

'Post-truth' named word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries

US election and EU referendum drive popularity of adjective describing situation 'in which objective facts are less influential than appeals to emotion'



“We live in the information age and the aphorism ‘*one who possess information possesses the world*’ of course reflects the present-day reality.”

[Vladimir Putin in Interfax, 2016.](#)

[Citation Needed]

Digital Provenance in the era of Post-Truth politics.

Ewan McAndrew (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Martin Poulter (University of Oxford).

*“Now no one even tries proving ‘the truth’.
You can just say anything. Create realities.”*

[Pomerantzev in the Economist, 2016.](#)

post-truth 



ADJECTIVE

Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.

‘in this era of post-truth politics, it's easy to cherry-pick data and come to whatever conclusion you desire’

‘some commentators have observed that we are living in a post-truth age’

Okay Google..... what's the UK's GDP?

The image shows a Google search interface with the query "what is the uk's gdp". The search results include a line chart titled "United Kingdom / Gross domestic product" showing GDP from 1960 to 2013. The chart shows three lines: France (orange), United Kingdom (blue), and India (green). The UK's GDP is highlighted as 2.678 trillion USD in 2013. To the right of the chart is a map of Europe with the UK highlighted and the Union Jack flag. Below the map is a text box titled "United Kingdom" with a description of the country and its location in Europe.

United Kingdom / Gross domestic product

2.678 trillion USD (2013)

