

## Adding bibliographic data to Wikidata using Zotero

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### Session outcomes

By attending this session delegates will:

- Receive an introduction to Wikidata
- Learn how to use Zotero to add items to Wikidata
- Understand some of the benefits of adding items to Wikidata

Although many librarians have experience of editing Wikipedia, less of them are probably familiar with Wikidata. Wikidata is managed by the Wikimedia Foundation, the same organisation responsible for Wikipedia. It has the same philosophy of being able to be edited by anyone, but it deals with structured data rather than text. Although it is primarily designed to be the data source for a range of Wikimedia Foundation projects, the data is freely available to all.

One of the projects within Wikidata is Wikicite, which aims to build a database of all the citations in Wikimedia projects (including Wikipedia). Wikicite is a relatively new project which started off slowly, but has gained momentum recently as awareness of Wikidata grows. For a summary of the recent Wikicite conference (including links to videos of the presentations), have a look at [this post](#) on the OCLC Research blog. There was also [a presentation](#) at this year's National Digital Forum in New Zealand which provided an introduction to Wikidata in seven minutes. Librarians are no strangers to bibliographic data, so they are well-placed to be able to add it to Wikidata. The structured nature of Wikidata can seem daunting at first, particularly if you are not used to dealing with structured data. However, there are tools which are available to make it easy to add data to Wikidata.

Zotero is an open-source reference management tool. Although it wasn't designed solely to work with Wikidata, it is possible to export references from Zotero in a format which is recognised by Wikidata. The instructions on how to do this are [available here](#), and it's a fairly simple process. In my experience I have found that some data clean-up is required, so this method works best for exporting small batches of references.

All the data on Wikidata is available under a Creative Commons CC0 License, i.e. it is in the public domain and is freely available for anyone to use. This means that it can be searched or harvested by other systems or software (not just the other Wikimedia projects). From my point of view, as someone who has edited lots of references in Wikipedia, one of the greatest potential uses for Wikidata is for streamlining the adding and editing of references to Wikipedia articles. At the moment, a reference which is used on multiple Wikipedia articles needs to be created on each article, because it's not currently possible to insert a previously created version. However, if a reference was in Wikidata it could be created once and re-used, with any changes being updated across all the articles that it's added to. This is a controversial topic across Wikipedia and Wikidata at the moment, and the tools which would allow this to happen are still in the prototype stage. Another benefit of Wikidata is that it includes a very powerful query tool, so it is possible to do analysis of publications if they are represented in Wikidata.

I hope that this session will encourage you to think about contributing to Wikidata, either as an individual or as an institution.