Sustainable community building with the Wikibase Stakeholder Group

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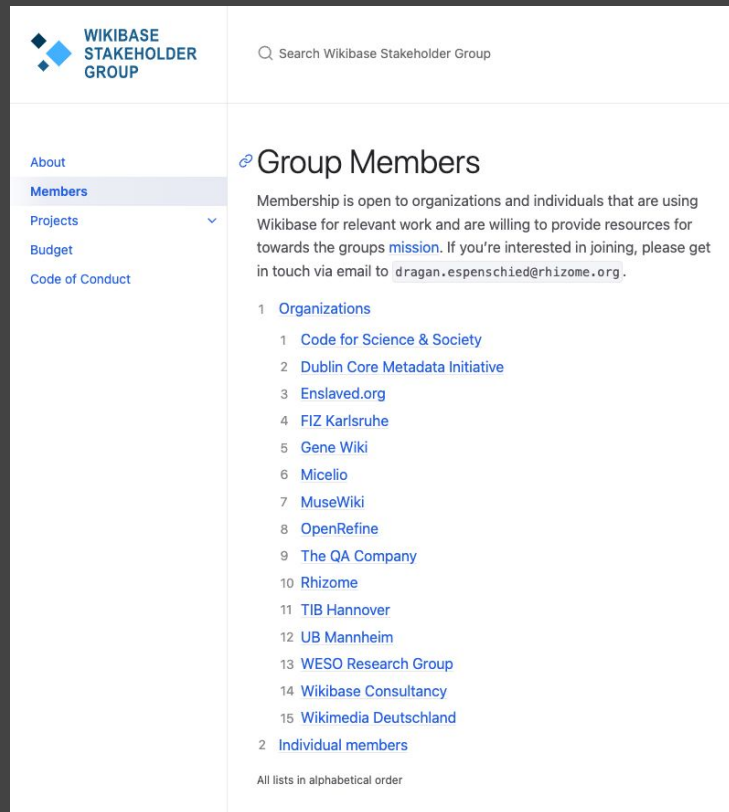
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What is Wikibase and who are the stakeholders?

- Wikibase is a free and open-source collection of applications and Mediawiki extensions for creating, managing and sharing structured data (maintained by Wikimedia Germany).

- It is the system used for running Wikidata.

- Can be deployed as a separate instance independent of Wikidata and offers RDF/SPARQL interfaces for federation.

- Used by research and cultural institutions to structure original research, cultural collections and more.

Structure of this talk:

- We will introduce our approach to community building in OSS communities by answering a set of questions put together by Greg Bloom in *The Principles of Governing Open Source Commons*, a living document about the design of sustainable open source communities. These are questions meant to be asked frequently (QAF) within OSS communities and are inspired by *Fabriders' QAF* and the *Governing Knowledge Commons' research framework*.

What is the purpose of this community? What principles guide our community? What are our values? What are our assumptions?

- Excerpt from our Mission statement:

  The Wikibase Stakeholder Group commissions production and maintenance of open source extensions to Wikibase, and documentation for institutions that want to operate and maintain a fully-fledged instance of Wikibase.

  The group plans on producing software and documentation that will empower the use of Wikibase for new use-cases and in new settings. Its focus is not on a single domain such as science, humanities, or GLAM, but rather on identifying projects that will benefit as many stakeholders as possible.

What is the history of how this community came to be?

Project page   Discussion   Read   Edit   View history   Search Wikidata

WIKIDATA

Wikidata:WikiProject Wikidata for research/Meetups/2018-09-19-21-New-York

< Wikidata:WikiProject Wikidata for research | Meetups

The **Wikibase Summit New York** was the third workshop on **using Wikibase outside – but with close integration with – the Wikimedia ecosystem.** The previous editions were in Antwerp (April 2018) and Berlin. In Antwerp and Berlin the focus was respectively on infrastructure and modelling. The workshop in New York continued efforts on both topics, and also focused on UX and interfacing to a federated landscape of Wikibases.

- Category on Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Wikibase_Summit_New_York_September_2018
- Social media hashtag: #WikibaseNYC
- Phabricator board for tasks created: https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/tag/federated-wikibase-workshops_newyork-2018/

Hell, Yes! (Ugo Rondinone, on the facade of the New Museum)

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Who should be welcome in this community? What should be the criteria for membership? What are they key roles in this community?

- Membership is open to organizations and individuals that are using Wikibase for relevant work and are willing to provide resources towards the group's mission.

- Members are expected to already be active users or developers of Wikibase; there are other community groups that provide support for newcomers to the software ecosystem. Members are also expected to be active in meetings, asynchronous discussions and decision-making.

- There are clearly defined roles for who maintains shared online resources like the group website, mailing list and social media; beyond that we operate on a consensus-based model.

What are the resources we are stewarding? Why are these resources valuable, and under what circumstances? How are these resources produced and maintained? What skills and tools do we need to create, maintain, and use these resources? What challenges do our members face in producing and/or using the resources? How will we educate members of our community about the nature of these resources — their challenges and benefits?

Under what circumstances should which people be able to produce and/or use these resources? How might people who are not members of our community relate to and interact with these resources, if at all? In what way, if at all, should we govern such interactions?

- Resource production still requires additional developer capacity to be built up within the community and broader Wikimedia ecosystem.