Country	GDP (trillion USD)
France	2.806
United Kingdom	2.678
India	1.877

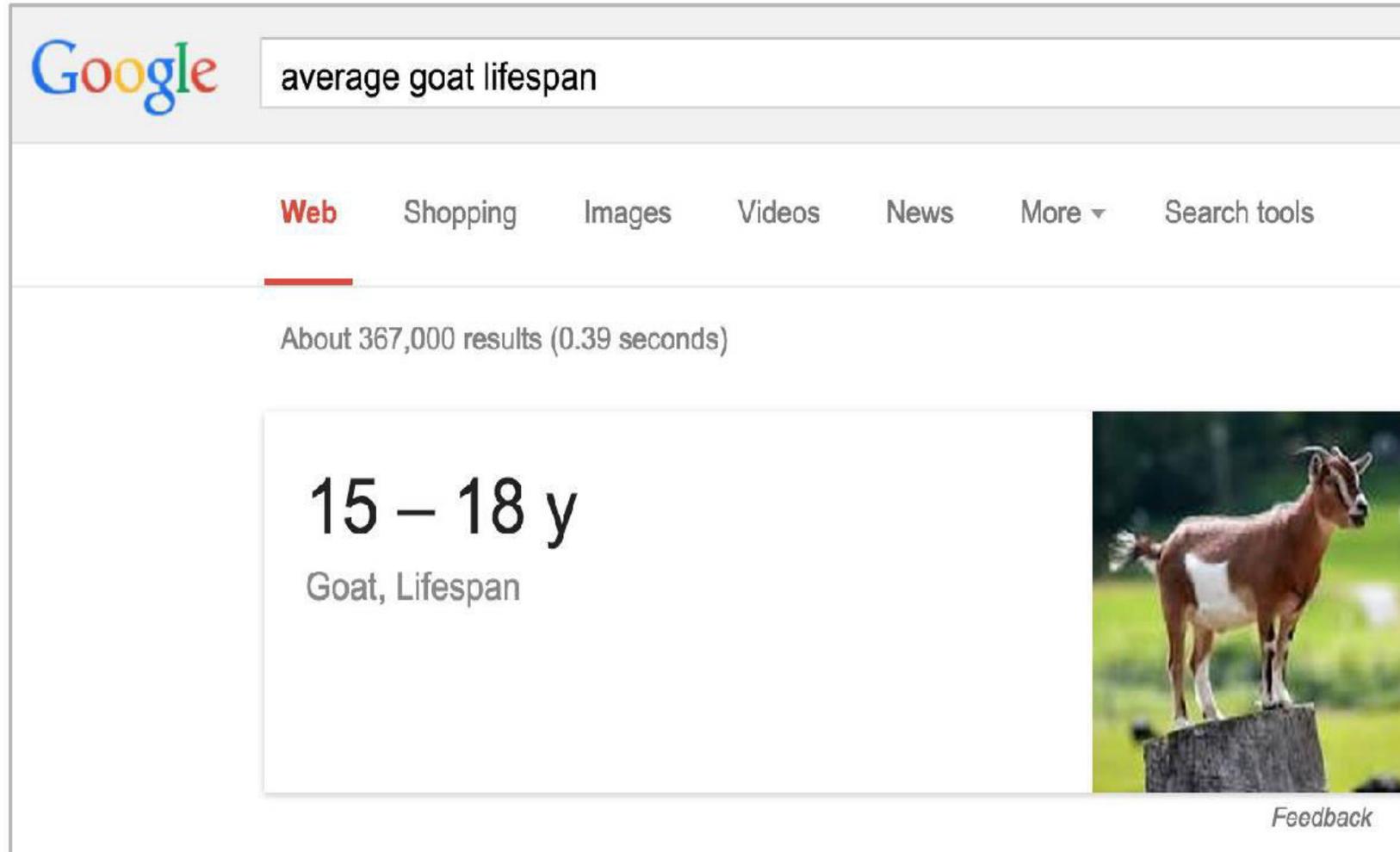
United Kingdom
Country in Europe

The United Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island nation in northwestern Europe. England – birthplace of Shakespeare and The Beatles – is home to the capital, London, a globally influential centre of finance and culture. England is also site of Neolithic Stonehenge, Bath's Roman spa and centuries-old universities at Oxford and Cambridge.

Related statistics

“Digital intermediaries such as Google and Facebook are seen as the new powerbrokers in online news, controlling access to consumers and with the potential even to suppress and target messages to individuals.” (Tambini, 2016)

