



Local heritage promotion through Wikidata & light apps

Wikidata and Wikibase: session 1

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Local communities are proud of their culture and history

Every town/region has dozens of items in the streets (artworks or not) representing its history

- > Statues, old buildings, bridges... but also
- > castles, vineyards, gardens...

We all want to preserve our cultural heritage

Artworks may be lovely, but the origin and the history are the most relevant part... **unknown to most of visitors.**

Archives help, but also the local experts



'De Koeieschieter' ('Cow Shooter')
A story from 1691 that explains why Leuven's people were nicknamed koeschieters or cow-shooters.

Objective: Local Heritage App

Objective: tool and methodology to generate apps and services for European towns promoting their local art, culture, history, or whatever...

Open (Linked) Data + Open Source + Crowdsourced + Sustainable

No-code: no development, just configuration (minimum IT skills required)

No-cost: design based on public resources

Community-driven: updates by the community

No maintenance costs (minimum moderation by volunteers/experts)

One app ≈ one-day effort (any citizen can launch a project)

Templates to replicate the app in other scenarios/places



Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Local heritage promotion through Wikidata & light apps

Brussels' Comic Book Route

Since the early 90s, Brussels pays tribute to **characters and authors** of the Franco-Belgian comics on the walls in the city center

Objective:

- > Discover paintings around you in Brussels
- > Quick, simple and ready to test

Context

- > Brussels' open data initiative (https://opendata.brussels.be)
- > Methodology and templates ready to use



The Methodology

```
Step 1: clone & configure the project
```

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

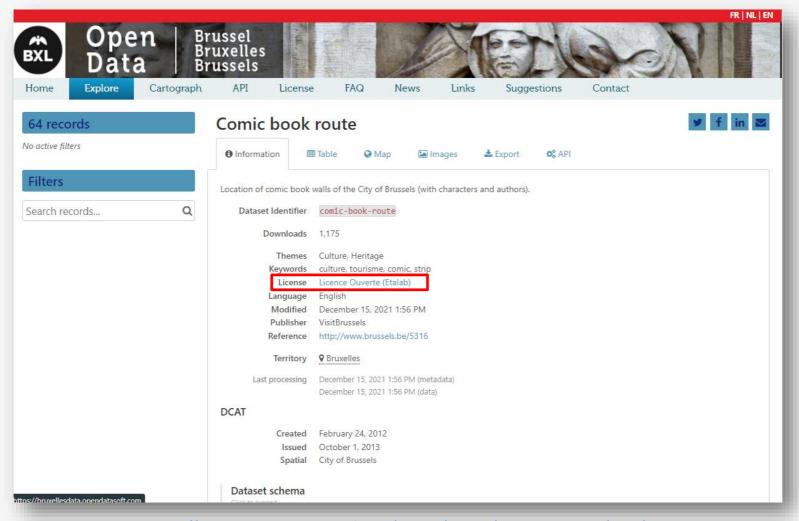
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

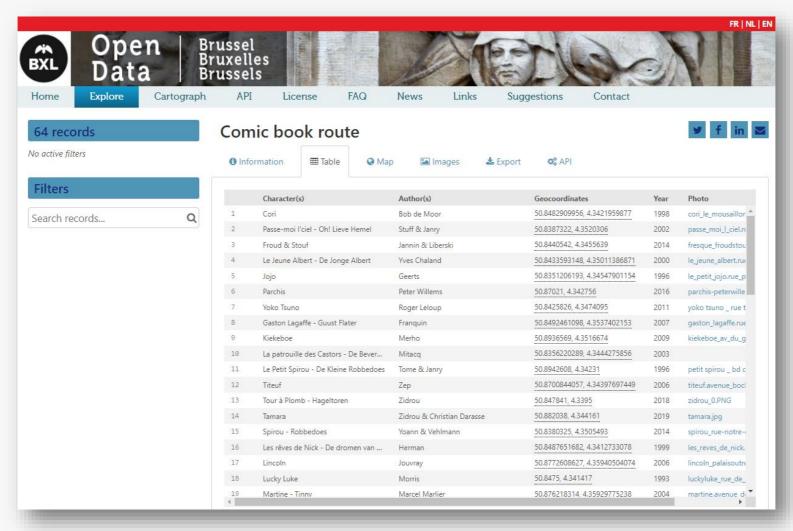
https://ow2-quick-app-initiative.github.io/poi-quick-app/

