

Museums and Wikipedia / Wikimedia

How museums can collaborate with Wikimedia



Engaging people in free knowledge



Geert Van Pamel

Software engineer

Chair of Wikimedia Belgium

[Wikipedian since 2005](#)

Member of Wikimedia Netherlands since 2012

Co-founder of Wikimedia Belgium in 2014

Started a MediaWiki server at the office in 2005 to document projects, products and infrastructure.



Some terms...

Wiki

Wikipedia

Wikimedia

Wikimedia organisation

Wikimedia community

Wikipedian / Wikimedian

Wikimedia platforms

Wikimedia Commons

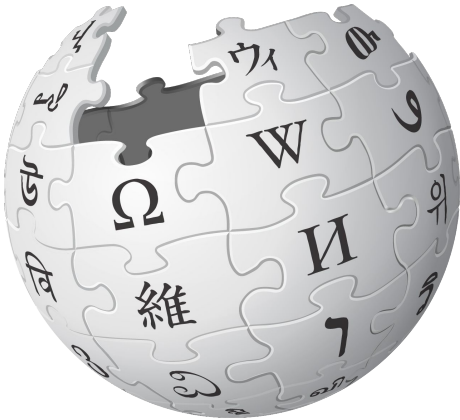
Wikidata

MediaWiki application

Most important Wikimedia Projects

Wikimedia platforms \approx Wikimedia applications

Many more exist... all using **MediaWiki**...



MediaWiki

Server application software running the Wikimedia applications.

[MediaWiki](#) is also an important Wikimedia project...

Can be installed on “private” servers



MediaWiki

- Open source GNU GPL
- Linux Apache PHP/MySQL (LAMP)
- Developed, maintained and operated by volunteers and paid staff
- Invisible for normal users
- What you see is “only” the result: a web page that allows you to:
 - Search
 - Read
 - Write
 - Delete (only for admins)
 - Manage
 - Analyse

Museums

Museums constraints

- (one) Physical place (museum building; collection)
- Opening hours - physical access - security
- Paid access - ask an entrance fee
- Few languages
- Limited number of paid personnel
 - Curator - director - staff
 - Locally managed
- Large collections; (hidden) metadata in collection archive system
- (rather) Static (exposition)
- Licenses: text, images, video, audio
- (only) The museum decides on the content
- Collections can be physically destroyed (Brazil, Syria, Notre-Dame)
- Intention to grow the number of visitors

Corona?

Wikimedia volunteer community

Volunteer community characteristics

- Diverse (social) background, education, knowledge, interest, skills, gender: diversity
 - Virtually unmanaged
 - The community of users has its own rules
 - Geographically dispersed (no boundaries)
 - Polyglot... 300 languages
 - Unlimited number of volunteers
- No (real) access constraints
 - Platforms are available 24/7
 - except: access to internet
- Free of charge, as a principle
- Free licenses: e.g. CC BY-SA
 - Everyone is author and “owns” their contributions
 - wp.en: [Who Wrote That?](#) (tool)
- Digital archive... multimedia content available to all
- Dynamic (content, structure, applications, tools)
- Virtual... depending on the applications

Corona?

Wikipedia

[20th anniversary on 15 January 2021](#)



<https://wikipedia.be>

[A theoretically impossible project
that succeeded](#)

Pseudonym

- We don't know all volunteers
 - Only 20% is member of a national organization
 - Only a fraction participates in (physical) activities
-
- Anonymous contributions

Control mechanisms

- “Anyone can change anything”
- Every user is handling on their own initiative
- Can update items in their sole discretion
- Moderators enforce conventions and rules
- Ombuds commission

We can steer the process using:

- project pages
- presence at meetings
- documentation (organisational, practical, technical)
- procedures
- training and coaching

Still it works...

- Content is monitored (tools)
- Vandalism and spam is removed
 - nearly immediately and automatically by bots
- Bad changes are corrected or rolled back by volunteers
- Sources are required, validated, and requested
- Bad behaving users are blocked
 - temporary
 - permanently

Projects keep growing...

Wikimedia

Wikimedia roles and responsibilities

- Non-profit organisations
- Collaboration with other organisations
- Organised by country
 - or in thematically User groups
- The Wikimedia Foundation is responsible for the servers
- The community manages the content
- The volunteers build the content
- The community decides on conventions and procedures (rules)
- Moderators enforce the agreed rules
- Democratic and collaborative process (as much as possible)



Wikimedia Belgium



- (national) WMBE Wikimedia Chapter since 2014
 - We required 2 attempts to be founded (Belgium is a complex country)
 - First attempt in 2008
 - Another in 2012
 - We are currently seeking for extra Board members
- We are a non-profit organization
 - Disadvantage: more administration required
 - Advantage: we can grant fiscal certificates for (national) gifts (please do!)
 - A User Group couldn't do this, because it does not legally exist
 - 4 languages NL/FR/DE/EN (makes communication difficult -> 3 translations)
 - 3 official languages in Belgium (Dutch and French most important)
 - English for expats and allochtones, and to communicate with the international community
- 117 members

