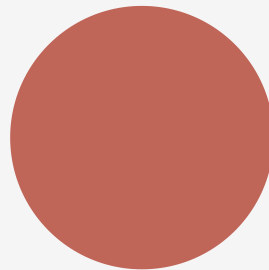# Metadata Learning and Unlearning Summit

September 19, 2024

Clockwise from top left: Frederic Edwin, Folio from a Qur'an manuscript, Arlésiennes Mistral

CURATIONIST

Agenda

Introductions

Intro to Curationist

Presentation of our research into Wikidata and

Wikibase

Responses from the panel

Q&A with the audience

Wrap-up and closing remarks

Stage Design, Palace Courtyard

About Curationist

Curationist is a free tool that makes millions of digital images of artworks and artifacts from around the world easy to access. We connect curious minds to the history, stories, and ideas that these works inspire.

Our vision is to bring together arts and culture communities to find, share, and work together to reimagine cultural narratives.
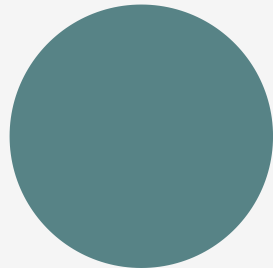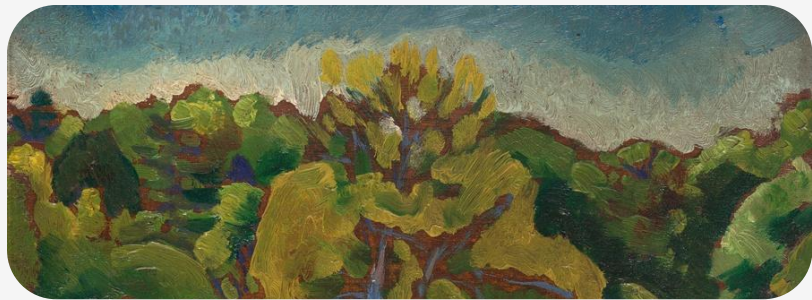
Clockwise from top: *Landscape*, Morton Livingston Schamberg; *Church in Barranquilla, Colombia*, Frederic Edwin Church; *African Venus,* Charles-Henri-Joseph Cordier.

Wikidata Integration Research

Sharon Mizota and Jessica Gengler

Princesses Gather at a Fountain, ca. 1770 Source: The Metropolitain Museum of Art

CURATIONIST

Wikidata Integration Research

INTRODUCTION

- Should Curationist migrate its metadata to a new schema based on Wikidata Properties?

- Should Curationist implement Wikibase as a repository for managing its descriptive terminology?

METHODOLOGIES

- Literature Review

- Data Models & Mapping

- Interviews & Consultations
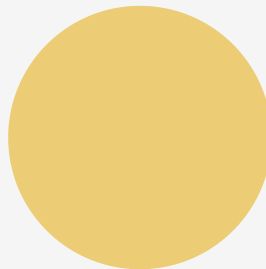
CURATIONIST

