

# Wikidata

## Introduction for Beginners

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# Outline

1. General Introduction to Wikidata
2. Getting started with Wikidata
3. Contributing new data to Wikidata
  - 3.1 Adding tags to Wikidata
  - 3.2 Create new Wikidata items
  - 3.3 Finding Wikipedia articles with no Wikidata items
4. Embed data from Wikidata into pages on other wikis
5. Hands on improving the Wikidata item on Accra (Q3761)

# Resources

Via email or posted on Usertalk pages

[https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Events/Africa  
\\_Open\\_Data\\_Conference,\\_Accra](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Events/Africa_Open_Data_Conference,_Accra)

**Session 1:**

# **General Introduction to Wikidata**

# Wikidata: What is it?

- Large database of curated facts and knowledge
- Read and edited by both machines and humans
- Can feed Wikimedia projects and external systems

Primarily a free database of facts for

- Wikipedia and
- Sister projects

Wikidata also services interested external systems  
and the demand to plug into it is growing.



Eg. Google's Knowledge Graph;

which offers instant info about an entity, in a visibly prominent container, including company logos, links to WP, SM, and other basic data about the entity.

Kofi Awoonor Google search

What does a database do?

Structure is what gives database its power

- Large database of curated facts and knowledge
- Read and edited by both machines and humans
- Can feed Wikimedia projects and external systems

So why is Wikidata relevant?

## Case 1: Dated data

- A central storage location
- For structured and linked data
- Under free license (CC0)

## Case 2: Lacking triggers; evolving facts and references

### **Same solution**

- One central location
- One edit
- Same information across Wikimedia and external projects



## Case 3: Eliminate Repetitive work

### **Same solution**

- A central storage location
- A single edit
- Synched information across Wikimedia and external projects

## Case 4: Limitation on categories

- Categories are awesome
- But inflexible
- Not allowing for lateral queries of knowledge

## Case 4: Limitation on categories

- Streets named after Women
- Works of Art where name might be a rhyme
- How many musicians dies at certain age

## Case 4: Limitation on categories

<https://query.wikidata.org/>

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**Session 2:**

# **Getting Started with Wikidata**

[www.wikidata.org](http://www.wikidata.org)

## Anatomy of a **Wikidata page** a.k.a item

[https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main\\_Page](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page)



## 4 key headlines

- Label
- Inter Project site link
- Identifier
- Statement

# Statement = Property -> Value +/- (qualifier)

Statement examples (Item --> Property --> Value)

- Earth (Q2) → highest-point (P610) → Mount Everest (Q513)
- [Kofi Awoonor](#) (Q921435) → instance of (P31) → human (Q5)
- Kofi Awoonor (Q921435) → DOB (P569) → 13 March 1935
- [John Kufour](#) (Q51005) → Position held (P39) → AU Chair (Q946339) → Start time (P580) → 30 Jan 2007

# Note

- Anybody can create an item (Q) but not a property (P)
- An item has at least one key headline

[https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:List\\_of\\_properties](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:List_of_properties)

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## **Session 3:**

# **Contributing new data to Wikidata**

# Adding tags to Wikidata

Too cumbersome?

You can even add tags on your commute

# The Wikidata Game

Semi-automates micro-decisions and make incremental improvement of Wikidata super-fun.

- <https://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game>
- <http://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game/distributed/>



## Creating new Wikidata items

Remember, anybody can create an item!

Looking for **items** to create? there are tools for that!

1. [https://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game/no\\_item.php?](https://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game/no_item.php?)
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Articles\\_without\\_Wikidata\\_item](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Articles_without_Wikidata_item)
3. [https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Tools/User\\_scripts#Display\\_Wikidata\\_Info\\_on\\_sister\\_projects](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Tools/User_scripts#Display_Wikidata_Info_on_sister_projects)

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Session 4:

# Embed data from Wikidata into pages on other wikis

{{#property:PXX|from = QXX}}

- Since Accra is item Q3761 in Wikidata
- And since population is property P1082 in Wikidata
- ❖ I can tell you that according to Wikidata the population of Accra is `{{#property:P1082|from=Q3761}}`

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Session 5:

# Hands on improving the Wikidata item on [Accra \(Q3761\)](#)



## Key fixes:

- Population (P1082)
- Administrative divisions (P150)
- Heads of government (P6)
- References