



# Digitization for open knowledge

## - practices from Wikimedia movement

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## International Conference

Priorities in the digitization of books, documents, photos and modern approaches to the promotion of digitized materials

28.09.2023, Arbanasi, Bulgaria

# Where I am coming from

- Librarian  
National Library of Romania  
UIUC Library
- Community organizer  
Communities of the Future  
EduCaB
- Researcher  
“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu  
Făgăraș Research Institute
- Open information fan  
Wikimedians of Romania  
and Moldova UG



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# Why open knowledge?

Open knowledge (or free knowledge) is knowledge that is free to use, reuse, and redistribute without legal, social, or technological restriction.

(Open knowledge - [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org))



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# Wikimedia Movement

To “become the essential infrastructure of the ecosystem of free knowledge”

(2030 Wikimedia Movement Strategy)



# Wiki-projects



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# The Smithsonian

The Institution aimed to reach one billion people worldwide with a "digital first" strategy and an "open access" policy for its collections, research, and education resources.

- Complex of 19 museums, 9 research centers, libraries, archives, and a zoo
- Sustained efforts to make its collections accessible online through mass digitization efforts and by publishing them on their websites but also Flickr Commons (since 2008), Wikipedia (since 2011)

(Kapsali, 2019)



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# The Smithsonian

- Identical image on Wikipedia receiving 1,000 times the no of views as compared to the Smithsonian's own web site
- Multiple Wikipedian in residence
- Periodical Edit-a-thons on topics like Art (2009), Civil War (2015), Feminism and the Arts (2019) s.o.
- Wikidata for connecting data used in metadata in GLAM collections + Smithsonian Open Access initiative

(Kapsali, 2019)



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# Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

DPLA aggregates records of digitized resources from over 4,000 libraries, archives, and museums from US

- out of 42 million items 18 million have rights compatible with upload to Wikimedia Commons

In 2020 - created a digital access pipeline that connected with Wikipedia through Wikimedia Commons:

- over 650000 items (more than 2 millions uploads)
- 200 institutions
- 1000 wikipedia articles with millions of views  
(Byrd-McDevitt and Dewees, 2022)



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# National Library of Wales

- Wikimedian in Residence since 2014
  - 20 edit-a-thons
  - over 10000 new Wikipedia articles
  - over 50 000 Wikimedia commons uploads
  - over 265 million views on Wikipedia
- In 2017 they appointed a Permanent Wikimedian to their staff
  - multiple projects with Wikidata
  - databases and content of dictionaries



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# Europeana and Creative Commons



FIND CONTENT YOU CAN  
SHARE, USE, AND REMIX.

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Search using:

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<b>Google</b> Web	<b>Google Images</b> Image	<b>Jamendo</b> Music
<b>Nappy</b> Image	<b>Open Clip Art</b> Image	<b>Openverse</b> Media
<b>Sketchfab</b> 3D Model	<b>SoundCloud</b> Music	<b>Thingiverse</b> 3D Model
<b>Vimeo</b> Video	<b>Wikipedia Commons</b> Media	<b>YouTube</b> Video



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# Opening and connecting digital collections

Help people access your content:

- Know and try to open the copyrights
- Open the date
- Connect your content with existing open databases



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# Cultural institution and Wikimedia



## How cultural institutions use Wikidata to share their data with the world

Monday, October 23, 2023, from 11 am Pacific time

<https://wikiedu.org/speaker-series/>



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Thank you!



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# Sources

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