Wikidata

A Gentle Introduction for Complete Beginners

Asaf Bartov <asaf@wikimedia.org>

You are lucky!

Two key problems

1. Dated data; lacking triggers; repetitive work
2. Inflexible ways of lateral queries of knowledge (Categories and their limitations)

~~Two key problems~~
One solution

An editable central storage for **structured and linked data,** on a wiki, under a free license.

(AKA **Wikidata**)

In short:

Wikidata is <3

Structured data, you say?

Statement = Item --> Property --> Value

Item is any topic (Wikipedia article, thing, person, place, concept, etc.)

Property is a specific single kind of data relevant to this item (e.g. height for mountains, capitals for countries, gender for humans)

Value is either a reference to another Item (the capital of Germany is Berlin) or a literal value (e.g. 8848 meters)

Items and Properties

An **item** is described by a series of **statements**, each asserting a single datum or fact about it.

A **property** is a specific kind of information, like a field in a form, and is used to describe what the data means.

Examples

An **item** about a **country** would have statements about the following **properties:** population, land area, official languages, borders-with, anthem, capital city, demonyms, Gross Domestic Product, etc. etc.

Examples

An item about a **person** would have statements about: name, date of birth/death, place of birth/death, citizenship, occupation, languages spoken, religion, father, mother, children, notable works, place of education, etc. etc.

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

Earth --> highest-point --> Mount Everest

Mount Everest --> elevation above sea level --> 8848 meters

Earth --> deepest point --> Challenger Deep

Challenger Deep --> elevation above sea level --> -10,994±1 metre

Another way of looking at it

Earth -->

    highest-point: Mount Everest

    deepest point: Challenger Deep

Challenger Deep -->

    elevation above sea level: -10,994±1 metre

Mount Everest -->

    elevation above sea level: 8848 meters

Once more with ~~feeling~~ numeric IDs

Earth (**Q2**) --> highest-point (P610) --> Mount Everest (Q513)

Mount Everest (Q513) --> elevation above sea level (P2044) --> 8848 meters

Earth (Q2) --> deepest point (P1589) --> Challenger Deep (Q459173)

Challenger Deep (Q459173) --> elevation above sea level (P2044) --> -10,994±1 metre

Once more without squishy humanspeak

Q2 --> P610 --> Q513

Q513 --> P2044 --> 8848 meters

Q2 --> P1589 --> Q459173

Q459173 --> P2044 --> -10,994±1 meters

Questions so far?

Let's go explore Wikidata!

https://wikidata.org

Contributing to Wikidata on your commute!

The Wikidata Game

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

https://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game

https://tools.wmflabs.org/wikidata-game/distributed

WD-FIST

- Free Image Search Tool for Wikidata

https://tools.wmflabs.org/fist/wdfist/index.html

Mix and Match

- Match Wikidata entities to external databases' entities

https://tools.wmflabs.org/mix-n-match/

https://tools.wmflabs.org/mix-n-match/?mode=sitestats&catalog=92 (coverage of members of the Royal Society)

Questions?

(also: remember [[Wikidata:Project chat]])

Embedding Data from Wikidata

{{#property}} is magic! :)

Querying Wikidata

https://query.wikidata.org/

Querying Wikidata

* query Wikidata using [[SPARQL]]

* Wikidata will tell you **everything it knows**, but **no more**

* The more data and the more links in Wikidata, the more useful it becomes (so contribute!)

query.wikidata.org demos

Links to sample queries

- [Notable cats](#)
- [Popular surnames among fictional characters](#)
- [Overall causes of death ranking (presented as bubble chart)](#)
- [Whose birthday is it today?](#)
- Count total articles in wiki XX by gender: http://tinyurl.com/j6nedlb (women) and http://tinyurl.com/zdvgthf (men)
- [Largest cities with female mayor](#)

Questions?

Go edit Wikidata! :)

Now that you have the power,
use it for good and not for evil.

asaf@wikimedia.org