Brussels Open Data provides a dataset



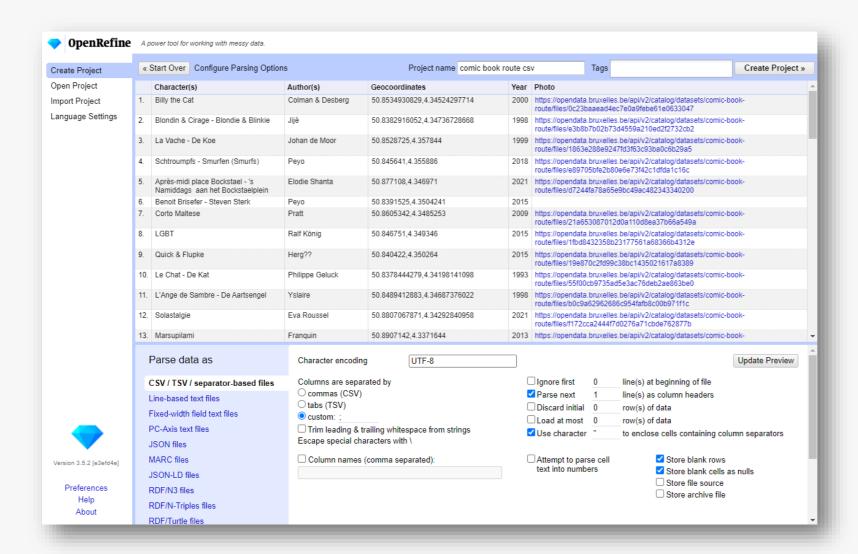
https://bruxellesdata.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/comic-book-route/table/

... in open format (CSV), by the way 🙂



https://bruxellesdata.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/comic-book-route/table/

