Digital Humanities 2023, Graz

Connecting Places in World Historical Gazetteer

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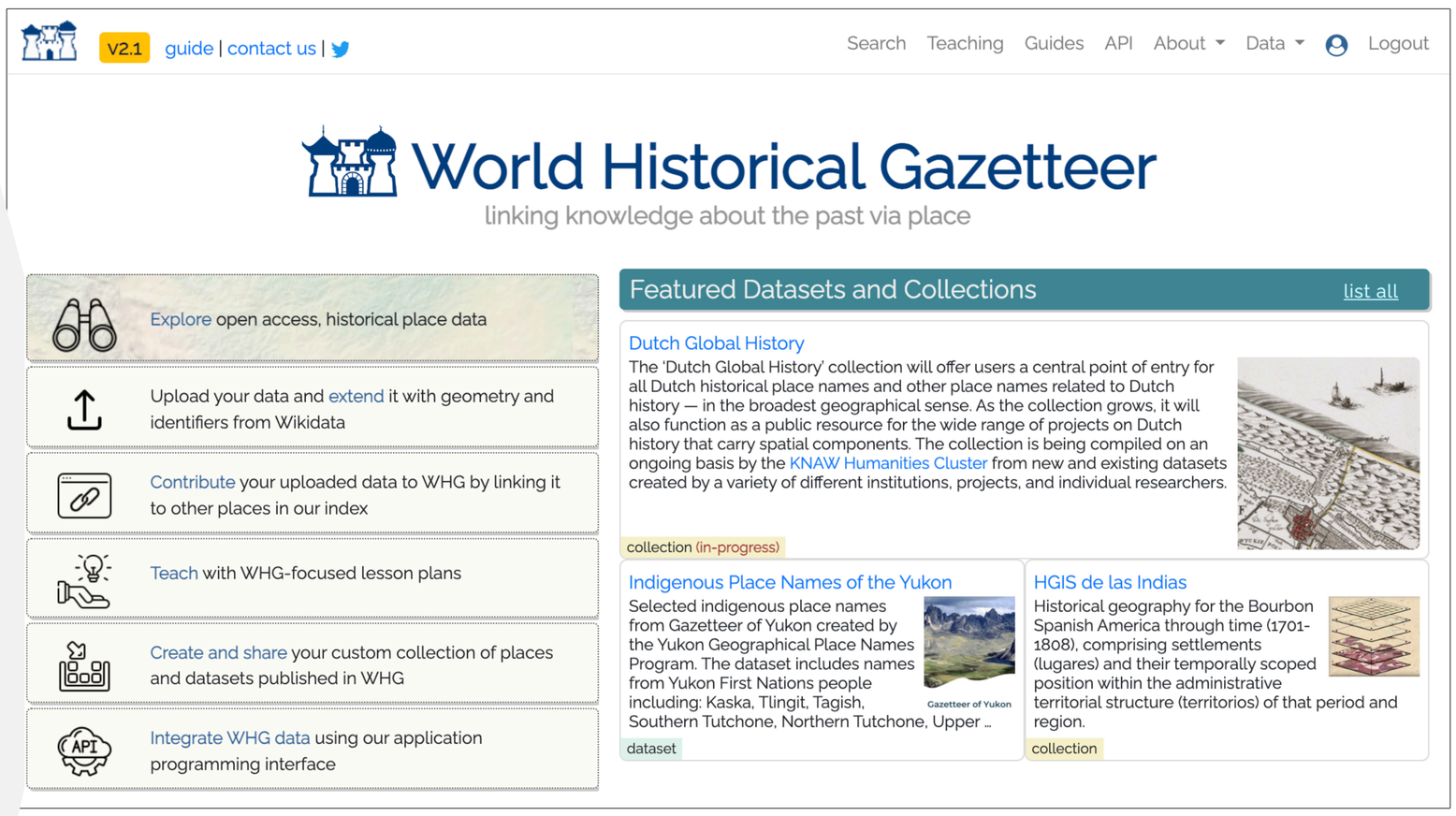
The World Historical Gazetteer is a web-based platform with features, tools, and content for linking knowledge about the past via place. Its global coverage makes it a valuable esource for conducting world historical reasoning and teaching.



Public Datasets (partial)

Chinese Towns, 1911 (40,117)
Poland Localities in the 16c (24,498)
Pleiades (partial) (20,365)
HGIS de las Indias lugares (13,258)
DK Atlas of World History (10,643)
Old World Trade (4,117)
Euratlas Cities (3,584)
D-PLACE Societies (1,428)
Cyprus Settlements, 11th mil. BCE-19c (1,376)
Atlas of Mutual Heritage (1,322)
HGIS de las Indias territorios (892)
An Historical Atlas of Central Asia (759)
China Prefectures, 1911 (381)
African Ports, 1887 (305)

List of Russian towns, late 14c (282)
Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order (181)
Mosul Dam archaeological sites (149)
Indigenous Place Names of Florida (100)
Indigenous Place Names of the Yukon (100)
Geographic Names of Antarctica (63)
Pre-Colonial African Subregions (34)
Curaçao Administrative Areas (29)