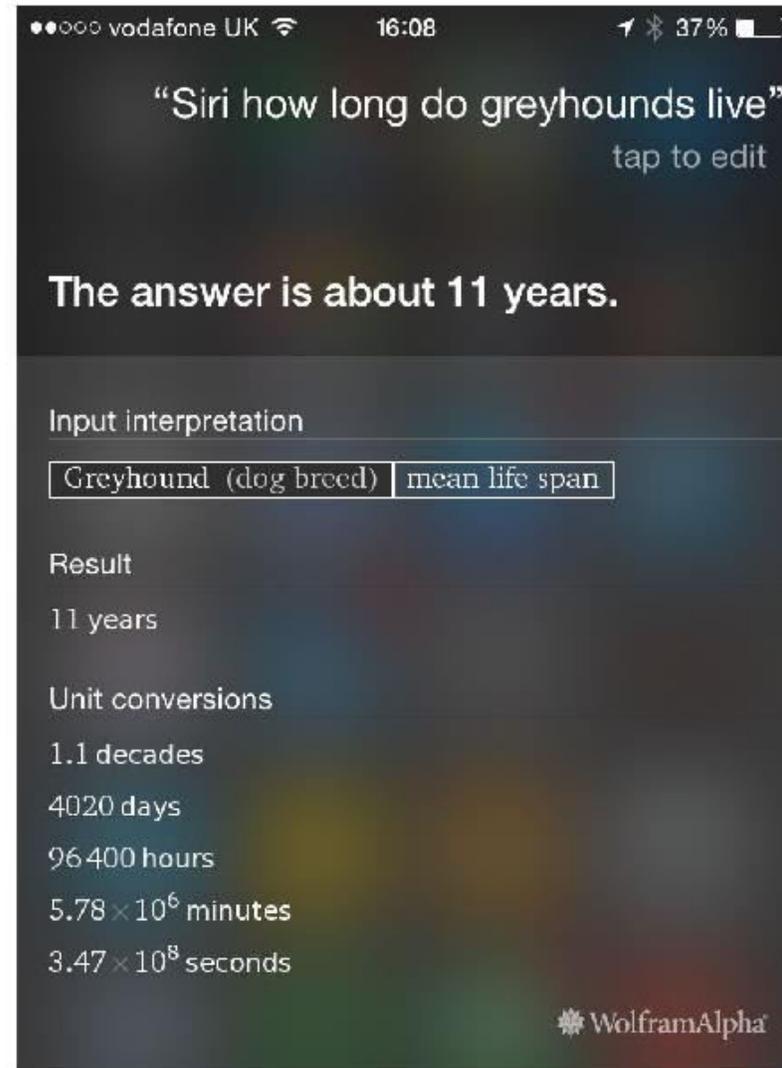
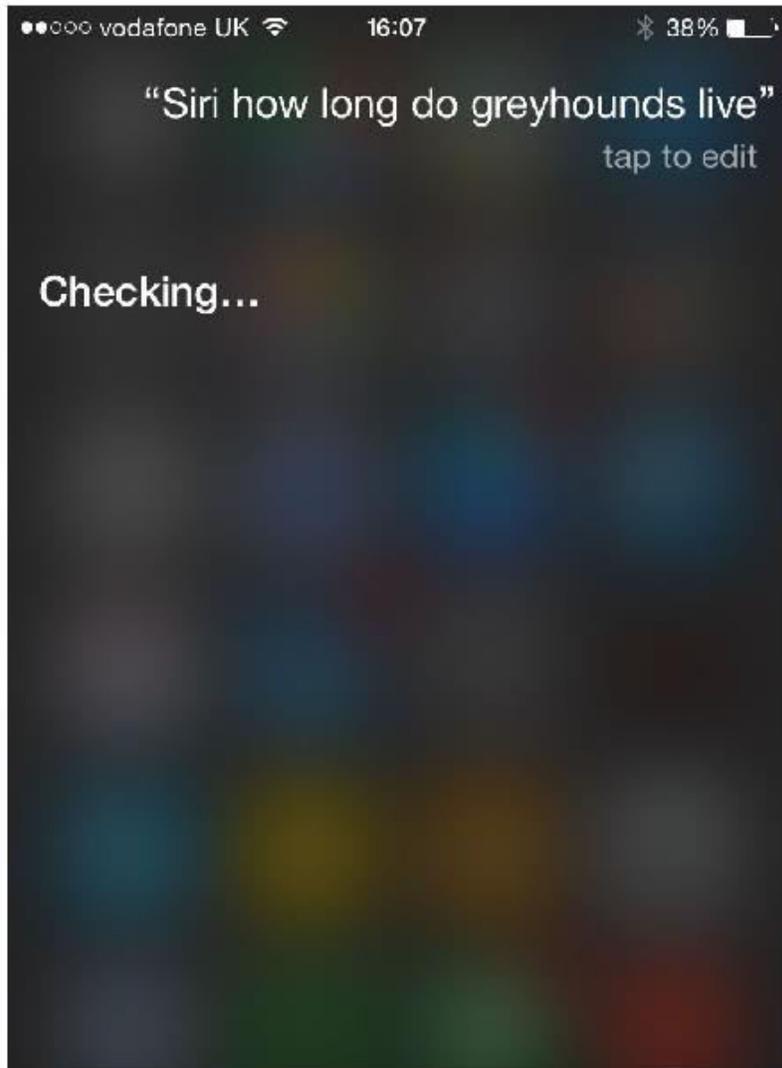
Okay Google..... what's the average lifespan of a goat?



The image shows a screenshot of a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "average goat lifespan". Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for "Web", "Shopping", "Images", "Videos", "News", "More", and "Search tools". The "Web" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 367,000 results (0.39 seconds)". The main search result is a knowledge panel for "Goat, Lifespan" with the answer "15 – 18 y". To the right of the text is a photograph of a brown and white goat standing on a wooden post. A "Feedback" link is visible at the bottom right of the knowledge panel.



