

Botanists in the Wikiverse

Planting the seeds of open data enrichment and reuse with the botanical community



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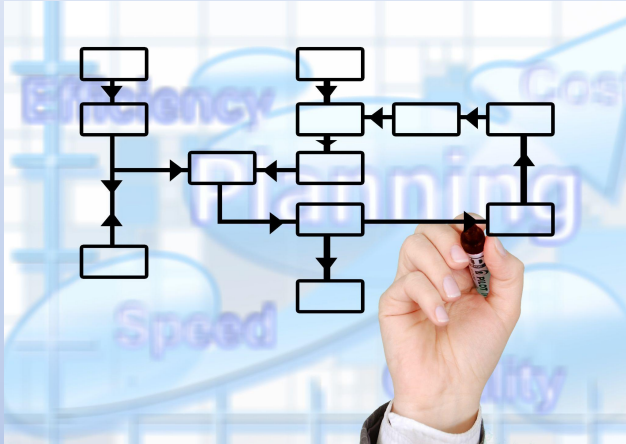
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Outline of presentation



How and why to collaborate with subject experts:

- Why collaborate?
- How to collaborate - locally, regionally, internationally
- Benefits of informal and formal outreach
- Challenges and strategies for success
- What does successful engagement, impact look like?

Why collaborate with subject experts?

With the subject matter experts we can:

- Upskill editors & organisers
- Help deploy collective expertise
- Utilise research and writing skills
- Improve subject accessibility, visibility
- Extend subject reach beyond Wiki
- Foster relationships, future projects
- Motivate reuse of Wiki content
- Increase community acceptance of Wiki



Why should subject experts collaborate?

With Wikimedians' support they can:

- Develop professionally
- Learn by doing
- Build capacity in digital outreach
- Gain transferable skills
- Get hands-on experience
- Actively extend subject reach
- Amplify research impact
- Make a difference, feel satisfaction
- Build their network



How to collaborate at multiple levels



- Suite of engagement opportunities
- Tailored to particular audience
- Multiple levels
 - Local, regional, international
- Multiple formats
 - In person vs online
 - Formal vs informal
 - One day vs multi-day sustained campaign

Informal outreach to thematic community

Networking, educating & socializing via:

Digital platforms

- Engaging on social media
- Writing thematic newsletter articles
- Participating in citizen science projects
- “Wikifying” conferences

In-person discussions

- at Wiki (or other) events
- at thematic conferences
- during breaks and social events



Who to collaborate with: Local level

- Individual subject experts
- Staff at local institutions
- Experts at outreach events
 - species edit-a-thons
 - BioBlitz events



Upskilling local subject matter experts

My story as subject matter expert & Wikimedian

- Individual tutoring
- Emails
- Video conferencing
- In-person meetings
- On Wiki talk pages
- Collaborative work
- Thematic outreach project



Engagement with local institutions & staff

Examples

- Invited presentations
- Edit-a-thons held at the local institution
- Modelling behaviour by/to internal staff
- Upskilling staff by internal Wiki editors
- Wiki meetup opportunities for support
- Embedding work practices into institution
- Institution providing in-kind support to Wiki



Local events: edit-a-thons and BioBlitzes



Species edit-a-thons

- Slide deck, presentation
- Examples & templates to follow
- Theme-based resources, Google sheets
- Hands-on learning
- Community-building exercises
- Survey at the end!

