






Using Wikidata to Capture and Share Information about People in Paleontology

Overview of workshop
29 March 2022

Welcome!

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
								
Tiffany Adrain University of Iowa, Department of Earth & Environr University of Michigan UI Paleontology Repository Collections Manager tiffany-adrain@uiowa.edu Iowa City, Iowa US	Jennifer Bauser University of Michigan collections manager bauserj@umich.edu Ann Arbor, Michigan US The weirdest (and spookiest) was being the only one working in our building right after we shut down! All the collection staff for five research museums were rotating days and times and it was really eerie... the lights were always in 'eco-mode' so it was dark and weird in shared spaces!	Roger Burkhalter Sen Noble Museum Collections Manager Norman, Oklahoma US	Christina Byrd Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard collections manager/custorial associate Cambridge, Massachusetts US	Lauren Cohen Dybllo, Florida State University Workforce Development Manager Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania US	M Cruz University of Michigan Technical Support Ann Arbor, Michigan US	Sarena Govender Liko Museums of South Africa Assistant Collections Manager Cape Town, ZA	Talla Karin University of Colorado Collection Manager Boulder, Colorado US	Erica Kimmel Diglio, Florida State University Digitization Resources Coordinator Sacramento, California US I am not working in a collection currently, but I did discover a mysterious void in my backyard while doing gardening-inspired fossae projects. I turned out to be a fully intact, brick-lined, 8-9 deep calcareous tank, where the roof had caved in. If anyone is looking to disappear an uncollected, unrecorded donation of fossils... send them my way to help fill this hole up.

Add yourself to the *Wikidata People in Paleo Workshop Participant Intros* Google Sheet and/or chat in Slack!

I	J	K	L	M	N	O	PA	PB	PC	PD	PE
											
Gary Mitz Indiana University Information Manager for University Collections garmitzi@iu.edu Bloomington, Indiana US Three physical collection moves and two major digital collection migrations. We were subjected to a building renovation (move to/from temp storage with a secondary temp storage location in between) and had a major cloud storage provider change the terms of our contract twice!	Justica Nakano SI NMNH Paleo Registrar Washington DC US	Gil Nelson Diglio Director Gainesville, Florida US	Nicole New-Yegle Denver Museum of Nature & Science collections manager Denver, Colorado US	Ben Norton NCMNS Head of Technology, Data Curator, and Collections Biodiversity Informatics Community Liaison ben.norton@naturalsciences.org North Carolina US	Deborah Paul Species File Group, INHS, PRL, USJC and TDWG AAFC (not representing interests of AAFC here) collections data manager davidshorhouse@gmail.com Ottawa, Ontario CA	David Shorhouse University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign/Prarie Re Collections Manager Champaign, Illinois US	Jared Thomas University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign/Prarie Re Collections Manager Champaign, Illinois US	Jessica Shrop Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History museum assistant, Invertebrate Paleontology jessica.shrop@yale.edu New Haven, Connecticut US We intended to close for renovations in June of 2020, so during the pandemic one of our collections rooms has been completely demolished. The floor has been excavated to put new pipes in, the walls have been removed, and a big hole was cut into the side to allow construction workers to enter from outside.	Jacob Van Kesterhout University of Colorado Museum of Natural History Collections Manager Boulder, Colorado US	Nicole Volden New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science/ASU collections manager Albuquerque, New Mexico US	Lindsey Walker Synthesis Support Hub SSH Community Manager lwalker@asu.edu Los Angeles, California US

Workshop goals & outcomes

- ★ You will get a **hands-on introduction** to finding, editing, and using data in wikidata, using people associated with paleontology collections as subjects.
- ★ As a group, we will explore **workflows for adding biographical information to wikidata efficiently**, including how to create links between wikidata and a collections management system (CMS).
- ★ As a group, we will co-create **guidelines for disambiguating people and for curating wikidata entries in the paleo context**, including what types of information are ideal to capture. We will share these guidelines as a white paper similar to and inspired by [Leachman 2020](#).

Workshop materials & tools



Zoom

Platform for synchronous sessions with presentations, demos, and discussion.

One live check in per asynchronous session.

Desktop client is preferred.



Google Drive

Primary tool for sharing and collaborating on documents.

Use the [Wikidata People in Paleo Workshop 2022](#) folder.

Google account login required to edit documents.



Slack

Primary communication tool for asynchronous sessions.

Use the *#wikidata* channel in the [Paleo Data Slack workspace](#).

Desktop client is preferred.