Seldom does the no.1 search engine display the provenance of where the ‘suggested answers’ it provides come from, undermining “*people’s ability to verify information and, ultimately, to develop well-informed opinions.*”(Dewey, 2016)



“Search is the way we now live.” (Darnton in Hillis, Petit & Jarrett, 2012)

what is the average life span of a goat



 Web Apps  Examples  Random

Input interpretation:

domestic goat lifespan

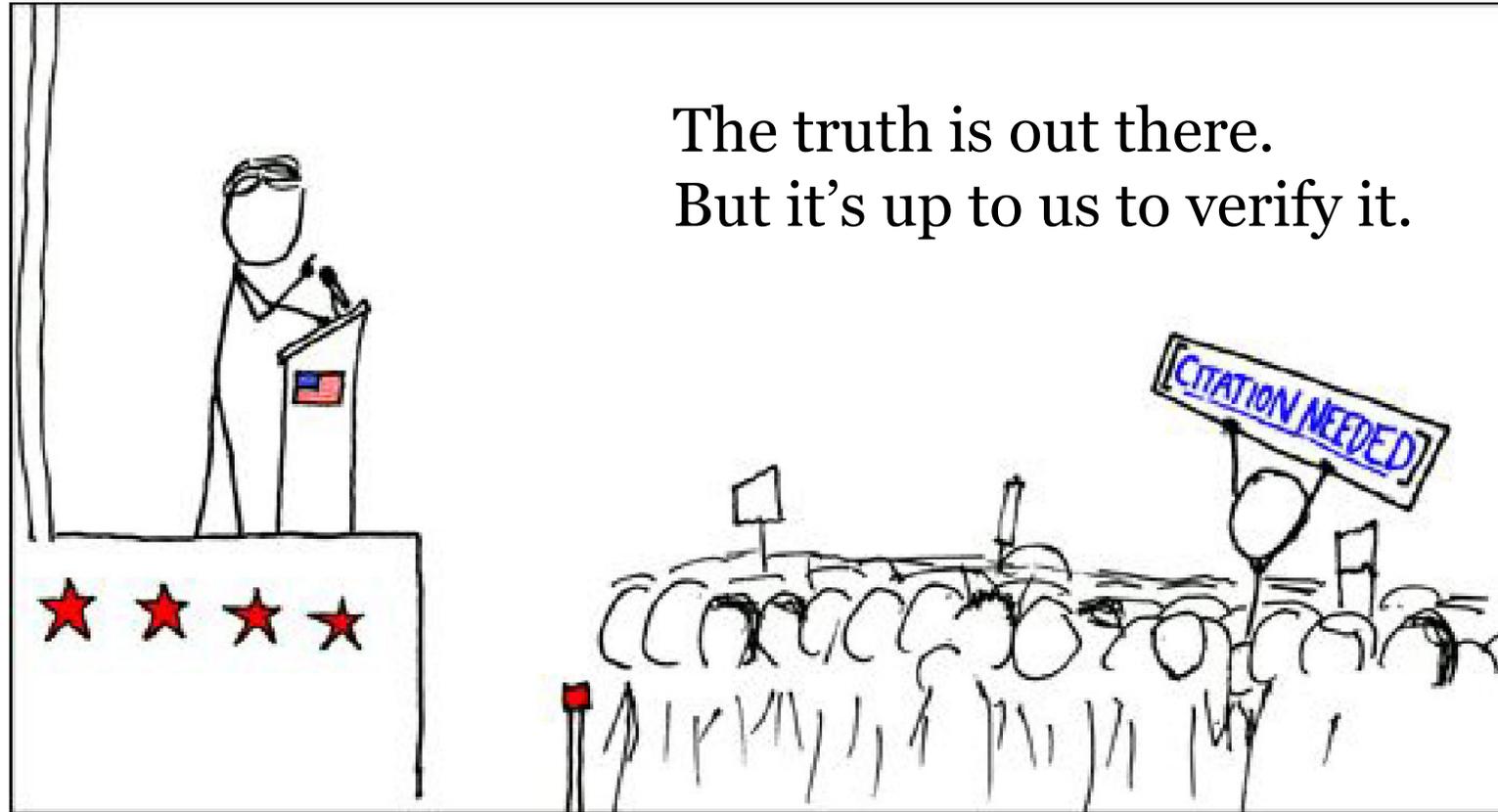
Result:

