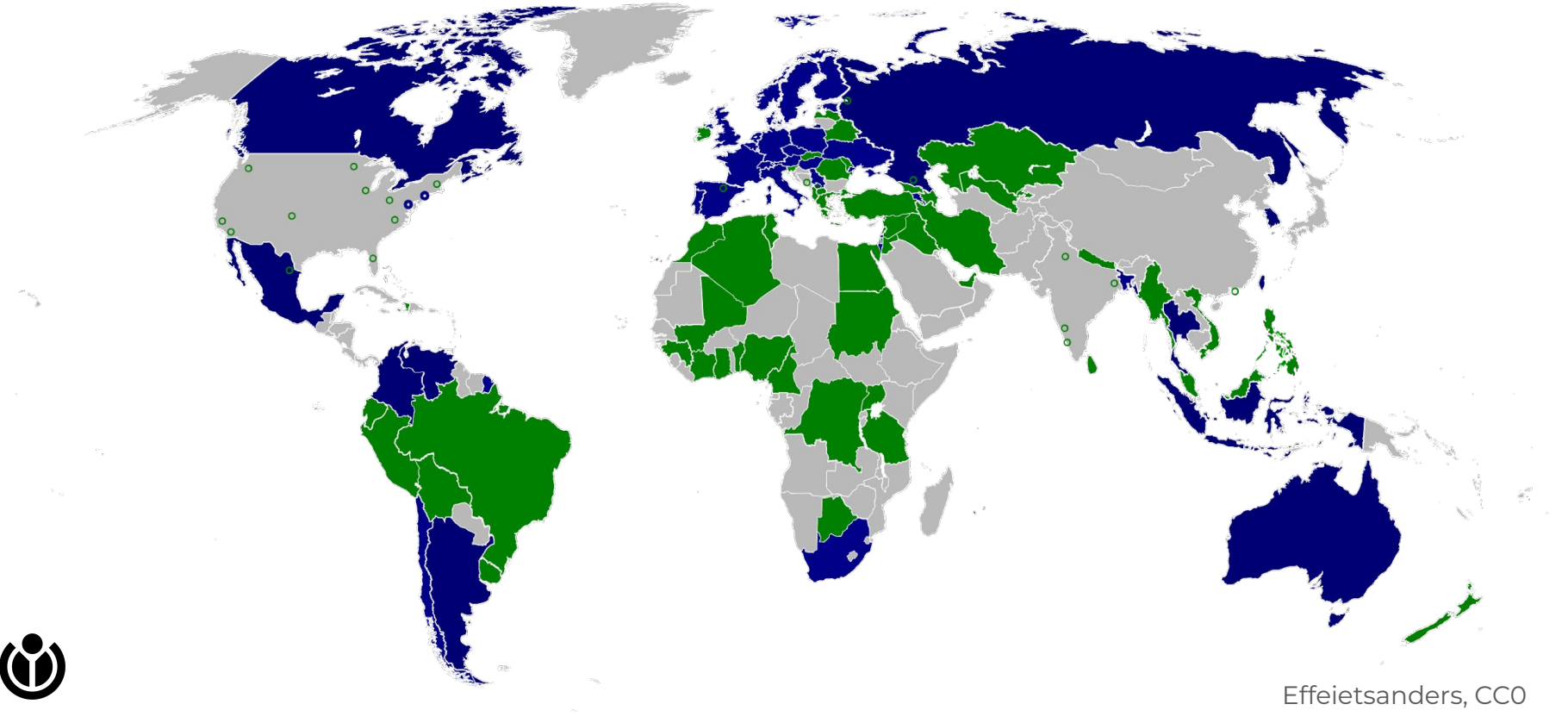
Ask a Wikimedian

Workshop your collaboration ideas with Wikimedia groups from Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland.

We are available at our conference stand from Tuesday to Thursday, between 9am and 6pm.

Foeromeo, CC BY-SA 4.0

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
11-11.30			How to approach Wikipedia, if you are a museum
11.30-12	Your digital volunteer program: Collaboration between museums and the Wikimedia community	Wikibase, Linked Open Data and Museums	Introduction to Wikipedia: Solving doubts and refuting common misconceptions
12-12.30	Wikimedia Strategy and the New Museum Definition	Wikibase, Linked Open Data and Museums	Wikisource Loves Manuscripts: Digitising manuscripts to bring underrepresented languages to the Internet
12.30-1	How a Wikimedian-in-Residence can help your collections reach new and wider audiences	Digital preservation and conservation: the role of Wikimedia in building collective memory	Digital preservation: evidence from Empowering Italian GLAMs' case studies

w.wiki/7RBq

WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Fiona Romeo
fromeo@wikimedia.org