

# Wikidata Notes for Bat Collectors

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Presentation recorded and can be viewed via Youtube:

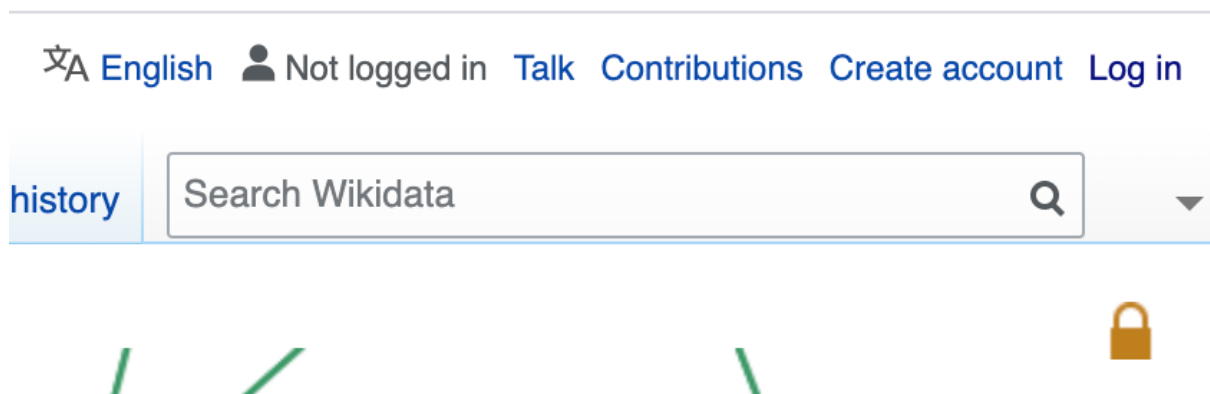
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYvoXKBSGA8>

## Contributing to Wikidata

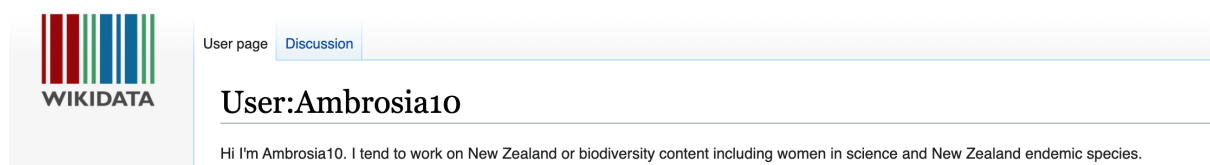
### Sign up or log in

[https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main\\_Page](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page)

Either log in to Wikidata or sign up for an account on the top right of the login page. If you already have a Wikipedia account you can use your user name and password to log in to Wikidata. If you need to create a new account make sure to take note of the username you choose and your password so you can log in again at a later date.



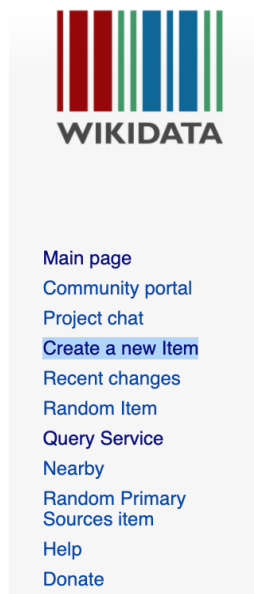
If you are creating a new account you may want to put a small bit of information about yourself on your personal user page. This lets the community know who you are and what you are doing. It helps establish your bonafides. As an example you can see my personal user page here <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Ambrosia10> As you can see I use my page not just to introduce myself but as a notes section and a memory-aid.



Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Ambrosia10> [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

The Wikidata community has about 11,000 regular editors who make 5 edits or more a month. If you are working with deceased collectors you will normally reach that level by creating an item on just one person.

Once you've got an account you can start editing. You can create a new item by pressing the "create new item" on the right hand side of the page.



Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/User:Ambrosia10> CC BY-SA 3.0

This will lead you to a form where you can choose the language you are going to create the item in - I edit in English but other languages are available.

## Create a new Item

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Please make sure that the item you want to create complies with our [notability policy](#) and that [it doesn't already exist](#).

If you want to create an item about a [living person](#), be mindful of their privacy.

We appreciate it if you create a [label](#) and a [description](#) for all of your new items.

The first letter of your label should only be capitalized if it is a [proper noun \(Q147276\)](#), and your description should *not* be phrased as a sentence.

By clicking "Create", you agree to the [terms of use](#), and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [Creative Commons CC0 License](#).

**Create a new Item**

Language:

 ▼

Label:

Description:

Aliases, pipe-separated:

[Create](#)

Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Special:NewItem> [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

You then can add the label for your new item. This is normally where the full name of the person you want to add goes. Then add a description about the person. The normal format I follow for a description of a collector is to give the country of citizenship, the occupations and then their birth and death date. For example “New Zealand entomologist and specimen collector (1935—1998)”

You should then add any aliases or “also known as” names. This is extremely important for assisting disambiguation. It helps humans, computers and bots link this item to external identifiers and also helps people find this item more easily. The “also known as” names are separated by a pipe ie |.

You then press “create” and you have created a new item.

Now it is a matter of adding statements about that person to Wikidata. For a person you should always start with a statement of “instance of” “human”. This will prime the system to suggest other statements you will then make about this person.

The standard ontology I use to create a person item in Wikidata is a follows:

## **Structure of a Wikidata item for scientific collectors**

[P31](#) Instance of - human ([Q5](#))

[P18](#) Image

[P21](#) sex or gender - male ([Q6581097](#)), female ([Q6581072](#)), intersex ([Q1097630](#)), transgender female ([Q1052281](#)), transgender male ([Q2449503](#))

[P27](#) country of citizenship

[P1559](#) name in native language

[P1477](#) birth name

[P2562](#) married name

[P735](#) given name

[P734](#) family name

[P569](#) date of birth

[P19](#) place of birth

[P570](#) date of death

[P20](#) place of death

[P119](#) place of burial

[P1317](#) flourit (use if have dates of activity but no birth and death dates)

[P3342](#) significant person

- qualifier: [P3831](#) object has role - co-collector ([Q81546212](#)) - coauthor ([Q15735983](#))

- correspondent ([Q3589290](#)) - friend ([Q17297777](#)) - colleague ([P18029574](#))

[P1412](#) languages spoken, written or signed

[P26](#) spouse

[P106](#) occupation - botanical collector ([Q2083925](#)), scientific collector ([Q98544732](#)), collector ([Q3243461](#))

[P101](#) field of work

[P108](#) employer

[P463](#) member of - (add specific items for clubs, societies, collecting teams etc)

[P69](#) educated at

[P512](#) academic degree

[P1066](#) student of

[P802](#) student

[P551](#) residence

[P1416](#) affiliation

[P109](#) signature

[P800](#) notable work

[P485](#) archives at

[P737](#) influenced by

[P166](#) award received

[P1343](#) described by source

[P973](#) described at url

[P6379](#) has works in collection - (this property relates to works of art so can be used if the collector is also a scientific illustrator), there is no property currently for scientific collections in museums etc.

[P1889](#) different from - to be used when there are two people with the same name

## Examples to base your item on

Florence Augusta Merriam Bailey <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q523424>

Wilamette Porter Cockerell <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q19865330>

Charles Darwin <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1035>

Mary Agnes Chase <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q3822242>

## References

Factual statements made in Wikidata should be verifiable. So for any statement you make, you should state a reference supporting that statement. You are telling the reader where you got the information. You can use the “stated in” property to reference a publication or paper that has its own item in Wikidata.