Wikidata Properties

Background

Findings
- Existing Data Models
- Mapping
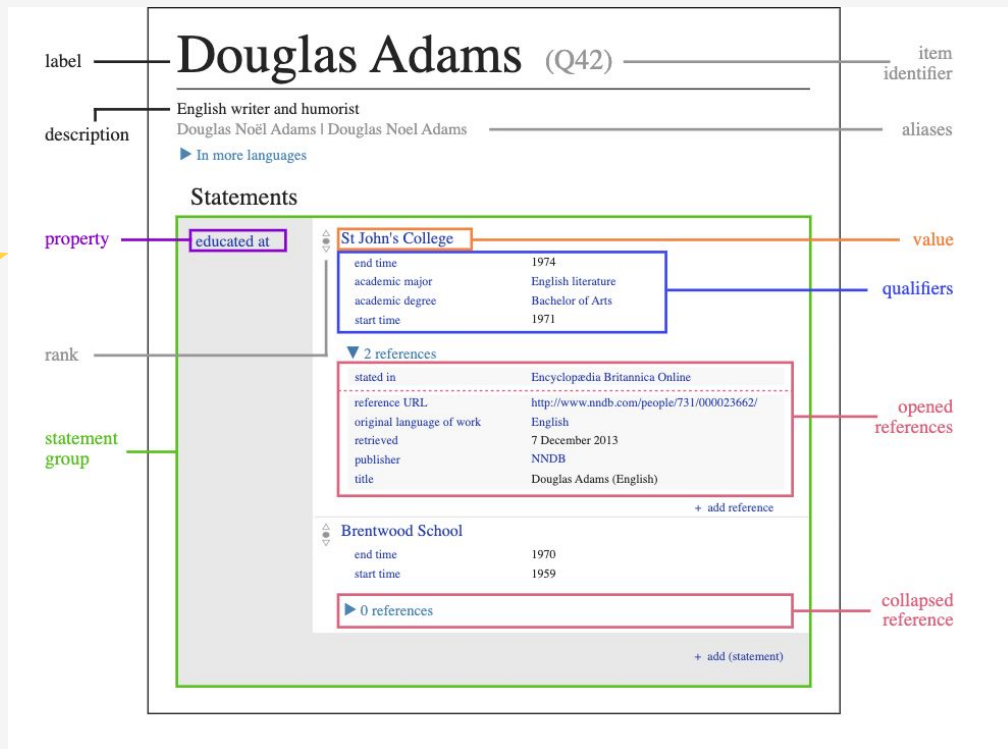- Project Review
- Interviews

Preliminary Conclusions

Outcomes from this research will appear on Curationist.org

From top: Bottle with a Marbled Pattern, Unknown; Market Day Outside the Walls of Tangiers, Morocco, Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Anatomy of a Wikidata Page

label — Douglas Adams (Q42) — item identifier

English writer and humorist
description — Douglas Noël Adams | Douglas Noel Adams — aliases
▶ In more languages

Statements

property — educated at — St John's College — value

end time	1974
academic major	English literature
academic degree	Bachelor of Arts
start time	1971

qualifiers

rank

▼ 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)

opened references

statement group

+ add reference

Brentwood School

end time	1970
start time	1959

▶ 0 references — collapsed reference

+ add (statement)

CURATIONIST

Background

SOURCE INSTITUTION	ELEMENTS THAT CORRESPOND TO VRA CORE 4 "DATE"
Art Institute of Chicago	date_display date_start date_end
Brooklyn Museum	object_date object_date_begin object_date_end period dynasty
Cleveland Museum of Art	creation_date creation_date_earliest creation_date_latest
Metropolitan Museum of Art	objectDate objectBeginDate objectEndDate
National Gallery of Art	displaydate beginyear endyear visualbrowsertimespan

Background

SOURCE INSTITUTION	ELEMENTS THAT CORRESPOND TO VRA CORE 4 "DATE"
Rijksmuseum	earliestDate latestDate periodName
Smithsonian	date
Statens Museum for Kunst	production_date/start production_date/end production_date/period
Walters Museum of Art	DateBeginYear DateEndYear DateText Period Reign Dynasty

CURATIONIST

![CURATIONIST logo]

Review of Data Models

[WikiProject Collection data from Wikidata to Finna](#)

[IDEA, International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive (4 schemas)](#)

[Sum of all paintings](#)

[WikiCommons Artwork Template](#)

