"A Wikibase for what?"
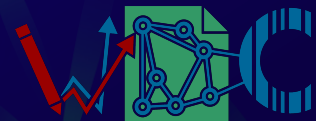
Diverse users at the edge of the graph

Laurence "GreenReaper" Parry
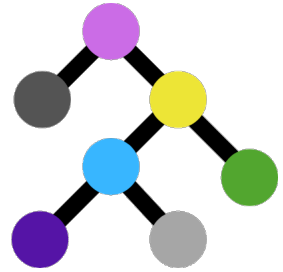WikiFur / Wikibase Community User Group

Why go it alone?

There's a world of topics out there

- I should know. 😺

- Not all are considered verifiable, notable, etc.

- Not just sandboxes – complementary to existing standalone wiki

- Not everyone wants to be beholden to the global community

  - Institutions, community groups and individuals

  - Language tightly bound with location for some

Examples

Nonbinary Database (NBDb)

"a compilation of concepts relevant to nonbinary identities, such as neutral pronouns, identity labels, nonbinary people"

- data.nonbinary.wiki - to help organize data in nonbinary.wiki

  - Seemingly first on Miraheze to request remote configuration

- Improve Discord bot with tools for nonbinary or gender-related servers

- Python script to index due to lack of SPARQL backend/endpoint

  - https://github.com/NonbinaryWiki/NBDb-list - instanceof

FemiWiki 페미위키

"launched as a community effort to counter prevalent misogynistic, male-centered sources of Korean language information online that was also lacking in inclusivity towards most categories of minorities"

- Wikimedians Korea - Primarily Korean, but also in Japanese and English

- Custom Lua Module:생리컵 비교표– " menstrual cup comparison table"

  ○ Also items on people, sites

- femiwiki.com

제품	몸체 길이 (mm)	전체 길이 (mm)	용량(mL)	직경(mm)	무게(g)
루나컵 클래식 스몰	48	70	20	42	17
루나컵 클래식 라지	52	76	25	46	17
루나컵 쇼티 타이니	44	55	15	38	9
루나컵 쇼티 스몰	48	59	20	42	11
루나컵 쇼티 라지	52	63	25	46	15

Sweden Open Data

"A Wikibase used for defining datasets we'd like to see in Open data portals - public art, bicycle pumps, outdoor gym, biographies, campsites, wind shelter, historical signs, runestone inscriptions, TV shows, ice observations, Swedish church parishes, seat of the Swedish Academy, public beaches…"

- Includes draft entity schemas for bicycle pumps and wind shelters

  - Many others already covered on Wikidata

- https://sweopendata.wiki.opencura.com

School of Design, Ambedkar University Delhi

Practical use of Wikibase for organizational data

- Cradle forms to create Design Studio projects, profiles, organizations

  - manual schema definition (Project:Cradle) vs. entity schemas
    - Maybe more practical currently, especially outside of Wikidata

- Searches for projects based on focus themes, stakeholders, practices

- https://sdes-aud.wiki.opencura.com/

WikiBen

" *A knowledge base on everything that has to do with the Benweenian language, a fictional language"*

- Primarily edited by the founder and creator of the language

- Lexicographical data, but not using the Wikibase extension for it
    - Maybe not (yet) supported by Miraheze

- https://wikiben.miraheze.org
    - Was https://wikiben.tk - link rotted today!

T-Rex Taxonomy

" *captures the taxonomy of the Tyrannosaurus rex using the Wikibase software outside Wikidata. The objective is to create a model to capture taxonomy based on a specific use case.*"

- Specimen data added by Jupyter bot

- https://trex-taxonomy.wiki.opencura.com

FOMU Photographic Paper Collection

" developed to support the Gevaert paper project, [which] aims to safeguard Gevaert's knowledge of analogue photo paper. That is why we have digitized both our own collection of photo packaging and the photo packaging in the historical archive of Agfa-Gevaert..."

- Supported by Flemish government – see separate WDC presentation

- Statements added by user-side bot

  - Individual adding of statements caused slowdowns

- https://photopaper.fotomuseum.be - https://fomu.be

Takeaways and Challenges

Takeaways

- Standalone Wikibases fill needs that are not met by Wikidata

- Can make technical advances and help the Wikibase community
    - But more effort is needed to surface and share this work

- Shared services (WBStack, Miraheze) have been helping a lot
    - Individual use of Wikibase still needed for developers
    - Won't be suitable for every project (esp. private ones)
    - Maybe look for integration with Fandom (aka Wikia)?

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Challenges - Community

- Many wikibases are [almost] only edited by one person
  - Not necessarily unusual, but indicates more potential for collaboration

- Many are seemingly abandoned, and often spammed
  - ...often with a large number of edits, especially if bots were used
  - Hosts should plan for abandonment, including licensing
  - Deployments should have safe defaults

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Challenges - Hosting

- Wikibase has non-trivial hosting and admin requirements
    - Cloud services help at low end, but focus on community needed

- Miraheze doesn't support WDQS (or SMW), on perf. Grounds
    - WBStack has more tools, such as Cradle and QuickStatements
    - ...but not all are well-integrated, let alone have examples of use
    - Wikibase.Cloud will hopefully continue progress here

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Challenges – Standalone Implementations

- Wikibase doesn't support all MediaWiki platforms

    - PostgreSQL support should be in the next release

    - ARM64 may be worth pursuing, esp for hobbyist & developing world

- Still a huge learning curve; many don't get past extension install

    - More examples may help here, both of use and tutorials

- Incomplete and confusing support/fallback for multiple languages

    - English users not shown British English descriptions by default

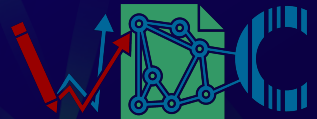   - Internationalization of Item/Property in Special:Allpages is inconsistent

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Thanks for your time!

Get in touch:

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