The screenshot shows the Wikidata interface for the item 'Locust Grove'. It displays a single reference for the 'stated in' property. The reference is 'The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science', volume 1, page 69. There are 'copy' and 'add reference' buttons visible.

stated in	The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science
volume	1
page(s)	69

Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q523424> CC BY-SA 3.0

Alternatively you can use the “reference url” property for a citation sourced from a website. If using the “reference url” make sure you add a statement giving the “retrieved” date as well.



The screenshot shows the Wikidata interface for the item 'Alice Eastwood'. It displays a single reference for the 'reference URL' property. The reference is 'https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt28703348/dsc/#ref6', retrieved on 6 August 2020. There are 'copy', 'add reference', and 'add value' buttons visible.

reference URL	<a href="https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt28703348/dsc/#ref6">https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt28703348/dsc/#ref6</a>
retrieved	6 August 2020

Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q523424> CC BY-SA 3.0

In summary:

“Stated in” if the reference has a wikidata item itself

“Reference url” if you are citing a url, making sure you also add a “retrieved” statement giving the date you retrieved the information from the internet.

## External identifiers

### Identifiers

VIAF ID	45100186	edit	
	▶ 1 reference		
+ add value			
ISNI	0000 0000 1403 2135	edit	
	▼ 0 references		
+ add reference			
+ add value			
GND ID	118882007	edit	
	▶ 1 reference		
+ add value			

Screenshot of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q523424> CC BY-SA 3.0

When creating an item the final important element are the external identifiers. These are important to add to ensure that your item is well linked. This is a very important part of the “Linked” in “Linked Open Data”.

Examples of external items include:

### **Bionomia ID - the most important for this workshop!**

VIAF ID

Library of Congress ID

BHL creator ID

Google scholar ID

Researchgate ID

FamilySearch ID

Find a Grave ID

### Other tutorials for editing wikidata

[Youtube video](#) on how to create a new item. (2.35min)

[Youtube video](#) on how to add statements with verifiable data and how to create items (16.38min)

## Examples of People that need adding to Wikidata

The resource I've used to find these collectors of bats is this journal article "Bat (Mammalia: Chiroptera) records, early collectors, and faunal lists for northern Central America".

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/part/226650#/summary>

Wikidata item for article - <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q102507676>

**David Dyson (1823–1856)** (He's a prolific scientific collector)

<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q103194142>

The first documentation of bats from Belize resulted from a venture by David Dyson to the British settlement in Honduras. Dyson was a young naturalist, about 21 years old, when he travelled to Belize under the sponsorship of the Thirteenth Earl of Derby, the British Museum, Hugh Cuming of London, The Zoological Society of London, and the Manchester Botanical Gardens. A letter from Dyson's brother to the Earl of Derby is in the archives of the Merseyside Museum, Liverpool. This states that Dyson left for Belize on the Tuesday before 20 September 1844. The elder Dyson notified those (subscribers) who were supporting his brother's venture of his departure and his hope for success. Dyson arrived in Belize on 3 November 1844 and made general natural history collections in the area until late 1845 (Jackson, 1908). With his field efforts, natural history studies of present-day Belize began. Among his specimens (BMNH) are the bats *Sturnira lilium* and *Rhogeessa tumida* (McCarthy, 1987). Hugh Cuming was a shell col-

Screenshot of <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/52454550> CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

References: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q102502703> for birth and death dates and name

<https://bioone.org/journals/the-journal-of-the-lepidopterists-society/volume-65/issue-3/lepi.v65i3.a6/The-Conceptual-History-of-Melitaea-nycteis-Doubleday-1847-Nymphalidae-with/10.18473/lepi.v65i3.a6.full>

See [https://books.google.co.nz/books?id=g\\_3QDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA166](https://books.google.co.nz/books?id=g_3QDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA166) for a brief biography. Can be referenced via "stated in" <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q61745977>

External identifier = [BHL creator id 226466](#)

**F. C. Sarg - Francis Charles Sarg (1840— 1921)** German scientific collector, illustrator and German consul to Guatemala. <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q18411737>

Another name associated with Guatemalan mammalogy in "Biologia Centrali-Americana" is that of F. C. Sarg. Sarg was a German immigrant whose family established a coffee plantation in the vicinity of Cobán, Alta Verapaz (Stoll, 1886). Sarg had an active interest in natural history and sold specimens to Salvin and Godman, besides providing observations on a variety of mammals. He continued to collect specimens after Alston's volume was published, two of which were the basis for the description (Thomas, 1904) of the Middle American endemic species, *Balantiopteryx io*.