We need to refine the data

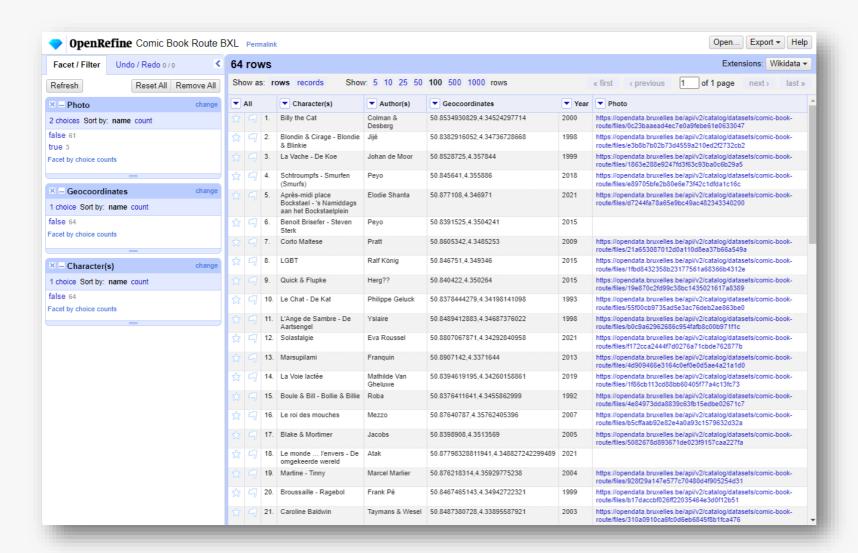


Adaptation to our templates

Using own scripts or Open Refine

https://openrefine.org

High-quality dataset with 64 Points of Interest

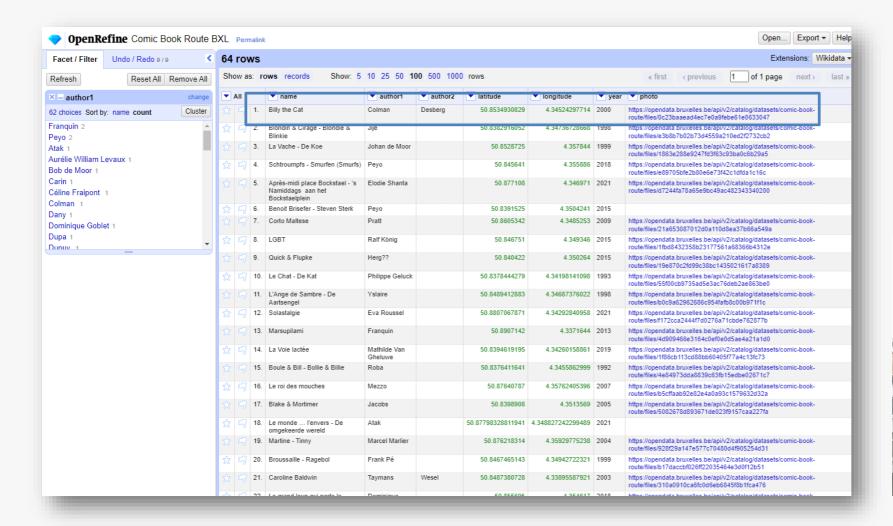


All had name, and coordinates **→**

Data cleansing:

- split coordinate components
- split authors

Okay... but...

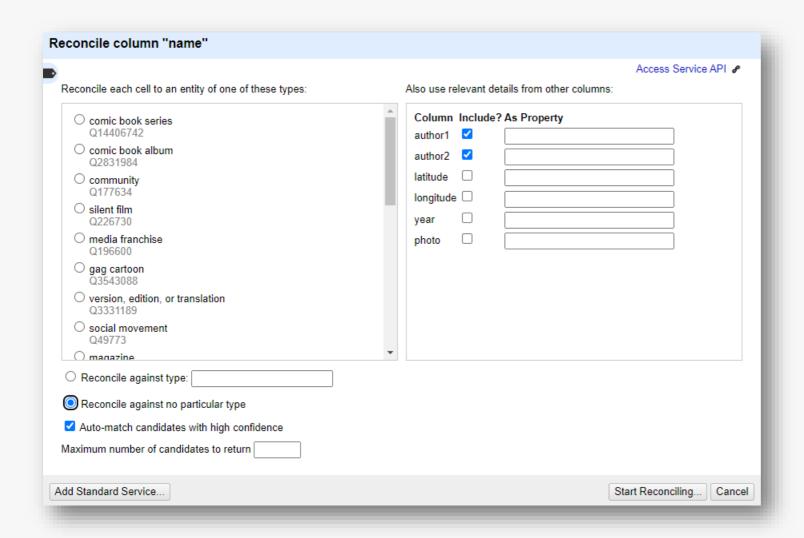


Who is *Billy the Cat*? ...and *Colman*? ...and *Desberg*?



