

Wikidata

Tutorial: Using Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons for Global Identification

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Global Identities

In this tutorial, I will follow up on the publication of a scanned postcard by **Barasits**. Mr and Mrs Barasits, a.k.a. János Barasits (1859-1935) and his wife, Barasits, Jánosné, born Pichler, Kornélia, were prominent postcard producers and publishers at the beginning of the 20th century. There are plenty of beautiful postcards available from them.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the authors' right (~copyright) protection of photographs and postcards was relatively short, only 15 years, so their postcards went into the public domain in terms of copying long ago.

Unfortunately, I did not find their name in the most commonly used authority controls, i.e., neither in VIAF nor ISNI. Writing to VIAF is only possible via member institutions, and ISNI costs money. As a temporary solution, I create a Wikidata QID for János Barakovits until somebody registers his name into VIAF.

Writing in Wikidata is free for all and subject to community review. If you read this tutorial, please pledge to record new persons (or other items) into Wikidata if your knowledge is solid. You can verify the information with research.

After creating a QID for János Barakovics, we uploaded one of their family business's public domain works onto Wikimedia Commons, then to archive.org and Flickr.

Create a Wikidata Item

In this tutorial you will learn how to create a new entry on Wikidata.

Item [Discussion](#) Read [View history](#) [★](#)

János Barasits (Q124423018)

Hungarian postcard maker and publisher [edit](#)

Barasits, János

[In more languages](#)
Configure

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	János Barasits	Hungarian postcard maker and publisher	Barasits, János
American English	No label defined	No description defined	
Hungarian	No label defined	No description defined	
Dutch	No label defined	No description defined	

Statements

[+ add statement](#)

Wikipedia (0 entries) [edit](#)

Wikibooks (0 entries) [edit](#)

Wikinews (0 entries) [edit](#)

Wikiquote (0 entries) [edit](#)

Wikisource (0 entries) [edit](#)

Wikiversity (0 entries) [edit](#)

Figure 1: Create a Wikidata entry (and page) for a Thing (including a fictional, deceased or living person) on Wikidata.

Wikidata is used all over the world to connect and refine knowledge. Do not pollute the system with half-baked ideas, ill-researched items. There are many test and learning environments called [sandboxes](#) for practicing. You should only write into Wikidata when you are absolutely certain about your facts.

[Help](#)
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Lexicographical data
[Create a new Lexeme](#)
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Tools
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[Concept URI](#)
[Cite this page](#)
[Get shortened URL](#)
[Download QR code](#)

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
American English	enter a label in American English	enter a description in American English	enter an alias publish cancel
Hungarian	Barasits János	Magyar képeslap-készítő és kiadó	enter an alias
Dutch	enter a label in Dutch	enter a description in Dutch	enter an alias

Statements

instance of

[publish](#) [cancel](#) [?](#)

human

any member of Homo sapiens, unique extant species of the genus Homo, from embryo to adult

human settlement

place of any size, in which people permanently live

village

small clustered human settlement smaller than a town

Homo sapiens (*human being*)

species of mammal

Wikipedia (0 entries) [edit](#)

human species as depicted in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles universe

Wikinews (0 entries) [edit](#)

Human Entertainment

Japanese video game developer and publisher

Wikisource (0 entries) [edit](#)

human from Star Trek

human species as depicted in Star Trek

Wikivoyage (0 entries) [edit](#)

Uman (*Human*)

city in Cherkasy Oblast in central Ukraine

Wiktionary (0 entries) [edit](#)

more

Figure 2: On the graphical user interface (GUI) you will be instructed to give out the most basic details of this new entry.

Add a few, basic statements to your new item, for example, the János Barasits is a human, he was male, born in 1859 (with the precision of a year only) and died in 1935.

[Download QR code](#)

sex or gender

male

[edit](#)
[0 references](#)
[+ add reference](#)
[+ add value](#)

given name

János

[edit](#)
[0 references](#)
[+ add reference](#)
[+ add value](#)

date of birth

1859

[edit](#)
[0 references](#)
[+ add reference](#)
[+ add value](#)

date of death

1935

[publish](#) [cancel](#) [?](#)
[+ add qualifier](#)
[+ add reference](#)

will be displayed as:

1935

Precision: year

Calendar: Gregorian

☒ set manually
☐ set manually

Figure 3: You do not need to know property identifiers and any code to work in the GUI.