21 years

of an
is for

Requests by researchers for detailed information on the sources for individual Wolfram|Alpha results can be directed [here](#). Requests will be handled on the basis of priority, importance and available resources.

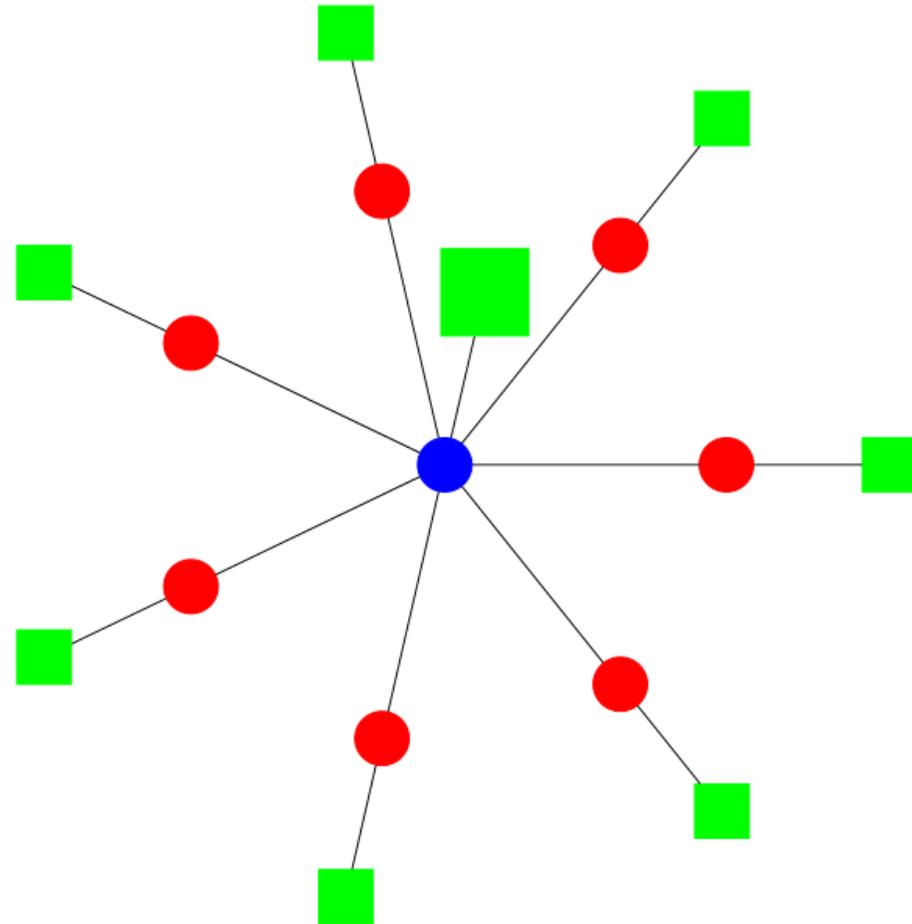
Fact checking sites are springing up in greater numbers but convenience and cognitive ease have proven to be the drivers for the virtual generation.



Randall Munroe, *Wikipedian protester* <http://tinyurl.com/p3rodlb> [CC BY]

A bibliographic database to
serve the sum of all knowledge?