Workshop agenda

March 29	Tuesday
12:00 - 12:15 PM EDT	Overview of workshop
12:15 - 1:00 PM EDT	Introduction to basic editing in wikidata (Jessica Utrup)
1:00 - 3:00 PM EDT	<i>Asynchronous: Hands-on wikidata editing activity</i> 🗝️ Live check-in on Zoom from 2:00-2:15pm EDT
3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT	Group discussion on takeaways from hands-on activity
March 30	Wednesday
12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT	Introduction to efficient/bulk editing in wikidata (Erica Krimmel)
1:00 - 3:00 PM EDT	<i>Asynchronous: Begin developing wikidata guidelines for paleo people</i> 🗝️ Live check-in on Zoom from 2:00-2:15pm EDT
3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT	Group review of and discussion about guidelines
March 31	Thursday
12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT	Brainstorm how to connect wikidata and CMS (Christina Byrd)
1:00 - 3:00 PM EDT	<i>Asynchronous: Explore ideas from brainstorming</i> 🗝️ Live check-in on Zoom from 2:00-2:15pm EDT
3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT	Workshop summary and plan for next steps
	Post-workshop
	TBD

Workshop wiki page:

https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/Using_Wikidata_to_Capture_and_Share_Information_about_People_in_Paleontology

Every Day

12:00 - 1:00 pm EDT Synchronous

- Meet in Zoom
- Notes in Google Doc, when useful

1:00 - 3:00 pm EDT Asynchronous

- Instructions available in Google Doc
- Communicate in Slack
- Live check in on Zoom at 2:00pm

3:00 - 4:00 pm EDT Synchronous

- Meet in Zoom
- Notes in Google Doc, when useful

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Today

- Overview of workshop [now!]
- Introduction to basic editing in wikidata (Jessica Utrup)
- *Asynchronous: Hands-on wikidata editing activity*
- Group discussion on takeaways from hands-on activity

Code of Conduct

- ✓ Be professional and respectful
- ✓ Communicate openly and from your own perspective
- ✗ Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination
- ✗ Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in a “joking” manner

Please read the full document at <https://www.idigbio.org/content/idigbio-code-conduct>.

Why people?

People are an essential link between specimens, institutions, and the generation of new knowledge

Multiple robust identifier schemes already exist for people.

Individually, we already know a lot about the people associated with our collections



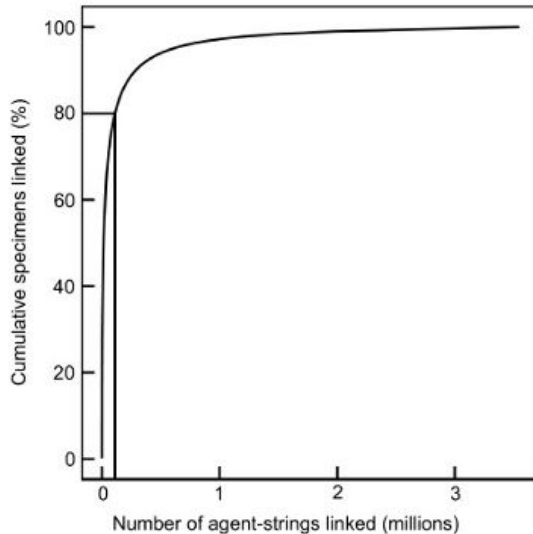
Why people?

Wikidata offers a “brokerage” solution for capturing and sharing information about people that allows the paleontology community to capitalize on the distributed knowledge curated by individual collections.

AF ORCID

Why people?

Figure 1. Cumulative percent of specimens associated with rank order of raw collector name strings. Collector name ...



“People are one of the best known and most stable entities in the biodiversity knowledge graph.”

Why wikidata?

Structured

Neutral, hosted platform

Easy to learn

Brokerage

The image shows a Wikidata item for Douglas Adams (Q42). The item is titled "Douglas Adams (Q42)" and has a description: "English writer and humorist". The item is annotated with various labels and lines pointing to specific parts of the interface:

- label**: Points to the name "Douglas Adams (Q42)".
- item identifier**: Points to the QID "(Q42)".
- description**: Points to the text "English writer and humorist".
- aliases**: Points to the text "Douglas Noël Adams | Douglas Noel Adams".
- property**: Points to the "educated at" property.
- value**: Points to the value "St John's College".
- qualifiers**: Points to the table of qualifiers for the "St John's College" statement.
- rank**: Points to the "rank" column in the statements table.
- statement group**: Points to the "educated at" statement group.
- opened references**: Points to the "2 references" section for the "St John's College" statement.
- collapsed reference**: Points to the "0 references" section for the "Brentwood School" statement.

The "Statements" table is as follows:

rank	property	value
	educated at	St John's College
	end time	1974
	academic major	English literature
	academic degree	Bachelor of Arts
	start time	1971
	2 references	
	stated in	Encyclopædia Britannica Online
	reference URL	http://www.nndb.com/people/731/000023662/
	original language of work	English
	retrieved	7 December 2013
	publisher	NNDB
	title	Douglas Adams (English)
	+ add reference	
	Brentwood School	
	end time	1970
	start time	1959
	0 references	
	+ add (statement)	

Do you have prior experience editing records in wikidata?