Our mission

- Represent the Wikimedia community in Belgium
- Attract volunteers wanting to work with Wikimedia platforms
 - But: 80% of the volunteers are not affiliated (and we do not know them)
- Promote Wikipedia, and related applications
- Communicate and collaborate with GLAM, educational institutions, and cultural organizations
- Provide a training “How to write for Wikipedia”
- Organise Wiki Loves Heritage
- Explain free licenses (Creative Commons)
- Distribute books, brochures, and other documentation
- Answer questions from journalists, and the general public
- Collaborate with neighbouring chapters WMDE, WMFR, WMNL, WMCH

Recent campaigns and events

- Bi-weekly Wiki Club (write articles about women - stopped with Corona)
- Iedereen Schrijft (library of Ternat)
- Iedereen Leest (Jeugdboekenweek)
- Vrouwen in 't rood (write about women artists)
- Schrijven voor Wikipedia (multiple sessions at universities)
- Meer vrouw op straat (more women street names)
- RTBF Wikipedia Marathon (write articles about women)
- Wiki Women Design (write articles about women)
- Wiki Loves Pajottenland Zennevallei (heritage photos)
- Kathedralen van de industrie (textile factory heritage)

Partners

- meemoo
- Vlaams Architectuurinstituut
 - Design Museum
 - Modemuseum Hasselt
 - ... many more
- ETWIE
- Industriemuseum Gent
- Jenevermuseum Hasselt
- Plantentuin Meise
- KIK / IRPA
- KBR
- Universiteiten en hogescholen
- ...

WikiProject



WikiProject

Any **collaborative project** run by volunteers (Wikipedians, Wikimedians) using the Wikimedia platforms.

Goal: building free accessible knowledge.

Typically set up by a country (Chapter) or a thematic user group.

Often in collaboration with a museum, library, cultural or heritage group (GLAM).

Requires a venue (class room, Wi-Fi, internet access, projector, food and drinks).

Requires a (small/larger) budget.

Inviting Wikipedians to write on Wikipedia and take photographs.

Assisted by using Wikidata and related tools.

Typical activities

- Gather topic list
- Organise edit-a-thon (edit marathon, Wikithon)
- Collection building (in Wikidata)
- SDoC - Structured Data on Commons
- Photo-taking campaign
- Geospatial and mapping
- Creating training material
 - Online
 - Paper
 - How-to videos on YouTube

Initial steps

- Search a project partner (museum, library, heritage)
- Choose an interesting subject (you should own the data)
- Write the **project page** (collaborative editing with partner)
- Subject inventory (partner; collection; topic list)
- Enrich and upload to Wikidata (OpenRefine)
- ListeriaBot page => build target list of Wikipedia pages (new/existing articles)
- Create the campaign event
- Venue (place, date, infrastructure)
- Participant subscribe button (Wikipedia user account is mandatory)
- Send invitation
- Facebook, Twitter, mailing lists, newsletters

Building a Project page

- Central location on Wikipedia to document the event/project
- Wikipedia Project: namespace
 - Multi-lingual (on separate Wikipedia's)
 - Also Wikidata or Wikimedia Commons can host a project
 - Not to forget Wikimedia Commons (Campaigns)
- Link your project to other platforms (internal and external to Wikimedia)
- Gather all required information
- Collaboration between the institution and the project leader

Examples:

- [Boekentoren UGent](#)
- [Wiki Women Design \(EN\)](#)
- [Kathedralen van de industrie](#) (Industriemuseum Gent)
- [RTBF Wikipedia Marathon](#)

Wikidata and Wikidata Query

Usage:

- Prepare Wikipedia target list (Excel, CSV, Google spreadsheet)
- Upload to [Wikidata](#)
- [Link to a WikiProject](#) (also created in Wikidata)
- Additional Wikidata statements can be added
- [Query Wikidata](#)

Campaign and Events tool

- Campaign and Event details
 - A campaign can be composed of multiple related events during the year
- Add a subscribe button on the project page
- Advantage: requires a Wikipedia user account
 - Users can create a user account at home
 - New on-site user account creation is often blocked or limited (anti-vandalism measure)
- (automatically) Lists all articles written by the participants
 - Monitor and assist the participants when needed
- After the session
 - Built-in report and statistics on results

Example for [Erasmushogeschool Brussel](#)

Wikimedia Commons

Create a photo campaign

- Automatically adding a category
- Photo contest
- Can be used by ISA Tool

Examples:

- [Wiki Loves Heritage](#)
- [Wiki Women Design](#)
- [Wiki Loves Pajottenland-Zennevallei](#)
- [Wiki Loves Monuments](#)

Results (example for Wikipedia - Wikimedia Commons)

- [Marguerite Van Biesbroeck](#)
- [Women in Red](#)



QRpedia (Wikidata - Wikipedia)