https://www.parcoursbd.brussels/en/fresques/billy-the-cat/

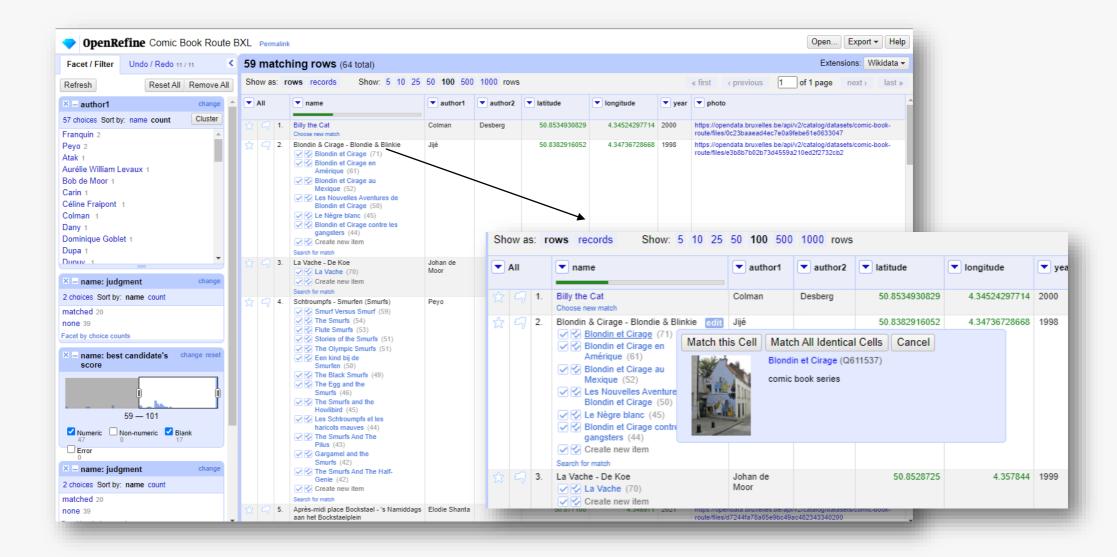
Looking for the semantics



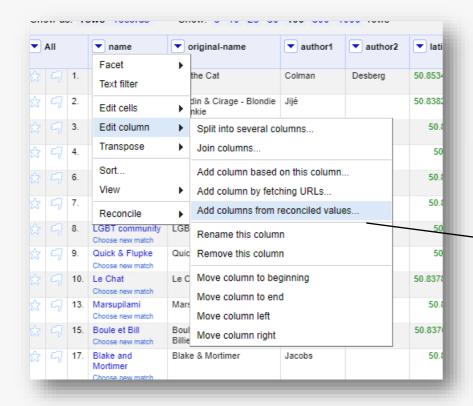
Reconciliation of painting title to external semantic entities (Wikidata)

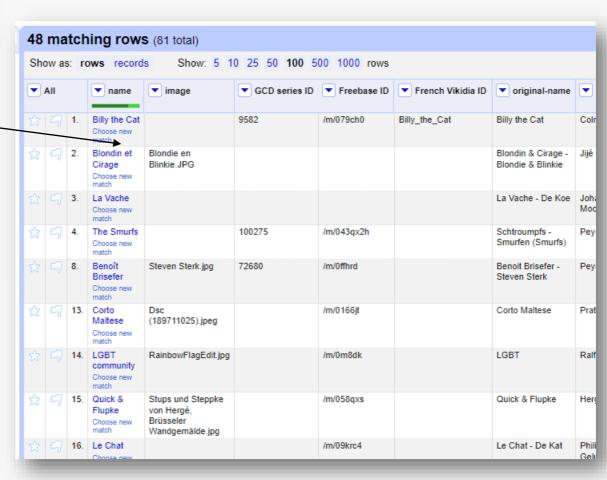
We could use official (trusted) endpoints

Some perfect, and close semantic matches

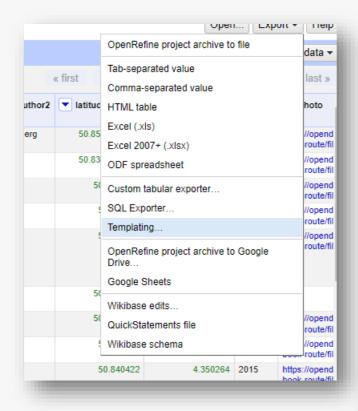


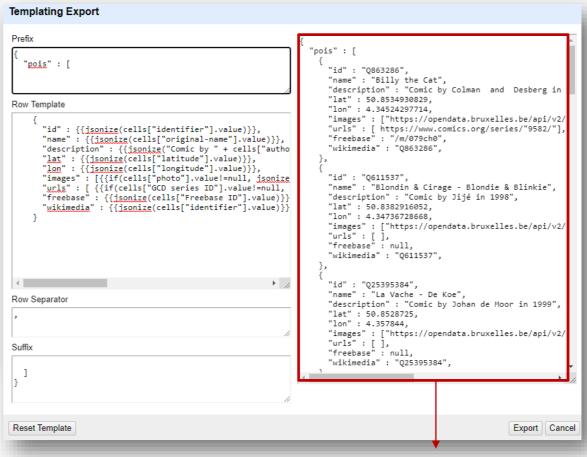
Enrich the dataset with more information (thanks, KGs ©)