Here is a very basic Wikidata page for [János Barasits](#). What is very important that we have a globally unique identifier, [Q124423018](#) that uniquely identifies him as a human. Later, when somebody creates a VIAF or ISNI identifier for him, we can connect this Wikidata page (i.e., [Q124423018](#)) to those authority files.

Upload to Wikimedia Commons

You will face a rights notice: you can only upload files where you are the author and give a free cultural license, or you know that that the image is in the public domain.

Figure 4: Only upload images if you are absolutely certain that you are not infringing anybody's copyright.

Give a meaningful identifier (unique part of the future URL of the image.) It is a good idea to use a filename that refers back to your catalogue, in this case, I use:

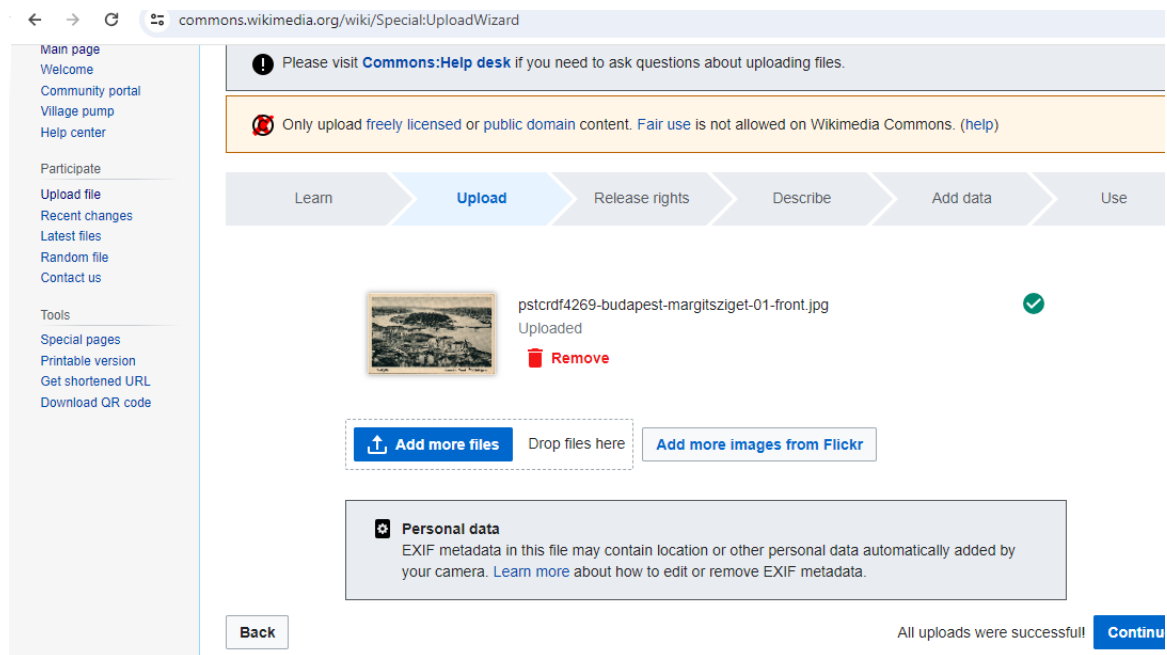


Figure 5: You should use a good identifier, for example, your own file name or local database ID

Now it is time to describe the uploaded item. In this page, I am giving it an English and a Hungarian title, for example, which is the same as it is found in the inventory book and the catalogue:

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:UploadWizard

Participate

- Upload file
- Recent changes
- Latest files
- Random file
- Contact us

Tools

- Special pages
- Printable version
- Get shortened URL
- Download QR code

Learn Upload Release rights **Describe** Add data Use



Remove

Image title
Create a unique descriptive title using plain language with spaces. Omit the file extension, if any.

pstcrdf4269-budapest-margitsziget

Caption
Add a one-line explanation of what this file represents, including only the most relevant information. *Optio*

English

View of St. Margaret's Isle

Hungarian

Kilátás a Szent Margitszigetre

+ Add a caption in another language

Now we can add more semantic information about the image. We describe with existing Wikidata entries what is *known* about this postcard. For example, here I state that it describes Margaret island, the *Margaret Island* ([Q18816](#)) tramstop on the Margaret Bridge; furthermore, I connect the image to the previously created *János Barasits* ([Q124423018](#)) item.