- [Wikipedia](#)
 - Museums
 - Heritage



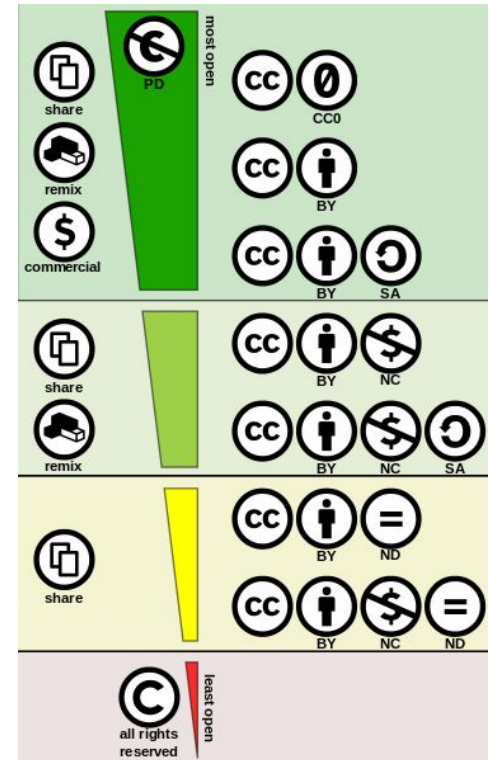
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(relatively) simple

Acronym	Description	Non-commercial use
CC0 / PD	Public domain	-
CC BY	Attribution, credits	CC BY-NC
CC BY-SA	Share alike	CC BY-NC-SA
CC BY-ND	Non derivative	CC BY-NC-ND
©	All Rights Reserved	-



Licenses and limitations

- [GNU GPL](#) (General Public License for MediaWiki)
- [CC BY-SA](#) (Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons)
 - [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)
- [CC0](#) (Wikidata)
- [Freedom of Panorama](#) in Belgium
 - Taking a photo of a building from the public road
 - Also valid for permanent exhibitions in museums
 - Not valid for temporary exhibitions
 - Not valid for collections
- [Right to image](#) (personality rights)
- [GDPR](#)

Tools

Quality monitoring tools

- [Who Wrote That?](#)
- [ORES](#)
 - `importScript("User:EpochFail/ArticleQuality-loader.js");`
- [Wikidata constraints](#)
- Bots (software robots)

Wikimedia tools

Tools to automatically update, link or query Wikimedia applications.

(in time order)

- Project page on Wikipedia
- (Excel)
- [OpenRefine](#)
- [Wikidata](#)
- [Wikidata Query](#)
- [ListeriaBot](#)
- [Wikimedia Commons](#) (Campaign)
- [WDFIST](#)
- [Pywikibot](#)
- [Campaign and Events tool](#)
- [Pattypan](#)
- many others...

OpenRefine

[Tool to upload Excel sheet](#) or Google spreadsheet to Wikidata

- Prepare an Excel list (watch out for copyright and plagiarism)
- Import
- Validate and correct
- Enrich (reconcile with Wikidata)
- Upload to Wikidata
 - Identify matching Wikidata properties
 - Create a Wikidata-schema
 - First update existing items
 - Then create new items
 - Link them to the project (also created in Wikidata)

ListeriaBot

Usage:

- Build [Wikipedia target list](#) on Wikipedia
 - Based on Wikidata Query
 - Per language
 - See what pages (do not) exist (red and blue links)
 - You choose the properties to show (depending on the instance)
 - Automatically updated
 - Bridge to Wikipedia
 - articles to be created
 - articles to be amended

Pywikibot

[Tool to update Wikidata](#) using Python scripts.

Usage:

- Mass update Wikidata: any Label, Description, Alias, or statement
 - Copy label, Create person, Create firstname, Create lastname, Add statement
- Obtain list of user(name)s who wrote articles/categories
- Send e-mail to Wikipedians (requires *interface moderator* right)

Prerequisites:

- Programming skills
- Linux admin skills to install the software (unless using [PAWS](#))
- Huge volumes require the *bot* right

Other multimedia tools

- Wikimedia Commons
 - Upload tool
 - Structured Data on Commons:
 - [ISA Tool](#)
 - [SDoC](#) and [AC/DC](#)
 - [Depictor](#)
- Add pictures to Wikipedia pages ([#WPWP](#))
- Add pictures to Wikidata (P18 via [WDFIST](#))
- [Batch image uploading](#) and [mass upload tools](#)
 - [Pattypan](#)

WDFIST

Wikidata Free Image Search Tool

[Easily add pictures](#) available in Wikimedia Commons to Wikidata items

- Based on a query or a category
- Just by clicking
- Can be run from the ListeriaBot page (using the built-in query)
- Or from a special Wikidata Query

Wikipedia tools

- AWB = [AutoWikiBrowser](#)
 - Search Wikipedia pages (by category, content)
 - Automatic update of Wikipedia pages
 - Update Wikimedia Commons media descriptions

Read more about Wiki projects

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject>
- <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikiproject>
- <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProjects>
- <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:WikiProject>

- <https://wikimediafoundation.org/our-work/wikimedia-projects>
- https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia_&_Education_User_Group
- https://be.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_tools

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Credits

- Geert Van Pamel, Wikimedia Belgium
- The partners with whom I could organize interesting WikiProjects

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