



# Public cultural institutions and Wikipedia

Sharing our cultural heritage with the world

## Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Wikipedia

*We work for the same goal, for the same people, in the same medium. Let's do it together.*

Liam Wyatt, Wikipedian-in-Residence at the British Museum

Wikipedians Przykuta and Ludmiła Pilecka during a photo workshop at the Museum of Lodz  
fot. Adokador, cc by-sa 3.0

The GLAM-WIKI initiative (collaborations between Wikipedians and galleries, libraries, archives and museums) allows cultural institutions reach wider audiences locally and internationally, as well as to engage local communities in cultural and educational programs.



Wikipedia and its content is viewed millions of times each day; it is available to view and edit in more than 250 languages. It is one of the most trusted online sources of information worldwide and, as a consequence, the most popular starting points for learning and research. Internet users frequently begin to learn about cultural institutions and their collections through Wikipedia. This way Wikipedia becomes a platform for galleries, libraries, archives and museums to disseminate knowledge about our heritage.



Wikimedia Polska works to help support the development of Wikipedia and its sister projects: Wikimedia Commons (a global library of reusable images, photographs, films and audio recordings), Wikisource (a repository of source texts) and others. **The aim of those projects is to make knowledge, culture and the arts available to as many people, as possible, to use and reuse.** These goals are parallel to the mission of galleries, libraries, archives and museums, and so the number of GLAM institutions collaborating with Wikimedia Polska is growing: we work with the Central Archives of Historical Records, the National Museum of Ethnography, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, the Senate of Poland, the State Archive in Poznań, the Museum of Art in Łódź and others.



From the many models of collaboration with GLAM institutions we aim to choose ones tailored to the needs and specific character of each institution.

## Public Domain

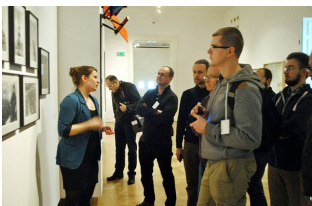
**The public domain guarantees everyone access to the heritage of our knowledge, education and culture.**

The digitisation programs carried out in Poland over the last years have resulted in many public domain resources becoming available to the public. We help cultural institutions to clearly state the copyright status of artworks and make them available on Wikimedia Commons.

*Our aim is to provide the highest standard of access to heritage, knowledge and culture*

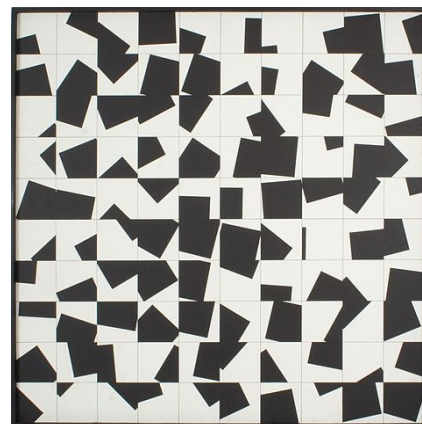
- Hanna Wróblewska, Director,  
Zachęta National Gallery of Art

## Our projects



### Zachęta Gallery and Muzeum Sztuki

Selected reproductions of artworks from those two modern art institutions are made available on Wikimedia Commons on CC BY-SA licenses. Zachęta Gallery negotiates the licenses with creators and also contributes recordings of curator talks and audio descriptions of artworks. The reproductions enable editors to illustrate articles on modern and contemporary art. Zachęta's contributions alone illustrate over 100 entries in many language versions of Wikipedia.



### State Archives

The **State Archives in Poznań, Łódź and the Central Archives of Historical Records** have contributed over 2500 hand-picked historical documents, manuscripts and other material illustrating Polish history. The files are uploaded by archivists who after training have become volunteer contributors to Wikimedia Commons.



### The Adam Mickiewicz University and the National Museum of Ethnography

The **Adam Mickiewicz University's Institute of Ethnography** has contributed the entire *Józef Burszta Digital Archive*, devoted to Polish and international ethnographic studies - comprising 8000 photographs - to Wikimedia Commons.



The **National Museum of Ethnography** opted for a project based on collaboration between Museum staff, students and experienced Wikipedia editors, based on gathering sources and conducting photo-documentation on location: the **Year of Folk Rituals with Wikipedia**.



Ryszard Winiarski, *Sto Zdarzeń 10\*10*, collection of Zachęta National Gallery of Art, CC BY-SA 3.0

Henryk Chłapowski i Aniela Taczanowska jako narzeczeni, 1899. State Archive in Poznań. CC0



## Contact

**GLAM-WIKI at Wikimedia Polska**  
kultura@wikimedia.pl

[pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikiprojekt:GLAM](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikiprojekt:GLAM)

email [kultura@wikimedia.pl](mailto:kultura@wikimedia.pl)

twitter [@glamwiki\\_pl](https://twitter.com/glamwiki_pl)

### GLAM Coordinator

Marta Malina Moraczewska  
[marta.moraczewska@wikimedia.pl](mailto:marta.moraczewska@wikimedia.pl)

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