Getty TGN (global; partial) (1.8 million)
GeoNames Cities (926)
Ecoregions (TNC) (814); Watersheds (226);
Mountain Ranges (217); Lakes (WRI) (1491)
Global Rivers (982)

Currently in queue (partial)

al-Thurayya; 11c Islam (2241)
Trismegistos (23,177)
Digging into Early Colonial Mexico (~3500)
Taiwan Historical GIS (~800)
KIMA Hebrew Gazetteer (27,239)
Ottoman Empire Cities, 1500-1550 (510)
Enslaved (places in lives; ~8,000)
Viabundus (N. Europe, 1350-1650 ; 10,393)
Ukrainian settlements, 17c (3007)
Settlements of Crimea, 1450-1800 (~100)
Euratlas sovereign states, 0-2000 (~500)
Seshat global polities (~600)

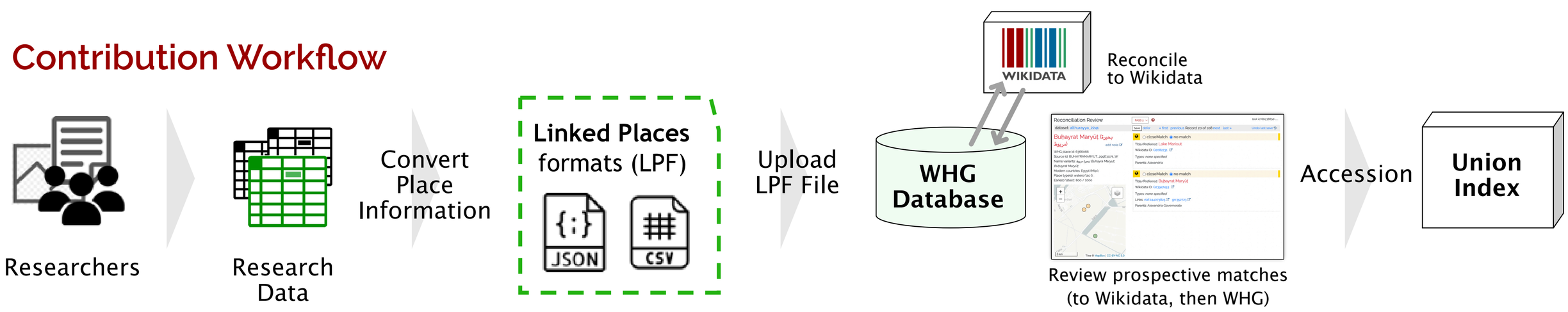
Pitt World History Center
National Endowment for the Humanities
KNAW Humanities Cluster
Asian Studies Center
Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
DH Awards 2021 Winner: Best DH tool or suite of tools
Pelagios network partner

The World Historical Gazetteer project (WHG), was initiated in 2017, with significant funding provided by two **US National Endowment for the Humanities** grants.

It has also been supported by the University of Pittsburgh's **World History Center**, the Royal Dutch Academies' **KNAW Humanities Cluster**, and multiple International Studies centers at Pitt.

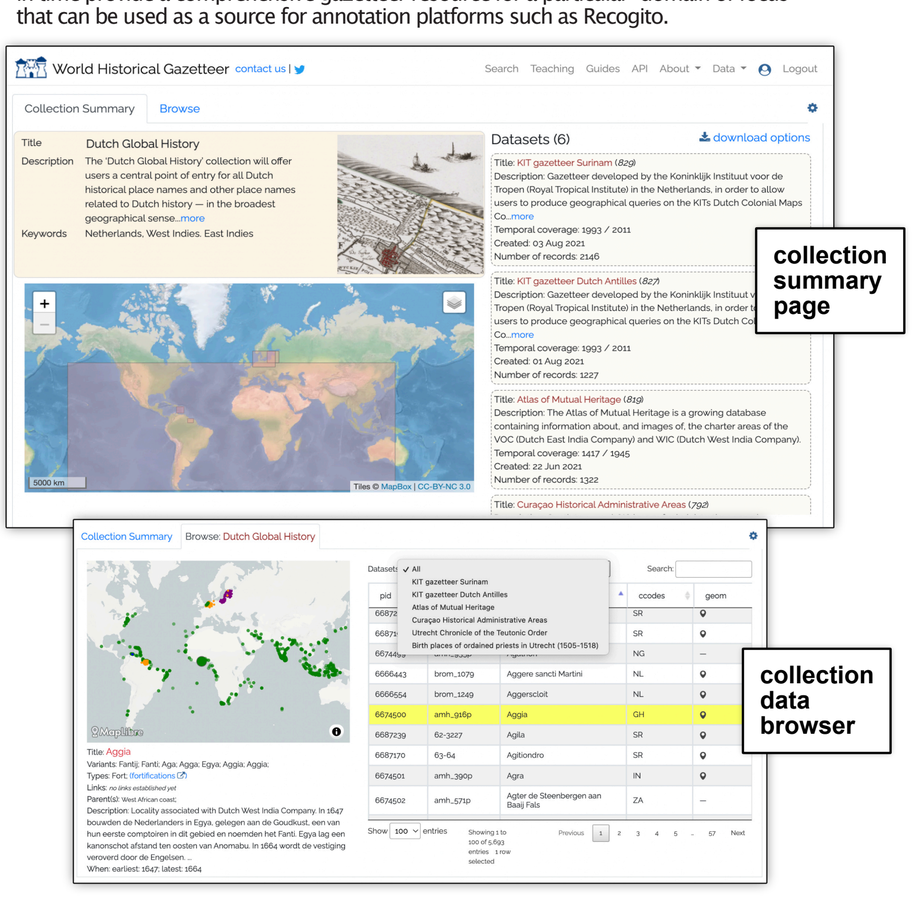
Version 3 is scheduled for release in early 2024.