- Resource (re)use will be open to all (members or not), based on our open licensing policy.
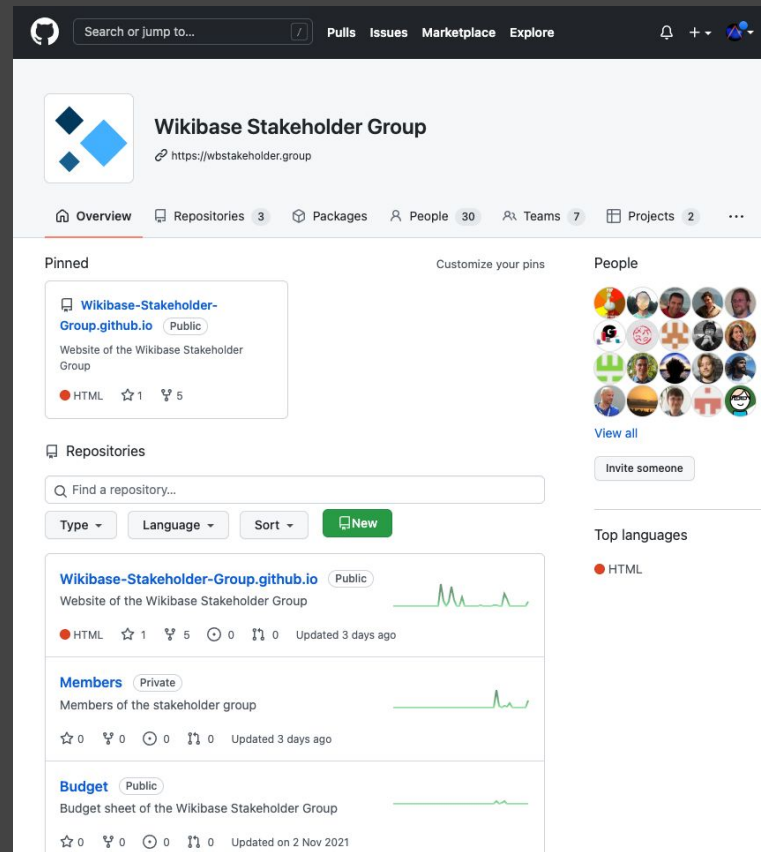
How will we identify, engage with, and resolve conflicts? How will we deal with members of our community that have acted at odds with our principles and violated our trust?

- Early on we established a Code of Conduct, which was adapted from [Geek Feminism's CC0 template](#).

- We have not had to implement any conflict-resolution measures yet, but when such cases arise, we are fortunate to have the expertise of [Code for Science & Society](#) (who are also a member of our community), as stewards of various OSS projects they have built up knowledge and experience in this area.
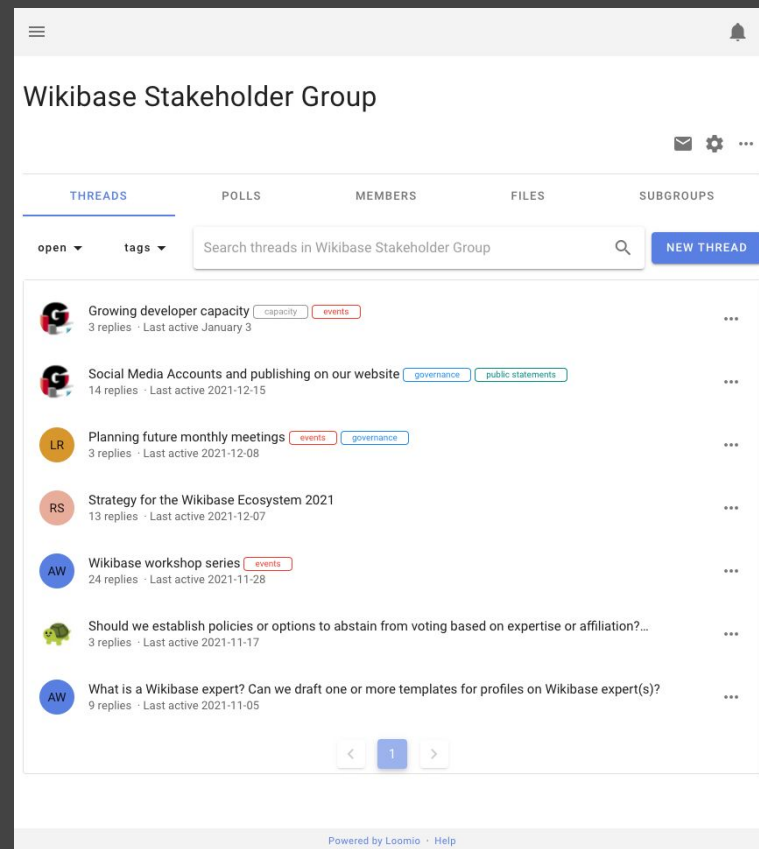
Where should this community gather to discuss this work? Where do we document our work?

- Monthly online meetings.

- A public HedgeDoc instance for note-taking during meetings.

- A GitHub organization for code repositories and project management.

- A Loomio instance for asynchronous discussion.

Who should make what decisions? How do we decide who should make what decisions? How will such decisions be communicated? How will the decisions be enforced?

- Consensus-based public discussions and polls on our Loomio instance.

Projects to date

- Setting up organizational infrastructure (with support from Rhizome).

- Two data type extensions commissioned and produced by group members.

- Requirements gathering and publication of an open letter of priorities to Wikimedia Germany.

- Roadmapping in progress.

- New extension in process of commissioning.

- Workshops planning for 2022 – primary aim to build developer capacity.

Helpful resources

- [The Digital Infrastructure Incubator](#) at Code for Science & Society: [event series](#) and [newsletter](#)

- [Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement (CSCCE) training modules and events](#)

- [GSCCE's resource list related to community governance](#)

- [CommunityRule toolkit](#)

- Greg Bloom's [Principles of Governing Open Source Commons](#)

Thank you!

More information:
https://wbstakeholder.group/

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