[WikiProject Media Art](#)
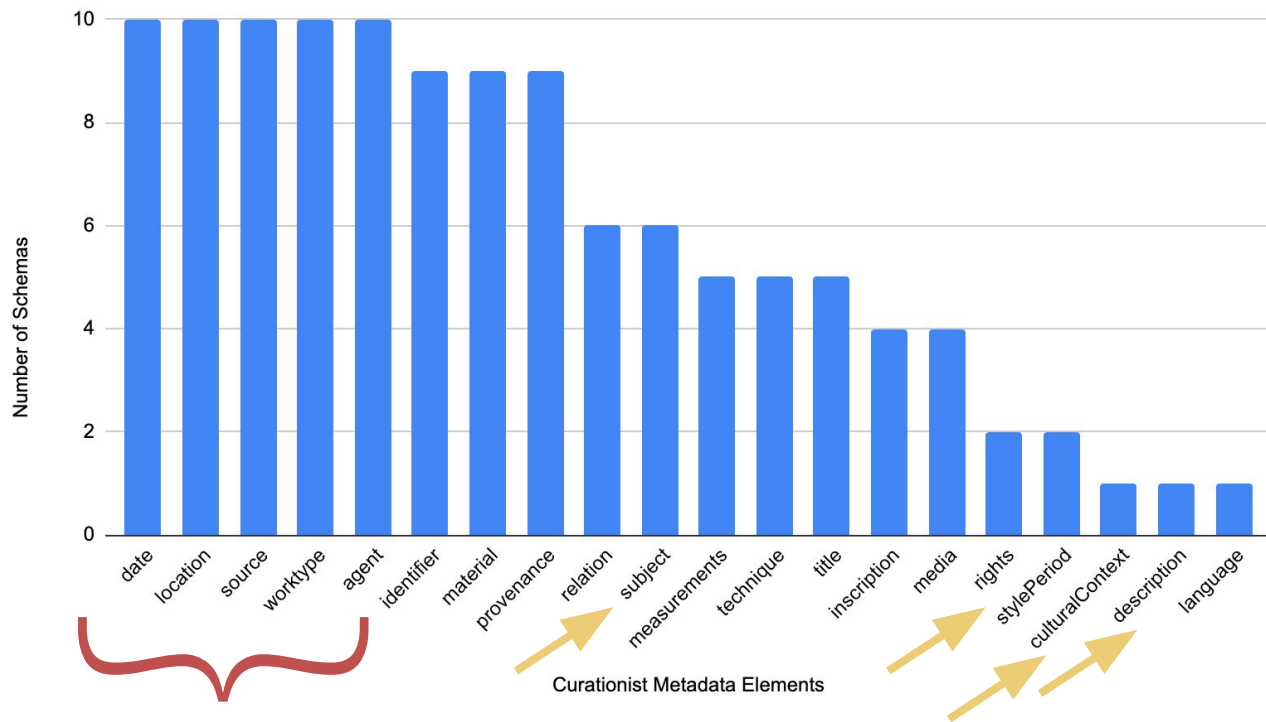
[WikiProject Provenance](#)

[WikiProject Public Art](#)

[WikiProject Textile Arts](#)

[WikiProject Visual Arts](#)

Baldwin Calculating Engine, Frank S Baldwin

Representation of Curationist Elements Across 13 Wiki Schemas

Curationist Metadata Elements

CURATIONIST

Wikidata Properties make sense… in Wikidata

Odd-sounding:

"inception" (P571): used for "start date" or "creation date," or **"date of birth" (P569)** for people

"instance of" (P31): which is widely used for "worktype," "object type," or "classification"

Overlapping:

"creator" (P170) and **"author" (P50)**

"based on" (P144) and **"inspired by" (P941)**

"depicts" (P180)" and **"main subject" (P921)**

Mapping to the Curationist Schema

45% of Curationist data elements represented

View the mapping attempt

Element	XML subelement	XML attribute	Secondary XML attribute	Wikidata Property	"P" number	Data Type Accepted by Wikidata
type						
identifier				inventory number	P217	String
		type				
		href		inventory number/reference URL	P854	URL
title				title	P1476	Monolingual text (string that is not translated)
		author				
		source				
		xml:lang		title/language of work or name	P407	Item (link to a Wikidata Item)
		pref				
		refid		title/stated in	P248	Item (link to a Wikidata Item)
			href	title/reference URL	P854	URL
		SEO				
agent				creator	P170	Item (link to a Wikidata Item)
		author				
		source				
		xml:lang				