{ } wikicite



Wikidata logo © the Wikimedia Foundation

Wikidata phase 1 interwiki links by Pyfisch on Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA

Wikidata facts are triples

United Kingdom → capital → London

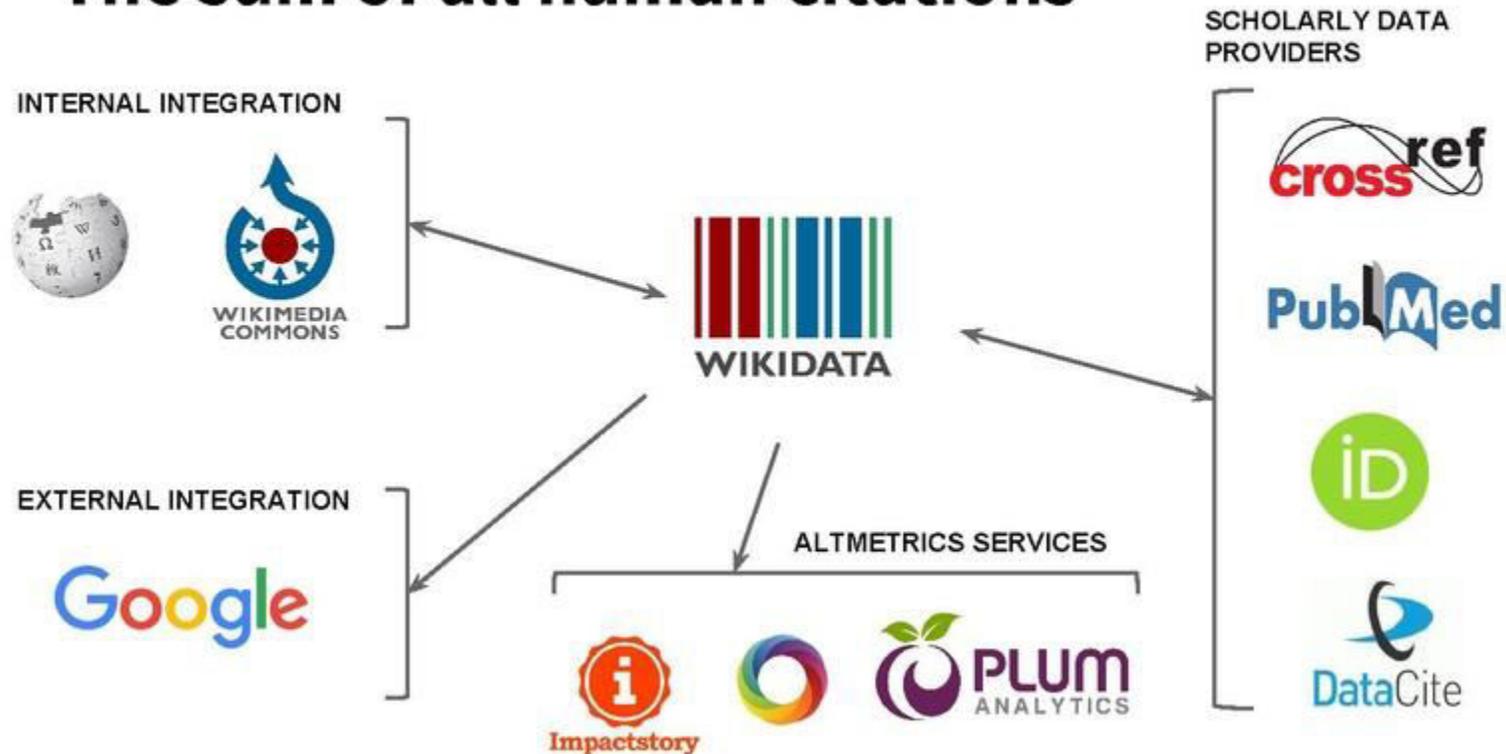
CIA World Factbook 2017 → publisher → CIA

Link facts to their sources



Wikicite

The sum of all human citations



This and the next slide from “Building the sum of all human citations” by Dario Taraborelli, CC-BY-SA