BioBlitzes

- Wikify happenings in real time
- Demonstrate value to experts
- Use local examples as they come in

Local challenges



Obstacles to overcome locally include:

- Enticing people to come to local events
- Finding subject experts who are interested
- Approaching local institutions
- Gaining trust of people in local groups
- Being flexible with type of engagement
- Getting support with comms and social media

Local strategies for success

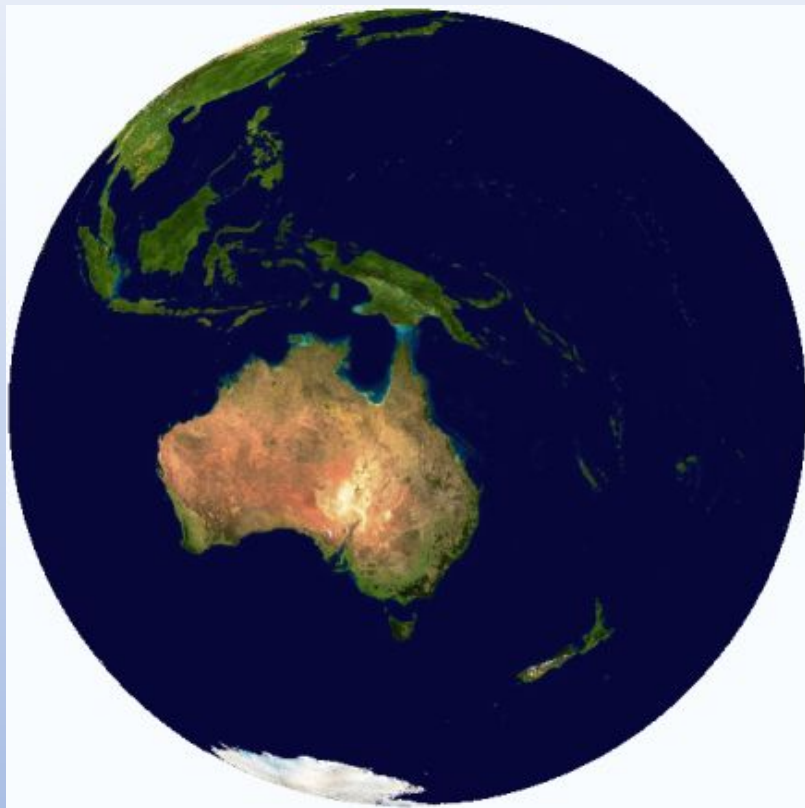
Foster success in your local outreach:

- Be BOLD in your outreach
- Reach out to institutions
- Write blogs, newsletters, abstracts
- Get on social media for comms
- Make use of personal contacts
- Find Wikimedian subject experts
- Concentrate on local themes
- Get help from local Wiki editors/chapter
- Get local funding (e.g. WANZ)
- Make it cheap and accessible to all
- Provide food and drink!



Who to collaborate with: Regional level

- Subject expert group or organisation level
- Staff at regional institutions
- Experts at a regional conference/workshop
- Experts at biodiversity events
 - Regional BioBlitzes
 - City Nature Challenge (April)
 - Great Southern BioBlitz (October)



Regional example: 2025 ASBS conference

Australasian Systematic Botany Society

- Received active support from conf. team
- Wrote articles in ASBS newsletter
- Advertised widely
 - social media
 - ASBS Newsletter & Emails
- Recruited members to advertise for us
- Workshop: community upskilling
 - survey prior to event
 - editing on 3 Wiki platforms
 - hands-on learning specific skills
 - showing how Wiki helps with work
- Conference presentation



Regional Challenges



Obstacles to overcome regionally include:

- Getting involved early enough
- Creating awareness at a regional level
- Engaging with a group vs. individuals
- Managing a higher student:tutor ratio
- Organising in a distant location
- Co-managing events with conference team

Regional strategies for success

Foster success in your regional outreach by:

- Reaching out to organisations & conferences
- Constantly communicating
- Accepting invitations to engage
- Supporting initiatives from other editors
- Focusing on regional community needs
- Being very organised
- Sharing the load with co-collaborators



How to collaborate: International level

International Botanical Congress

- Be bold and agile
- Detailed planning in advance
- Advertise widely
- Obtain assistance in host country
- Be multilingual
- Give extra assistance with online onboarding & follow-up meetings
- Provide a suite of opportunities to engage



International challenges



Obstacles to overcome internationally:

