Making IUPUI University Library's Archival Collections More Accessible[1]

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Library institutions with their commitment to providing free access to resources have been adopting new initiatives and strategies to sharing their data in more accessible platforms and projects. At IUPUI University Library, we are committed to making our archival data more findable, accessible, and reusable. Efforts toward this goal include the adoption of ArchivesSpace (ASpace) and the commitment to contributing to open knowledge projects such as Wikipedia and Wikidata.

ArchivesSpace

The Ruth Lilly Special Collections and Archives[2] located at IUPUI University Library adopted ArchivesSpace as its archival management system in 2016, and began connecting potential patrons to the system in 2017. Before ASpace, the Word and html documents that made up our finding aids (documents describing the scope and content of archival collections) were not structured in a way that would allow reuse. For that reason, the information had to be entered manually into ASpace—a time-intensive solution that also offered the opportunity to optimize container lists and update outdated descriptions. As part of this process, we have added a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 (CC-BY-SA) license to allow for reuse and modification of the content of the finding aids. All processed collections in the Philanthropic Studies Archives and German-American Collections currently have finding aids in ASpace, and all new finding aids are entered directly into the system. The General Collections are missing only one finding aid pertaining to a collection that is currently undergoing significant revision. A similar process for University Archives is currently in progress. There are now 104 finding aids across four repositories in ASpace: Philanthropic Studies Archives (74), German-American Collections (15), General Collections (13), and University Archives (2).

Wikipedia

The contextual information of archival finding aids can be repurposed in an effort to share the knowledge in other platforms with a much wider community of users. The biographical or historical descriptions are often extensive, providing detailed information about individuals and organizations. A way to give this information a new life is by contributing it to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. By repurposing our archival data and sharing it in open knowledge environments we are not only bringing attention to our collections, but we

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[1] This article is available under a Creative Commons Attribution license.
[2] Ruth Lilly Special Collections and Archives site: https://ulib.iupui.edu/special

are also taking advantage of an opportunity to engage with an active, global community of users in building a more comprehensive knowledge base.

In early 2017, we initiated a project in which we created Wikipedia articles for our archival collections at IUPUI. We started by assessing the collections and then selecting those we found suitable for inclusion to the English Wikipedia. This resulted in the selection of 14 collections that are part of the Philanthropic Studies Archives. With that information on hand, we started creating Wikipedia pages using the RAMP (Remixing Archival Metadata Project) tool.[3] The RAMP tool, developed in 2013 at the University of Miami Libraries, is a web-based editor which allows users to generate records for creators of archival collections and publish them to the English Wikipedia through its API. It also lets users bring in additional data from external sources like WorldCat Identities and VIAF (Virtual International Authority File).

This initial attempt to providing a presence in Wikipedia for our collections resulted in five Wikipedia articles. In each of these articles, under the External links section, we included links pointing to the appropriate finding aid and related digital collection. We also added a link to the library website and the corresponding entry in the SNAC (Social Network and Archival Context) interface, whenever available. In Figure 1, we can see the external links section of the Wikipedia article we created for Hugh Ned Brown, a freelance fundraising consultant. These links provide users with access to additional information about the topic they are researching, and can yield to the discovery of other collections which can be used to support their research needs. Based on the pageviews of these five articles, as seen in Table 1, users have been accessing and hopefully benefiting from the information shared on them.

Figure 1: External links section from the Wikipedia article created for Hugh Ned Brown.

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[3] "Wikipedia: tools/RAMP editor." Wikipedia 2016.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Tools/RAMP_editor

Table 1: Wikipedia articles pageviews covering the period from creation date to November 3, 2018.

Wikipedia Articles	Date created	Pageviews since creation
ARNOVA	March 28, 2017	916
Hugh Ned Brown	March 21, 2017	333
James Warren McClure	March 21, 2017	536
Oram Group	March 22, 2017	808
Flanner House	March 22, 2017	995