CURATIONIST

Mapping to the Curationist Schema

45% of Curationist data elements represented

View the mapping attempt

Wikidata data types
Description element

Measurements
Copyright
Provenance
Display preference
Tracking contributors
Language
Image

CURATIONIST

Review of Projects

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Selected subset of collection data shared "one way"

Multi-step, Highly Technical Process

Mappings Are Still Manual

Swedish National Heritage Board

Three pilot projects in data "roundtripping"

Wikidata vs. Wikimedia Commons

Upload debt

Biggest barriers: Technical staffing, money, and incompatible tech

Collection Data From Wikidata to Finna

Data "roundtripping" from small museums to an aggregator

Mapping, Not Migrating

Use Existing Tools

Omeka vs. Wikimedia Commons

CURATIONIST

Interviews

Wikidata & Commons as a bridge is a good idea, with reservations

Only a subset of data compatible with Wikidata

Not a long-term solution for digital storage

Significant technical hurdles, requiring the skills of an experienced Wikimedia engineer

EVELIN HEIDEL
Program Director, Wikimedistas de Uruguay and Curationist Board Member

VIRGINIA POUNDSTONE
Senior Product Manager, Wikimedia Foundation

PRELIMINARY

Conclusions + Recommendation

Wikidata & Curationist Are Different Types of Repositories

Data Incompatibilities

Sharing with Wikidata is Complex

Wikidata/Wikimedia Commons Could Be a Waystation

We do not recommend migrating Curationist's metadata to a new schema based on Wikidata Properties.

Outcomes from this research will appear on Curationist.org

CURATIONIST
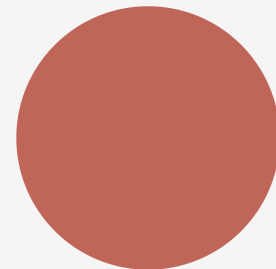
Wikibase for Controlled Vocabulary

Background

Findings
- ○ Project Examples: Other Wikibases
- ○ Use Cases for Institutional Wikibase Instances
- ○ Relevant Projects and Tools
- ○ Interviews
- ○ Technical Considerations

Preliminary Conclusions

Outcomes from this research will appear on Curationist.org

From top: Bottle with a Marbled Pattern, Unknown; Market Day Outside the Walls of Tangiers, Morocco, Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Background

	A	B	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1		COLOR KEY									
2	Curationist URL	identifier/href*	agent/role/ratingValue	agent/notes	agent/notes/ratingValue	culturalContext	cultural Context/pref	location	location/type	language	stylePeriod
3	https://www.curationist.org/works/work-cmoa-1921.349	https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1921.349				Japanese	☐	Japan	creation	Japanese	Ukiyo-e

Curationist Taxonomy

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Terms in this tab may also be used as Subjects.											
2	**Approved**	**Guide Terms (DO NOT USE)**	**Guide Terms (DO NOT USE)**	**Terms**						**Synonyms**	**Related Terms**	**Curationist Context**
3	**Y=Yes; N=Do not use**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**	**Level 6**			**Curationist Sc**
46	Y			Art							Photograph	
47	Y				Altarpiece							
48	Y				Art glass						Glassware	
49	Y				Body art							
50	Y					Tattoo						
51	Y				Ceramics						Pottery	
52	Y				Collage							
53	Y				Decorative arts							
54	Y					Bead						
55	Y						Netsuke					
56	Y						Ojime					
57	Y					Découpage						
58	Y					Doily						
59	Y					Lacquerware						
60	Y					Ornament						
61	Y						Christmas ornament					
62	Y				Textile art							

