

Wikidata & Scholia for scholarly profiles: the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy pilot project

Presentation

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Keywords: Wikidata, Scholia

Abstract

During recent years, cultural heritage institutions have become increasingly interested in participating in open knowledge projects. The most commonly known of these projects is Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. Libraries and archives in particular, are also showing an interest in contributing their data to Wikidata, the newest project of the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikidata, a sister project to Wikipedia, is a free knowledge base where structured linked data is stored. It aims to be the data hub for all Wikimedia projects. The Wiki community has developed numerous tools and web-based applications to facilitate the contribution of content to Wikidata and to display the data in more meaningful ways. One such web-based application is Scholia which was created to provide users with complete scholarly profiles by making live SPARQL queries to Wikidata and displaying the information in an appealing and effective manner. Scholia provides a comprehensive sketch of the author's scholarship. This presentation will demonstrate our efforts to contribute data related to our faculty members to Wikidata and will provide a demo of Scholia's functionalities.

At IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis) University Library, we conducted a pilot project where we selected the 19 faculty members identified as core faculty from the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to be included in Wikidata. The School of Philanthropy, located on the IUPUI campus, is the leading school in the subject in the United States. The scholarship produced by its faculty is known to be widely used. The goal of this pilot was not only to provide a presence in Wikidata for our faculty, but also for their publications and co-authors. As a result, we created 110 items to represent some of the works produced by the faculty members and 58 items for all co-authors. Moreover, we selected three publications and worked through their lists of references to contribute 39 cited publication items. Doing the additional work of adding co-authors and cited publications allowed us to start interconnecting works. For the creation of Wikidata items, we used a combination of semi-automated and manual processes. Making use of existing tools such as Source MetaData, QuickStatements, and Resolve Authors alleviated the manual labor, and allowed us to make contributions more efficiently. Once the items were created in Wikidata, we used Scholia to generate the scholarly profiles.

By building on existing bibliographic and metadata skills, academic libraries have the capacity to create and curate data about scholars affiliated with their institutions. Our pilot project is just a first step toward more efficient and systematic library-based contributions to Wikidata. We expect that the data sets we build in Wikidata will help our institution better understand and describe the value of its scholarly work in the study of philanthropic giving, nonprofit management, and all other research domains that are a core feature of our campus. In addition to providing value to our local institution, our contributions to Wikidata serve to build an open data platform maintained by the commons. Wikidata provides a welcome, open source alternative to share scholarly and

bibliographic data in a marketplace where publishers and other information companies work to capture this data and to profit from selling it back to universities.