Wikidata

More recently, we have also started contributing to Wikidata, the newest project of the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikidata is a free knowledge base that stores structured linked data and that serves as the central repository for all Wikimedia projects. Contributing data to Wikidata has the potential to benefit other wiki projects. We started by creating Wikidata items for the same subjects we provided representation for in Wikipedia. These items include a property (P485: *archives at*) that allows us to record the name of the institution where the archival collection for the particular subject is held. Because all the data in Wikidata is stored as RDF triples (subject-predicate-object), we can query it via a SPARQL endpoint. For instance, a query to find out how many items in Wikidata have the property *archives at* with *IUPUI University Library* as its value can be written using the Wikidata Query Service[4] as seen in Figure 2. The result of the query is generated in a table form, as seen in Figure 3, where the first column displays the unique identifiers generated by Wikidata and the second one lists the collections. The resulting data can be easily downloaded as a TSV, CSV or JSON file and can be used and modified as desired since the data in Wikidata is published under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication 1.0.[5]
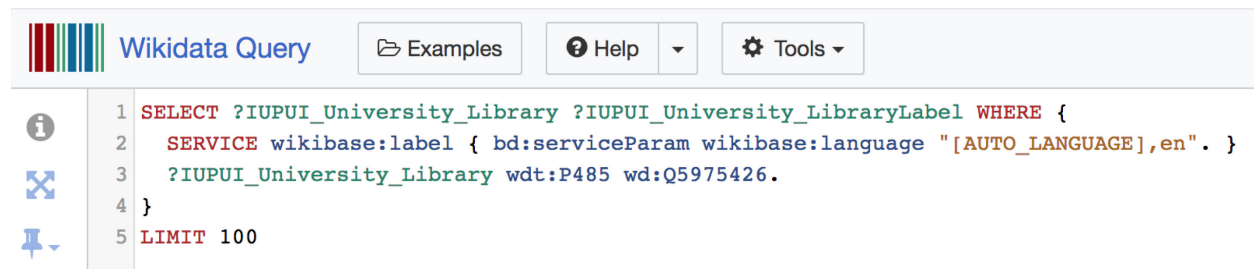


```
1  SELECT ?IUPUI_University_Library ?IUPUI_University_LibraryLabel WHERE {
2    SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "[AUTO_LANGUAGE],en". }
3    ?IUPUI_University_Library wdt:P485 wd:Q5975426.
4  }
5  LIMIT 100
```

Figure 2: Example query using the Wikidata Query Service to search for archival collections held at IUPUI University Library.

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[4] Wikidata Query Service: https://query.wikidata.org/
[5] "Wikidata:Data access." Wikidata 2018. https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Data_access

IUPUI_University_Library	IUPUI_University_LibraryLabel
wd:Q5152732	Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs
wd:Q6779533	Mary Fink
wd:Q15442911	Merrimon Cuninggim
wd:Q19864373	Anna Margaret Ross Alexander
wd:Q28993661	Hugh Ned Brown
wd:Q29000307	James Warren McClure
wd:Q29000520	Flanner House
wd:Q29000527	Oram Group
wd:Q29047066	Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action
wd:Q42297062	Robert E. Nelson
wd:Q42297104	Maurice Gilbert Gurin
wd:Q42297118	Oscar McCulloch
wd:Q42300585	Larry Kressley

Figure 3: Results of the query generated using the Wikidata Query Service with the list of archival collections held at IUPUI University Library.

There are numerous tools and applications that have been developed by the wiki community to interact with the data stored in Wikidata. One of those tools is Reasonator[6] which displays Wikidata's data in a more human readable form. Searching in Reasonator for IUPUI University Library, we see how the tool brings together information related to the library, including the collections that it holds (see figure 4).

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[6] "Reasonator." Tools.Wmflabs.org 2018. https://tools.wmflabs.org/reasonator/?

IUPUI University Library (Q5975426)

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis University Library

University Library of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Location properties

instance of	Library
	Academic library

Maps

Location

Name	Description
Earth	third planet from the Sun in the Solar System
North America	continent on the Earth's northwestern quadrant
United States of America	federal republic in North America
Indiana	state of the United States of America
Marion County	county located in the U.S. state of Indiana
Indianapolis	county seat in Marion County, Indiana, USA and Indiana federated state capital city
IUPUI University Library	University Library of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Other properties

date of official opening	1994-04-08
part of	Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis Indianapolis campus of Indiana University which includes two Purdue University schools
	Indiana University Libraries academic library system of the Indiana University system, Bloomington
architect	Edward Larrabee Barnes American architect
located at street address	755 W Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

signatory	IUPUI University Library open access policy policy adopted in 2009 by the Library Faculty
archives at	Merrimon Cuninggim American minister
	Anna Margaret Ross Alexander American philanthropist
	Hugh Ned Brown fundraising consultant
	James Warren McClure Newspaper executive
	Flanner House social service center
	Oram Group fund raising and public relations consulting firm
	Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action
	Robert E. Nelson American higher education and fund raising professional
	Maurice Gilbert Gurin
	Oscar McCulloch American minister, leader, and advocate of community betterment
	Larry Kressley
	Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs
	Mary Fink American civil servant

External sites

official website

External sources

DOI prefix	10.18060
Libraries.org	3618
Library of Congress authority	no2002023865
Quora topic	IUPUI-University-Lik
VIAF	7913148269826605

External identifiers

Wikimedia projects

Current language Wikipedias
en IUPUI University Library

Concept cloud

Figure 4: Rendering of IUPUI University Library's item in Reasonator.

What's Next?

Due to our institution's commitment to open knowledge, we continue adding our unique collections to Wikidata and creating Wikipedia articles for those that are most notable. After seeing the results of the pageviews for the five articles created in the English Wikipedia, we are now interested in learning if those users actually came to our library website in search of additional information. It would also be of value to know whether users of Wikipedia articles reach out to Special Collections with reference questions or requests for digitization of archival materials or even visit the Ruth Lilly Special Collections and Archives to conduct in-person research.