CURATIONIST

Other Wikibases

Rhizome ArtBase

Uses Wikibase as its LOD database software

Data stored in RDF; semantic triples

SPARQL endpoint with a graphical user interface for querying RDF data

No faceted searching

SPARQL learning curve

Smithsonian Institution

PCC Wikidata Pilot Project

Wikibase for managing name data across various units

Only accessible to Smithsonian staff

Challenges: labor-intensive and name ambiguity

Luxembourg Ministry of Culture

Eight GLAM institutions sharing authority information

Authorities mapped to the CIDOC-CRM ontology, validated with Shape Expressions (ShEx)

Difficulty mapping from CIDOC-CRM to Wikibase data model

OCLC National Libraries

Collaboration with sixteen member libraries

Wikibase for managing library metadata as linked

Custom features: auto-suggest, SPARQL query service, Explorer UI

Need for interoperability between Wikidata and other Wikibase instances

CURATIONIST

Use Cases for Institutional Wikibase Instances

Entities that do not meet Wikidata's criteria for notability and identification

Use of locally preferred labels

Cross-platform discovery within a single institution

Multilingual discovery

Publish local thesauri and authorities for external use

Pipeline to Wikidata and broader web discovery

The Bodhisattva Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future

Relevant Projects and Tools

[Federated properties](#)

[WikibaseSync](#)

CURATIONIST

Interviews

ALLISON SHERRICK AND DIEGO PINO
Digital Culture of Metropolitan New York (DCMNY)

MITCHELL PARSONS
Curationist Developer

EVELIN HEIDEL
Program Director, Wikimedistas de Uruguay
and Curationist Board Member

Curationist Archivist Perspectives

Work details

"--" = no data available

⬚ = Curationist added metadata (Learn more)

Title	**Creator**	**Worktype**
Pastime in Portugal or a Visit to the Nunnerys	⬚ Thomas Rowlandson	Prints
	Thomas Rowlandson, British, London 1757–1827 ⊕	
Cultural Context	**Material**	**Dimensions**
⬚ British; Christian	Hand-colored etching	Sheet: 9 9/16 × 13 9/16 in. (24.3 × 34.5 cm); ⊕
Technique	**Language**	**Date**
--	--	⬚ Georgian Era
		April 1, 1811
Provenance	**Style Period**	**Rights**
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1959	--	⬚ Public Domain
		Public Domain
Inscription	**Location**	**Source**
--	--	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Subjects	**Topic**	**Curationist Metadata Contributors**
⬚ Caricature; Military personnel; Weapon; Nun; Crucifix; Convent; Grille; Man; Woman; Sale	⬚ Carceral Architecture	⬚ Amanda Acosta
Satire; Men; Women		

Example of a Works page with Curationist metadata layers added.

CURATIONIST

Technical Considerations

- Requires a server with compatible hardware and software installed

- More flexibility; more technical expertise and maintenance required

- Hosted by Wikimedia.de

- Complete installation of Wikibase

- No server maintenance or installation required

- 3rd party software support?

- Legal consultation for imprint?

CURATIONIST

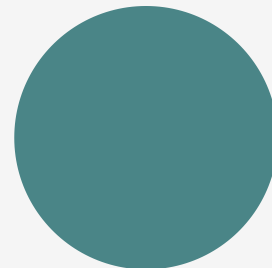# Conclusions + Recommendation

Direct connection to Wikidata - seems expeditious but requires more work

Wikibase offers flexibility with terminology and hierarchy - requires regular synching with Wikidata

We are uncertain!

Outcomes from this research will appear on Curationist.org

Clockwise from top: *Memorial Miniature,* Unknown; Snuffbox, Unknown

CURATIONIST

Preliminary Overall Recommendations

Wikidata Properties as a schema:

No.

Wikibase for controlled vocabularies:

Yes, with reservations.

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?
amanda@curationist.org

Blue Trees, 1915-1916, H. Lyman Saÿen, Smithsonian American Art Museum