A journal article in Wikidata

Ecological Guild Evolution and the Discovery of the World's Smallest Vertebrate (Q15567682)

scholarly article

Other properties	
published in	PLOS ONE peer-reviewed open-access journal for original scientific research
title	Ecological Guild Evolution and the Discovery of the World's Smallest Vertebrate (en)
license	CC BY 2.5 version of the free content license(s) from Creative Commons
instance of	scientific article article in an academic publication, usually peer reviewed
original language of work	English West Germanic language originating in England
language of work (or name)	English West Germanic language originating in England
author	Eric N. Rittmeyer researcher Allen Allison researcher Michael C. Gründler researcher Derrick K. Thompson researcher Christopher C. Austin researcher
publication date	2012-01-11
main subject	Paedophryne swiftorum species of amphibian Paedophryne amauensis a frog in the microhylid genus Paedophryne



External sources	
DOI	10.1371/journal.pone.0029797
PMCID	3256195
PubMed	22253785
ZooBank	CC7DC83E-9BB6-4F1B-publication B96F-FD929E6FE1FD

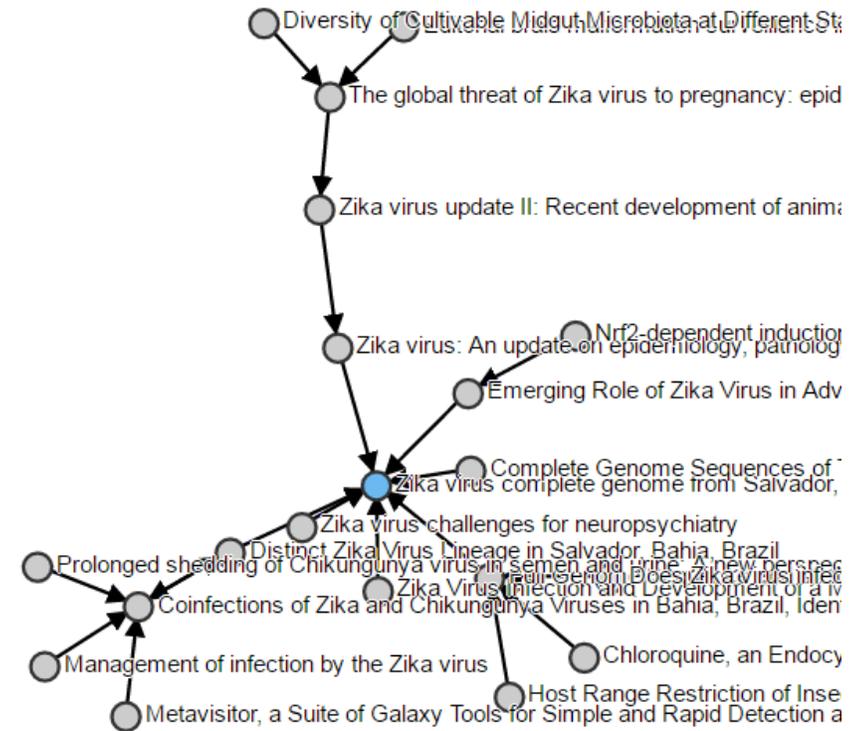
Wikimedia projects	
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Concept cloud

<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q15567682>

Queries

- Statements from papers that have been retracted.
- Most common author about Zika.
- Statements about terrorist attacks that have no references.
- Number of references to *Le Figaro*.
- “Get all proteins with GO annotations that are a subclass of "signaling receptor activity", where the determination method is a type of manual assertion, and the evidence is a scientific article that was published in the last three years”



Citation network of some papers about the Zika virus

Let's build a bibliographic database in Wikidata to serve the sum of all knowledge!