Screenshot of <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/52454549> CC BY-NC-SA 4.0



Family search MXTB-ML9

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/MXTB-ML9>

<https://www.geni.com/people/Francis-Charles-Sarg/6000000025208606056>

[https://dsi.hi.uni-stuttgart.de/index.php?tablename=dsi&function=details&where\\_field=id&where\\_value=4373](https://dsi.hi.uni-stuttgart.de/index.php?tablename=dsi&function=details&where_field=id&where_value=4373) Sarg collected and made coloured drawings of Araneida for the Biologia Centrali-Americana of Godman and Salvin, 1879-1915.

[https://www.myheritage.com/names/francis\\_sarg](https://www.myheritage.com/names/francis_sarg)

Son - Tony Sarg <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1386369>

Mother - <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q16004136> The English Wikipedia article gives his death date [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Ellen\\_Best](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Ellen_Best)

<https://genealogy.links.org/links-cgi/readged?/home/ben/camilla-genealogy/current+!0:152966+2-6-0-1-0>

Archives at Nantucket Historical Association

<https://nha.org/research/the-collections/finding-aid/guide-to-the-sarg-family-papers-1712-1940/>

### **Captain John M. Dow**

John Melmoth Dow (1827-1892) <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q103264316>

some unique bird specimens. Captain John M. Dow, who commanded the coastal steamer "Guatemala," obtained a series of *Myotis* near Volcán Izalco prior to 1860. These appear to represent the first bat specimens (ANSP) from El Salvador (Burt and Stirton, 1961).

Screenshot of <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/52454550> CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Archives at Cornell University Library

<https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/htmldocs/RMM02765.html>

VIAF - <https://viaf.org/viaf/316796308/>

Family search - <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9W6H-Q9C>

Find a grave - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70486401/>

Will be main subject of <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q56207841>

### **Examples of Wikidata Queries**

A relatively simple Query for Species of bat that have an image if available

<https://w.wiki/ojS> Shows the query

<https://w.wiki/ojT> Shows the results of running that query



Female botanists and botanical collectors born before 1900, sorted by number of Wiki sitelinks, with some related info including Bionomia and Harvard index of botanists id. <https://w.wiki/RdH>

Scholia suite of queries for naturalist Osbert Salvin. (You too can do this if you have a wikidata item and your papers are in Wikidata.) <https://scholia.toolforge.org/author/Q933058>

**SCHOLIA** Author Work Organization Location Event Project Award Topic Tools Help Search...

author topic

## Osbert Salvin (Q933058)

Osbert Salvin FRS (25 February 1835 – 1 June 1898) was an English naturalist, ornithologist, and herpetologist best known for co-authoring *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (1879–1915) with Frederick DuCane Godman. This was a 52 volume encyclopedia on the natural history of Central America. ... (from the [English Wikipedia](#))

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Related: [George Robert Gray](#) · [Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, 9th Baronet](#) · [Henry Walter Bates](#) · [William Cullen](#) · [Philip Pearsall Carpenter](#) · [John Edward Gray](#) · [John Mitchell Kemble](#) · [Erasmus Darwin](#) · [George Stephens](#) · [Walter Henry Medhurst](#)

Screenshot of <https://scholia.toolforge.org/author/Q933058> [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

### **Conclusion**

I hope the above gives you enough information to start your Wikidata journey. Feel free to reach out if you need any assistance.

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