



Národní knihovna
České republiky
National Library
of the Czech Republic

Library Data in Wikimedia Projects: Case Study from the Czech Republic

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Library Data in Wikimedia Projects

- libraries and cultural institutions around the world are increasingly focused on online accessibility and sharing of their collections
- collaboration between libraries and Wikimedia projects is becoming essential
- this trend is also evident in the Czech Republic, where the National Library has been actively collaborating with Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects since **2006**
- we think and believe that our collaboration with Wikimedia projects is very good, but we have tried to support our feelings with research methods



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Desk research

3 basic sets of materials:

- Publications on Opening Data at the National Library of the Czech Republic **(2018–2023)**
- Publications on Activities by Wikimedians in Residence at the National Library of the Czech Republic **(2023–2024)**
- Annual reports by Wikimedia Czech Republic **(2013–2022)**

52 items were analysed and indexed using up to two keywords



Which milestones in the history of collaboration between the National Library and Wikimedia projects can be identified?

- based on keyword indexing, **8** main areas of interest in which the National Library collaborates with Wikimedia projects have been identified
- most activities have been ongoing since **2018**, especially on processing and presenting authority data and publishing and using the National Library's open data in general



1st milestone – Linking Wikipedia articles to the Union Catalog

- **2006** – first collaboration with Czech Wikipedia on linking authority records with Wikipedia records and displaying the author's works in the union catalogue
- inspiration – collaboration Deutsche Nationalbibliothek with German Wikipedia
- the project was led by Zdenek Bartl from the National Library and Petr Kadlec, one of Czech Wikipedia's administrators



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2nd milestone – Training librarians

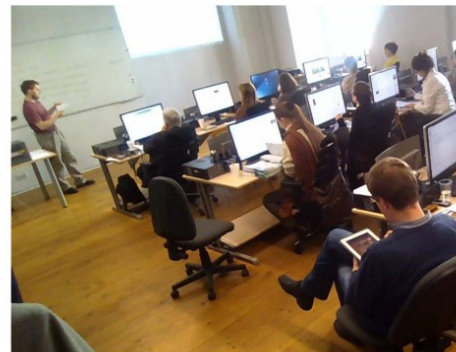
- **2014** – first joint event on the topic of Senior Citizens Write Wikipedia
- **2015** – first training courses for librarians
- cooperation between National Library, Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic and Wikimedia Czech Republic
- **2022** – GLAM Project Coordinators' Meeting With Czech Librarians in the National Library

Senior Citizens Write Wikipedia

Anybody could write Wikipedia

In the words of the patron of the program, prof. Jan Sokol, aim of the Senior Citizens Write Wikipedia (Senioři píší Wikipedii) is constantly reminding seniors that their whole-life experience and knowledge are truly valuable. And moreover, they could greatly utilize this experience in favor of young people when they become Wikipedians.

We have organized almost 20 courses and presentations in or outside of Prague and we were presenting on many events, e.g. the Fresh Senior Festival or Age Brings Together conference (Stáří spojuje) to promote and support this program. We started also with trainings of librarians, so that librarians would be able to do these trainings by themselves (which has already happened



Training for Librarians in the National Library



Annual report of Wikimedia Czech republic for the year 2015,
Dominik Matus, [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WM_CZ_-_Annual_report_2015.pdf), via Wikimedia Commons

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WM_CZ_-_Annual_report_2015.pdf



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3rd milestone – Implementing the National Library’s first linked data project

- **2018** – project The Czech Terminology Database of Library and Information Science (TDKIV) available as linked data
- new Wikidata property – TDKIV term ID

Property **Discussion** Read **View history** Search Wikidata

TDKIV term ID (P5398)

identifier for a term used by the Czech Terminology Database of Library and Information Science (TDKIV) produced by the National Library of the Czech Republic

<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Property:P5398>

4th milestone – Promoting Wikimedia projects at a conference for librarians, archivists and museum workers

- **2018** – speaker from Wikimedia Czech Republic participated in the Archives, Libraries, Museums in the Digital World, a conference series organized by the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, the National Library and other partner institutions
- in the following years, more topics from the linked open data realm and Wikimedia world were covered by speakers representing Wikimedia Czech Republic or the National Library





5th milestone – Getting authority data ready for imports to Wikidata

- **2019** – collaboration project Making the National Name Authority Database Available as Linked Data – Wikibase instance was set up to present a data from the Czech name authority records as linked open data available under CC0
- follow-up activities in **2020** focused on adding data from newly created authority records to Wikidata and also on creating tools to enable semi-automated data synchronization between the national authority file and Wikidata



5th milestone – Getting authority data ready for imports to Wikidata

- **2020** – Petr Kadlec developed NKlink – a tool that enables databases which add the national authority identifiers to their records pull related data (such as additional identifiers) from Wikidata
- **2022** – automated updates to Wikidata items which contain an ORCID and/or an ISNI identifier that librarians manually add to authority records