Launched in 2012

Integrated with Wikipedia and other sister
projects

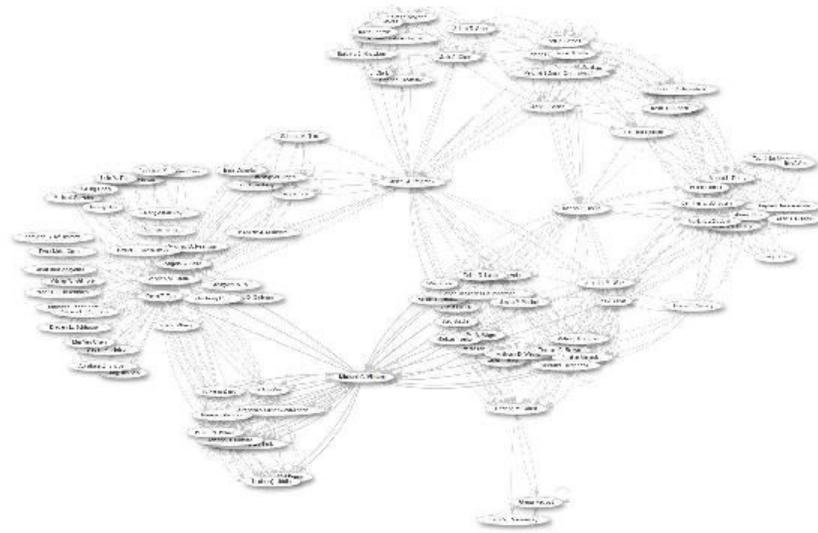
Statistics (February 2017)

Over 25M items

Over 130M statements



2 million citation links between scholarly papers



[View on Scholia](#)

all statements citing a *New York Times* article

most popular journals cited by statements of any item that is a subclass of *economics*

all statements citing the works of *Joseph Stiglitz*

all statements citing journal articles by *physicists at Oxford University in the 1970s*

all statements citing a journal article that was *retracted*

Answer complex questions involving sources and statements via SPARQL queries

meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiCite_2016/Report/Group_5

References in Wikipedia

The molecular origins of insulin go at least as far back as the simplest unicellular [[eukaryotes]].<ref name='LeRoith'>{{cite journal | vauthors = LeRoith D, Shiloach J, Heffron R, Rubinovitz C, Tanenbaum R, Roth J | title = Insulin-related material in microbes: similarities and differences from mammalian insulins | journal = Can. J. Biochem. Cell Biol. | volume = 63 | issue = 8 | pages = 839-49 | year = 1985 | pmid = 3933801 | doi = 10.1139/o85-106 }}</ref> Apart from animals, insulin-like proteins are also known to exist in Fungi and Protista kingdoms.

Links and further reading.



- [Alcantara, C. \(2016\). Wikipedia editors are essentially writing the election guide millions of voters will read. \[online\] Washington Post.](#)
- [Caitlin, D. \(2016\). You probably haven't even noticed Google's sketchy quest to control the world's knowledge. \[online\] Washington Post.](#)
- [Fioretti, J. \(2014\). Wikipedia fights back against Europe's "right to be forgotten". \[online\] Reuters.](#)
- [Post-truth' named word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries. \[online\] the Guardian](#)
- Hillis, K., Petit, M. and Jarrett, K. (2012). *Google and the culture of search*. 1st ed. Routledge, p.5.
- [Orlowitz, J. \(2016\). DLF: WikiCite. \[online\] Google Docs.](#)
- [Why Wiki Ed's work combats fake news — and how you can help](#) – Wiki Education.
- [Students reject Fake News to write footnoted, neutral Wikipedia entries](#) – NPR Ed.
- [Yes I'd lie to you - The Economist](#)
- [How technology disrupted truth](#) – Katherine Viner in the Guardian.
- [No we're not in a post fact world](#) – Wikimedia blog.
- [Wikipedia vs. Fake News](#) – Wikimedian in Residence blog.
- [Wikipedia is fixing one of the internet's biggest flaws](#) – Washington Post.

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