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:UploadWizard



Margitsziget / Margit hid

Margaret Island (*Margitsziget*)
island in the Danube river in Budapest, Hungary

Margitszigeti Szabadtéri Színpad

Grand Hotel Margitsziget (*Margitszigeti Grand Hotel*)

Margitszigeti Johannita vár

Margitszigeti Sportpálya

Margitszigeti érseki vár

Q margitszi from Wikidata ...

Margaret Island **Mark as prominent**

Qualifiers

Add qualifier

References

Linking Knowledge

What happened here? We did not simply connect a very basic biography, a scanned vintage postcard and a database entry about a bridge. We linked together in machine-readable (and human readable) form knowledge about a person, his work, and the depicted small island; not only a string, i.e., the name of the island, but

- the name of the island in many languages;
- an encyclopedical description of the island in many languages;
- a geocoded location;
- identifiers in the global library catalog linking system VIAF, the catalogue identifiers of the national libraries of the U.S. and Israel that hold information carriers (most likely, books) about the island.

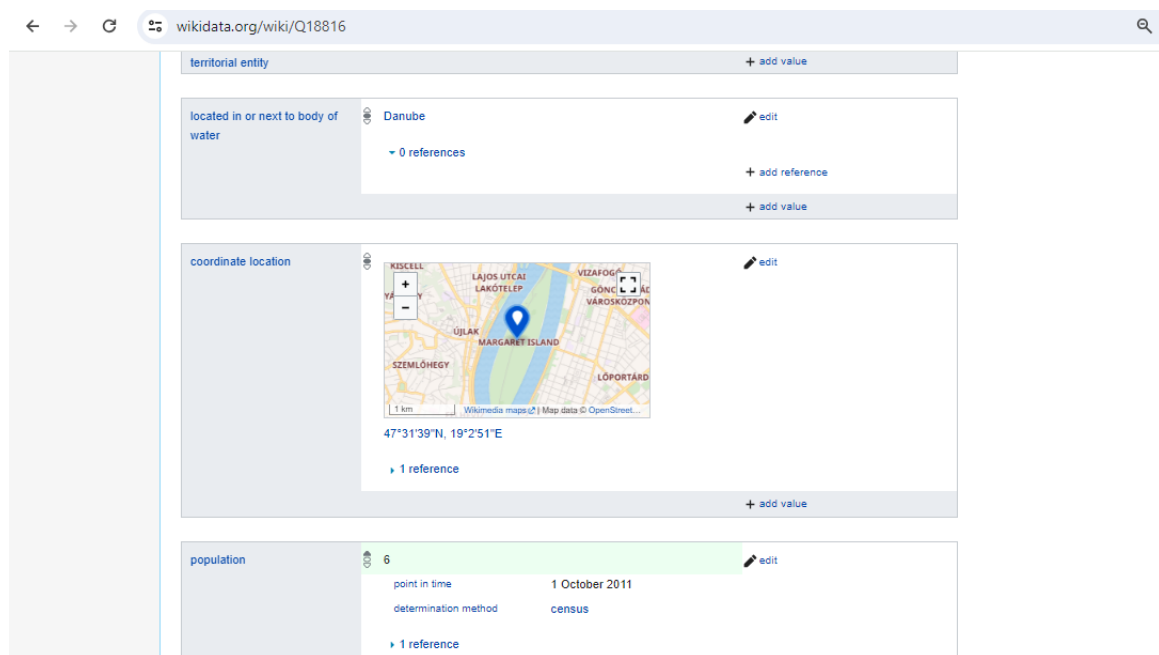


Figure 6: Under the hood, Wikidata starts to connect a lot of knowledge to the information you have entered, for example, adds GIS geographical information to the location information you entered automatically.

And of course, we created a simple, graphical user interface where people and machines can start to add and link more knowledge about János Barasits.

Further reading

Bibliography file: [wikidata.bib](#)

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