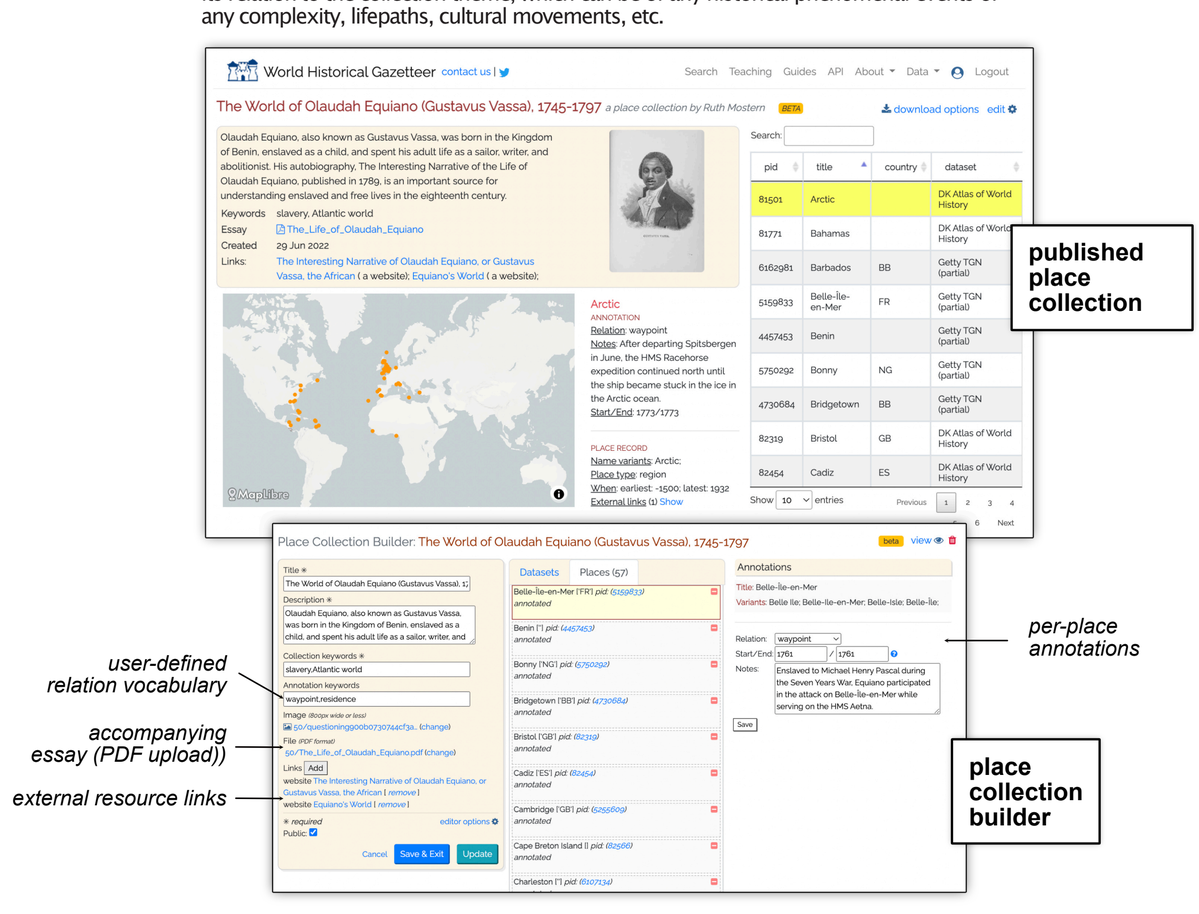
Contribution Workflow



Dataset Collections

Dataset collections in WHG are sets of contributed datasets that have been flagged as "public." The Dutch Global History collection pictured here is a work in progress that will in time provide a comprehensive gazetteer resource for a particular "domain of focus" that can be used as a source for annotation platforms such as Recogito.



Place Collections

Place collections in WHG can include individual place records drawn from any public dataset in the system, as well as entire datasets. Each record can be annotated to explain its relation to the collection theme, which can be of any historical phenomena: events of any complexity, lifepaths, cultural movements, etc.