- Finding suitable funding
- Synchronising time zones
- Engaging with even larger groups/orgs
- Engaging with people you may not know
- Coordinating different languages/agendas
- Managing an even higher student:tutor ratio
- Co-managing events with conference team
- Handling more prep, logistics, expenses

International strategies for success

- **6+ months prior**
 - Build your team
 - Canvas your subject editor audience
 - Apply for funding
- **3-6 months prior**
 - Hold regular planning meetings
 - Work regularly together and separately
 - Design themed events
 - Make events accessible & cheap
- **0-3 months prior**
 - Get local logistical support
 - Provide adequate food and beverages
 - Include activities for community-building
 - Hold your event and ask for feedback



Summary of successful engagement



- Be bold
- Find support
- Collaborate
- Execute outreach
- Rinse and repeat

Summary of successful impact



What does success look like for thematic Wiki outreach?

Subject matter experts

- become “Wiki aware”
- become active Wiki editors
- improve their institutions’ knowledge

Institutions & thematic organisations

- become “Wiki aware”
- recognise Wiki work as work
- incorporate Wiki platforms in workflows
- collaborate with Wiki community
- collaborate with other orgs in using Wiki

Time, persistence, and working together are key!

Botanists in the Wikiverse - Find out more!

Local:

- [2024 NZ species edit-a-thon](#)
- [2025 NZ species edit-a-thon](#)

Regional:

- [WikiProject ASBS 2025](#)

International:

- [WikiProject IBC 2024](#)

Resources:

- [2025 Annals of Botany Wikidata paper](#)
- [Botany Wiki resources in Zenodo](#)
- [2026 Wiki for Botanists diff blog](#)

➤ **Get involved! Sign up for the [2026 NZ species edit-a-thon](#) on 17 Oct in Wellington!**

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INVITED REVIEW

Wikidata for botanists: benefits of collaborating and sharing Linked Open Data

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• **Background** Wikidata is a multilingual linked open knowledge base to which anyone can contribute that contains multitudes of botany-related information. Wikidata reveals interactions between entities and connects botany-related information from multiple institutions and other sources, benefiting the botanical community in numerous ways. The aim of this article is to give an overview of Wikidata from a botany perspective and issue a call to action to the botanical community to collectively improve the quantity and quality of information related to botany, botanists and botanical collections, in Wikidata. Here, we use a broad definition of botany to include the study of many different taxa and specializations.

• **Scope** Wikidata contains botany-related data and identifiers for botanists and botanical collectors, botanical taxa, natural history institutions and collections, botany-related publications, geographical locations and research expeditions, as well as genes, genetic variants, chemical compounds, diseases, and more. As an open, collaborative and community-curated knowledge base, Wikidata enables different communities to add and link data related to botany and empowers the querying and reuse of this data via digital tools such as the Wikidata Query Service, Bionomia, Scholia, TL-2 and Expeditia.

• **Conclusions** Collaboration is key in botany and Wikidata, and the sharing and enriching of botany-related Linked Open Data benefits us all. Several resources, including ethical and legal guidelines, are available for botanists to edit, use, reuse, roundtrip and teach Wikidata. We call on all botanists to be active participants in Wikidata, improving the quality, quantity and linking of botany-related data. Our individual and collective actions can help harness the power of Linked Open Data to answer important queries in the field, improve accessibility of herbaria, increase visibility of botanists and their scientific contributions, integrate Wikidata into the classroom, support the Madrid Declaration strategic actions, achieve our collective goals, and ultimately make botany-related information more FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and equitable.

Key words: Biodiversity data, Bionomia, botanists, collaboration, digital outreach, digital tools, herbaria, identifier, knowledge graph, Linked Open Data (LOD), open science, Wikidata.

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 - *Our online and in-person events*
- WikiCon 2026 - New Zealand
- ESEAP 2026 - Taiwan



Ngā mihi nui! Thank you!



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