
GLAM institutions in the Linked Open Data web: Exploring the use of Wikibase for open and connected databases.

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Abstract

Wikibase is a suite of knowledge-base software for managing linked open data, originally written for and still used by the Wikidata project. It supports the archiving of structured data collections, the linking of databases to external sources, collaborative projects, handling of data that are both human and machine readable and projects involving multilingual labelling. Since its release as a free and open source software ten years ago, Wikibase has been adopted by a growing number of GLAM institutions who've facilitated it to create knowledge bases of linked open data from their registers and collections. In so doing, institutions and organisations are gradually creating a network of Wikibases, co-creating an open and free global knowledge graph within the Linked Open Data web, and opening up to novel, accessible, collaborative and fair possibilities for the research on archived web material. In this presentation, we will closely examine two case studies of GLAM organisations who have adopted Wikibase for their database needs (rhizome.org and enslaved.org). Facilitating these two cases as examples, we will review and reflect on the possibilities and challenges of the endeavour, as well as prospects and consequences of the Linked Open Data web for GLAM institutions.

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