And we have the database of Pols

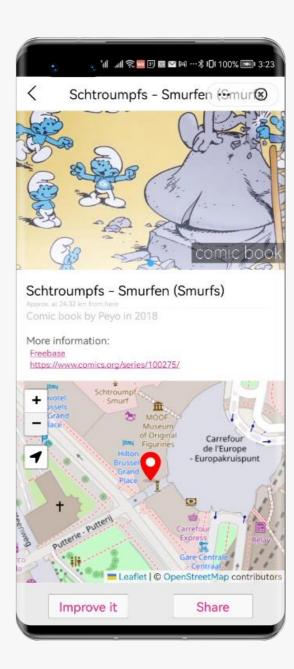






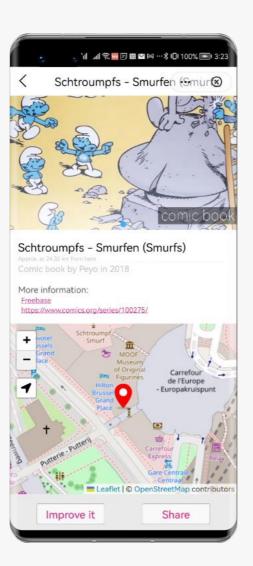
A Point of Interest looks like...

```
"id" : "Q863286",
"name" : "Billy the Cat",
"description": "Comic book by Colman and Desberg in 2000",
"lat" : 50.8534930829,
"lon": 4.34524297714,
"images" : [
  "https://opendata.bruxelles.be/...",
   "https://pbesteu.github.io/comics/bxl/images/001.jpg"],
"type" : "comic book",
"urls" : [ "https://www.comics.org/series/9582/"],
"freebase" : "/m/079ch0",
"wikimedia" : "Q863286"
```



What we got





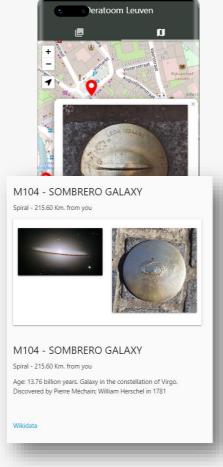


Infinite scenarios

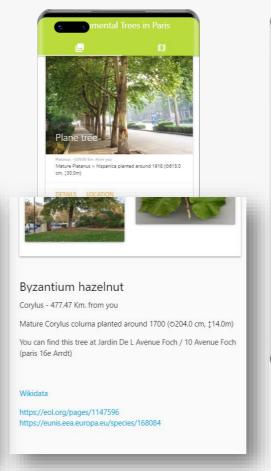
Cultural Heritage (art, local culture)



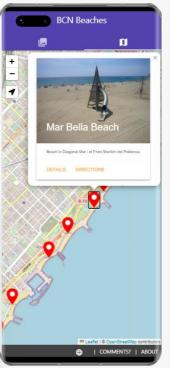
Big Bang Theory (astronomy)



Monumental Trees (botany)



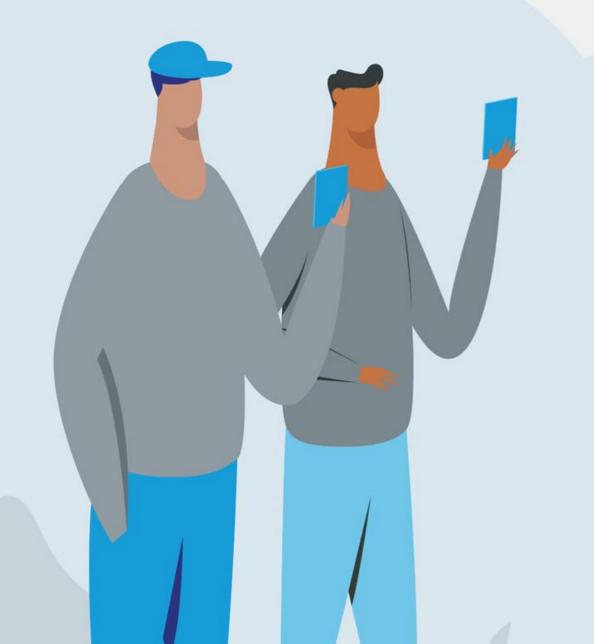
Beaches (tourism)



Illustrious Women (humans)



https://heritagein.info





Thank you!

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