Using Wikidata to Capture and Share Information about People in Paleontology

Overview of workshop
29 March 2022
Welcome!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 29</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 12:15 PM EDT</td>
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### Post-workshop

TBD

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**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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Workshop wiki page:
https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/Using_Wikidata_to_Capture_and_Share_Information_about_People_in_Paleontology

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.
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.
Why people?

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

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

Figure & quote from Groom et al. 2020 (see “Readings” folder in workshop Google Drive)
Why wikidata?

Structured
Neutral, hosted platform
Easy to learn
Brokerage
Do you have prior experience editing records in Wikidata?