6th milestone – Publishing the first open data sets

- **2022** – the National Library started to publish databases as open data under a **CC0 public license**
- **15** datasets were published (After a series of negotiations with our founder (Ministry of Culture) and other ministries, we have come to the conclusion that we can expose the databases of the NL CR as open data with the permission of our founder)
- it was possible thanks to the cooperation with Wikimedia, which was particularly helpful in the legal aspects of open data

7th milestone – Signing a memorandum of collaboration

- **2023** – a memorandum of collaboration between the National Library and Wikimedia Czech Republic was signed by Tomas Foltyn, Director General of the National Library, and Klara Joklova, Executive Director of Wikimedia Czech Republic



Sekerak, R.: Photo from Opening ceremony of the Wikimedia Europe General Assembly in Prague

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8th milestone – Launching the Wikimedians in Residence Programme

- **2023** – a kick-off of the National Library's Wikimedians in Residence programme
- it started with **2** librarians involved, now we have a team of five
- active Wikimedians have opportunity to obtain free membership to the National Library and their electronic and digital collections

Wikipedie:Wikiknihovna

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[Čist](#) [Editovat](#) [Editovat zdroj](#) [Zobrazit historii](#) |



WIKIKNIHOVNA

Wikiknihovna je projekt založený spolkem [Wikimedia Česká republika](#) s cílem nabídnout aktivním editorům možnost bezplatné registrace v českých knihovnách, a tím jim usnadnit práci se zdroji.

Pro projekt je využívána mezinárodní platforma [The Wikipedia Library](#).



A questionnaire survey

- May 2024
- **26** people who have been involved in the collaboration were asked to participate
- **15** (approx. 58 %) filled in the questionnaire
- **8** respondents: National Library's employees
- **5** respondents: Wikimedia Czech Republic's employees
- **4** respondents: members of Wikimedia Czech Republic
- **2** respondents: other roles
- Overall, **4** respondents out of **15** have indicated two roles in their answers



Key questions from the survey

- What do you consider the key prerequisites for a successful collaboration between the National Library of the Czech Republic and Wikimedia projects?
- Which major benefits from this collaboration can you identify?
- In which directions could this collaboration further develop in the future?

- How would you describe your role in the collaboration between the National Library of the Czech Republic and Wikimedia projects?
- Can you detail which activities you primarily focus on?



Which factors have played a key role in the collaboration?

Six broad categories:

- People
- Shared interests and motivations
- Support from the management
- Data
- Legal framework
- Wikimedians in Residence programme



Sample quotes

Q: What do you consider the key prerequisites for a successful collaboration between the National Library of the Czech Republic and Wikimedia projects?

A: *People; without them (especially from the National Library but also from the Wikimedia projects) there would be no collaboration.*

A: *Interest, willingness and finding enough time to collaborate.*

A: *Active involvement of both parties.*



How exactly are people from Wikimedia Czech Republic and the National Library's employees involved?

Seven clusters of types of involvement:

- Advisor and liaison officer
- Coordinator
- PR role
- Wikimedian in Residence
- Training courses organizer
- Developer
- Authority data supervisor



Sample quotes

Q: How exactly are people from Wikimedia Czech Republic and the National Library's employees involved?

A: *I consider my role as being primarily advisory and providing technology expertise, with the main task to make connections between the parties and show opportunities.*

A: *As part of our reference service we often search for information and their resources, so it is especially adding verified information and citations to Wikipedia.*

A: *Participating on learning opportunities (and extending these) for Wikimedians in Residence and librarians in general. Making connections and finding gaps to be filled.*



Library Data in Wikimedia Projects – future

Ideas from the survey:

- keep opening up the National Library's data so that they are available not only through the online catalogs
- preparing more data from the Czech National Bibliography for their import to Wikidata
- developing procedures which would ultimately lead to a more systematic linking between the digital libraries and Wikipedia
- updating previously imported data where applicable
- looking for examples of real-life data reuse



Library Data in Wikimedia Projects – future

Ideas from the survey (continued):

- creating new applications which would enable to present the data in new contexts;
- keep promoting the collaboration so that other libraries (especially those which produce databases containing information about people from their respective region) also start contributing to Wikidata or develop other types of collaborations with Wikimedia projects such as running editatons;
- using Wikibase, a MediaWiki extension which powers the Wikidata, for some of the National Library's databases;
- further enhancing the way we share updates among ourselves.



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National Library and Wikimedia Czech Republic

- **A very good and long and successful cooperation**
- **Collaboration and use of library data is mostly based on the enthusiasm of a few individuals, both at the National Library and Wikimedia Czech Republic, and with the support of the National Library leadership and Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic**