Wikimedia and Beyond:
Linked Data Projects in Minnesota

CONNECTED LIBRARIES. EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES. ENRICHED LIVES.

Agenda

- Introduction
- Process
- Structured data (linked data)
- What we learned
- Summary and the Future

Linked Data and Wikimedia Defined

- ***Linked Data:** A set of best practices for publishing and connecting structured data on the web

- **Wikimedia:** The foundation that supports all the wiki projects

- **Wikimedia Commons:** Media repository for files linked to in other wiki projects

- **Wikipedia:** Free encyclopedia written and maintained by volunteers

- **Wikidata:** Repository of linked open data

*Derived from [Librarianship Studies & Information Technology](#)   **3**

Introduction

Pilot Goals

- Test proof of concept:
  - Adding content to Wikimedia Commons leads to increased access and use of digital collections
- Pilot participants:
  - Learn a practical application of linked data
- Minitex staff:
  - Learn more to provide better future support

Scope and Timeline

- 25 images per organization to Wikimedia Commons

    - Make connections in Wikipedia articles

    - Add structured data in Wikimedia Commons to connect with Wikidata

- April 2023 - August 2023
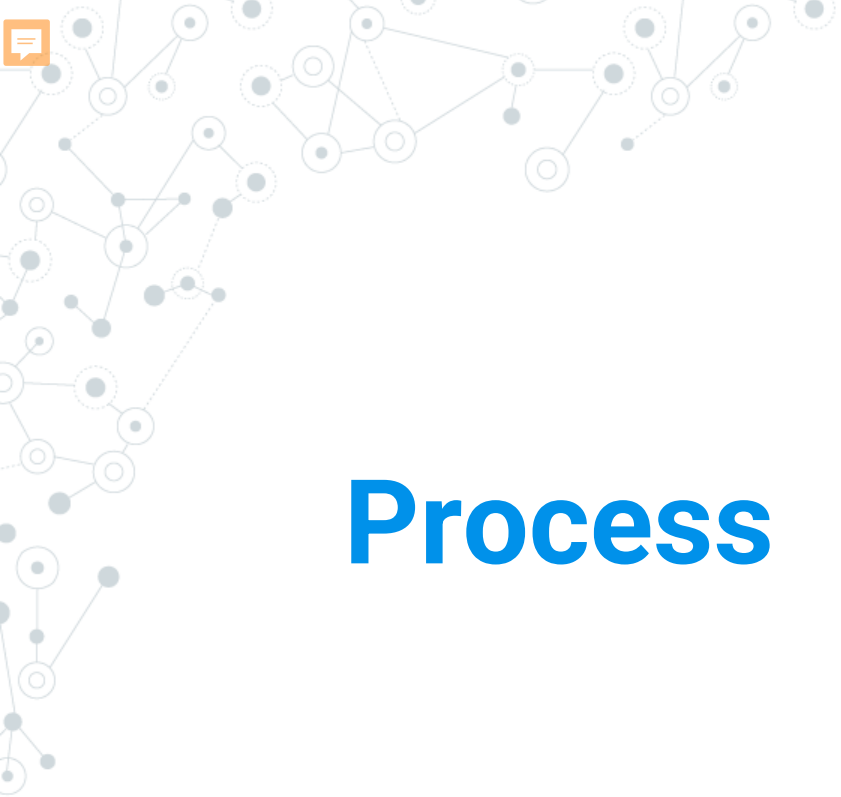
Process

Before Diving In to Pilot Project

1. Explored other platforms/projects
2. Discussed selection of content to include
   a. all items used "No Copyright - United States" rights statement
3. Wikimedia Commons Information Template
   a. Default Upload template
   b. Fields required: Description, Date, Source, and Author
   c. Customizable
4. Created Pilot Template Guidelines/Custom Template

Our Information Template Guidelines

Wikimedia Commons File Information Template Guidelines

Minitex Wikimedia Pilot Project
Summer 2023

Table of Contents

Resources

- Quality and description, Wikimedia Commons (See "good file descriptions")
- Template: Information, Wikimedia Commons
- North Dakota guide to uploading content to Wikimedia Commons

Upload Tips

Image File Guidelines
- Maximum FILE Size for any file = 4 GB

File Formats
- SVG is the preferred format for diagrams, charts, illustrations, maps, and any graphic that needs labels.

Author

Definition: Original author[s] of the file; where appropriate.
Note: For Minnesota Digital Library contributing organizations Author = Creator. If the author/creator is not known, add the word "Unknown" as this Wikimedia Commons field requires a value. Authors can be individuals or corporate bodies and should be entered in "natural language order."
Example/s:
George Eldon Keene
Mankato State Normal School
Displays in Wikimedia Commons as:

Author	Elias F. Everitt

Description

Definition: Description of the image or other media file. The contents of the description should provide brief (if possible) but complete information about the image.
Note: Use the existing description for the item that is found in your content management system and/or the Minnesota Digital Library.
Displays in Wikimedia Commons as:

Description	English: Portrait of Edward Searing (1835-1898), President of Mankato State Normal School in Mankato, Minnesota. Searing served as President from 1880-1898. Three individuals served as the Principal of the Mankato State Normal School prior to Searing, but Searing was the first to serve as President.

Minitex Wikimedia Pilot File Information Template Guidelines

Our Information Template: Example

Summary

Description	English: Portrait of Edward Searing (1835-1898), President of Mankato State Normal School in Mankato, Minnesota. Searing served as President from 1880-1898. Three individuals served as the Principal of the Mankato State Normal School prior to Searing, but Searing was the first to serve as President.
Date	1880
Source	Minnesota State University, Mankato ▐▐▐ ▶ This item was contributed to the Minnesota Digital Library ↗ by Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Author	Elias F. Everitt
Standardized rights statement	⊘ IN THE UNITED STATES No Copyright - United States

```
=={{int:filedesc}}==
{{Information
|description={{en|1=Portrait of Edward Searing (1835-1898), President
of Mankato State Normal School in Mankato, Minnesota. Searing served
as President from 1880-1898. Three individuals served as the Principa
of the Mankato State Normal School prior to Searing, but Searing was
the first to serve as President.}}
|date=1880
|source= {{Institution|wikidata=Q1937387}}
This item was contributed to the
[https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/msu:270 Minnesota Digital
Library] by Minnesota State University, Mankato.
|author=Elias F. Everitt
|permission=
| other fields = {{InFi|Standardized rights statement|{{rights
statement|http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/}}}}
}}
```

Pilot Work - Minnesota State University, Mankato

- **Why:** Curiosity, Access, Statistics
- **Selection:** Random 25 images (some in MDL, some in Arch, all NoC-US)
- **Wikipedia:**
  - Adolph F. Bechdolt
  - Edward Searing
- **Templates:** New category, Info template, tested Artwork template (DPLA modified)
- **Formats:** Images, Audio file with a transcript
- Examples found at Media Contributed by Minnesota State University, Mankato

Pilot Work - Minnesota State University, Mankato - Example

Summary [edit]

Description	**English:** Angle view of Old Main from the street, including two wings added in 1894 to the original Normal School Building.
Date	1908
Source	Minnesota State University, Mankato ▌▌▌ ▶ This item was contributed to the Minnesota Digital Library ↗ by Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Author	John R. Snow
Standardized rights statement	⊘ IN THE UNITED STATES No Copyright - United States

Pilot Work - Blue Earth County Historical Society

- **Why:** Experiment, learn from and with others, expand access
- **Selection:** (25 images, all MDL, all NoC-US)
  - Represent our cities, townships, and communities
  - Historical interests beyond Blue Earth County
- **Wikipedia:** All but one linked to Wikipedia
- **Templates:** Info, photograph, and map templates
- **Examples:**
  - Beauford Township Plat Map
  - C & NW Locomotive
  - Making Cement Sidewalks in Lake Crystal

Pilot Work - Blue Earth County Historical Society - Example

Summary [edit]

Description	**English:** Photograph of the wooden footbridge below Minneopa Falls, Mankato, Minnesota.
Date	circa 1900
Source	Blue Earth County Historical Society ▮▮▮ ▶ This item was contributed to the Minnesota Digital Library ↗ by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
Author	Unknown
Standardized rights statement	IN THE UNITED STATES No Copyright - United States

Pilot Work - University of Minnesota Libraries

- **Why:** Increase outreach and access beyond the traditional digital collections website; knew some of our material had already been included on Wikimedia through DPLA, but wanted to learn more
- **Selection:** Materials from UMedia, specifically UMN University Archives
  - NoC-US / Public Domain
  - Important to uplift diverse voices and histories wherever possible (more on that in a few slides)
- **Wikipedia:**
  - Some linked to articles, some not; considered when looking at statistics
- **Template:**
  - All items used Info Template for ease of uploading; Tested Book template but did not like its representation of serials and yearbooks
- **Formats:**
  - 25 objects total - 22 photos, 2 books, 1 video
- **Examples:**
  - Katherine Dansford
  - UMN Football Team, 1904

Pilot Work - University of Minnesota Libraries Example

Summary [edit]

Description	**English:** Katharine Jane Densford (1890–1978) was an American nurse who made important contributions to nursing education and to nursing services during World War II. Densford's leadership of Minnesota's flagship school of nursing, located in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area provided the model for nursing education throughout the state and nation. This photograph is dated 1923, Cincinatti, presumably taken during Densford's time at the School of Nursing and Health at the University of Cincinnati where she earned a two-year clinical nursing degree.
Date	1923
Source	University of Minnesota Libraries ▮▮▮ ▶ This source was contributed by the University of Minnesota Libraries, University Archiveshttps://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll175:10611
Author	Unknown author
Standardized rights statement	IN THE UNITED STATES No Copyright - United States

Professional nursing career [edit]
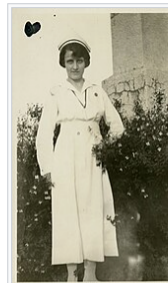
Densford in Cincinnati, 1923

By 1920, she graduated from the Vassar Training Camp for Nurses, where she completed an intensive three-month educational program. Next she earned a two-year clinical nursing degree at the School of Nursing and Health of the University of Cincinnati.[4][8]

In 1925 she transitioned away from bedside nursing practice to education leade the Illinois Training School for Nurses (program merged in 1926 into the Univer ceased to exist in 1929)[9] where she also taught public health and tuberculosi experience.[8][7]:91–94 She also served as Assistant Dean and Associate Direct Hospital in Chicago.[4][7]:84

In 1930 she became Professor and Director of the University of Minnesota Sch retired in 1959.[5]:97–98[10] The University of Minnesota (UMN) was the world's university.[5]:xvii[1][11][12][7]:3 and Densford continued and expanded the nursing based on a set of policies she established early on the defined the quality of th otherwise had been following an apprenticeship model and was conducted exc tenure, School of Nursing faculty began providing bedside instruction, ensuring prepared people available.[7]:96–101
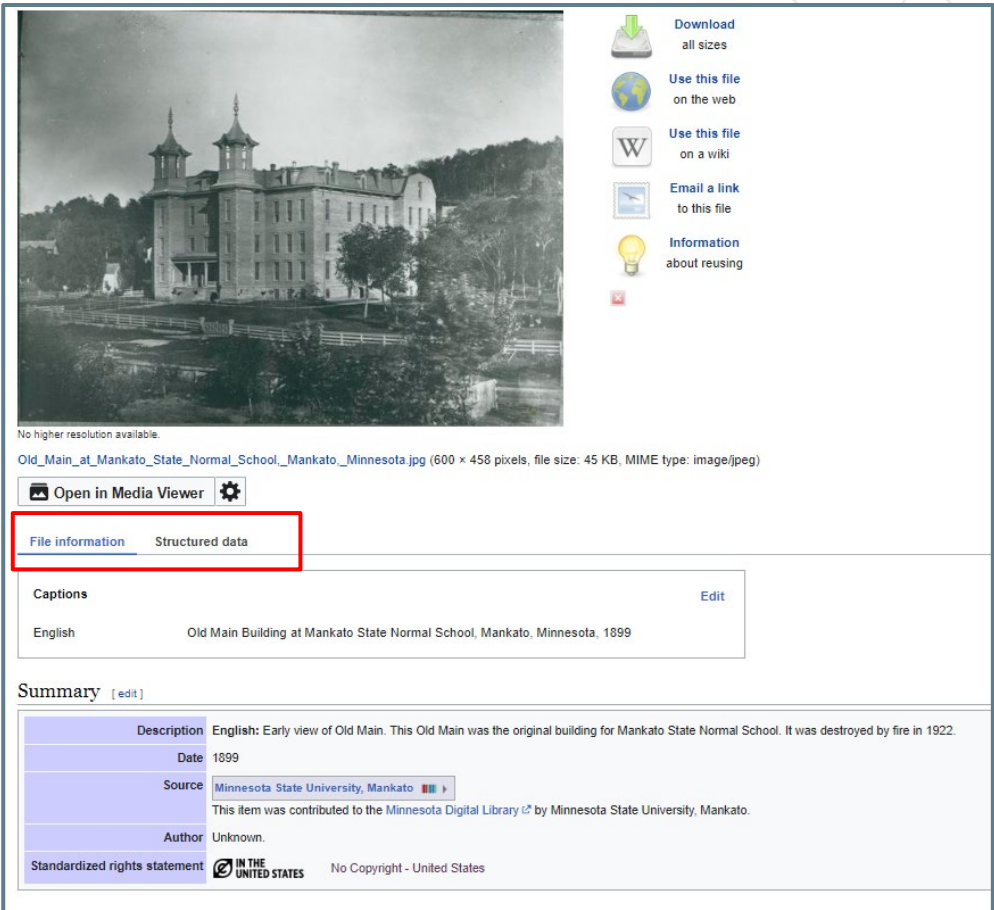
16
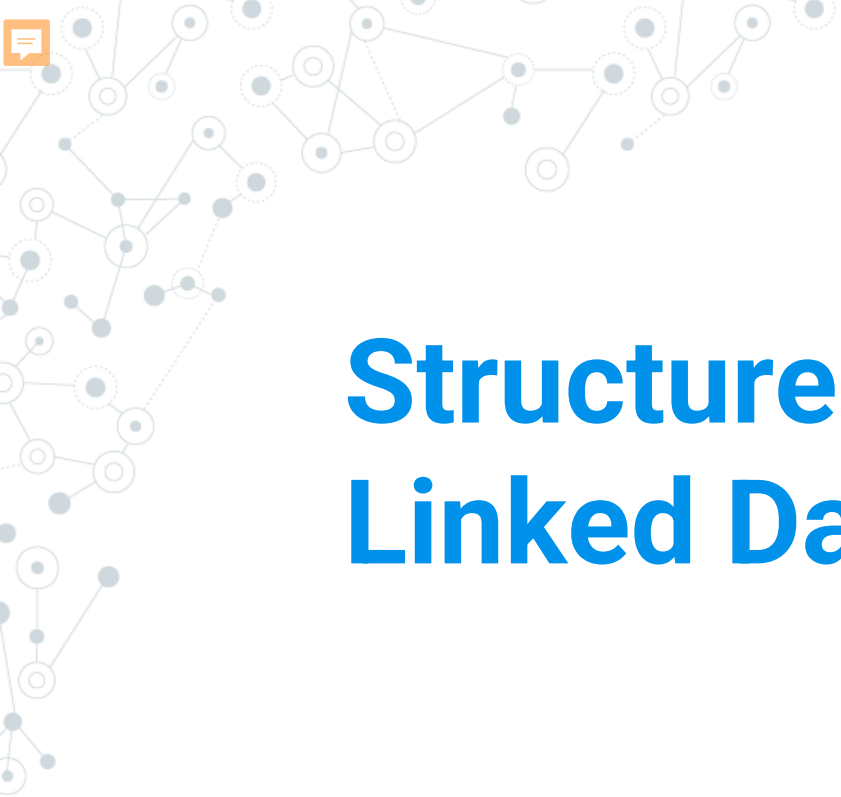
Structured Data / Linked Data

Structured Data in Wikimedia Commons: File Information

- Each file has both a File Information and Structured Data tab

Wikimedia Commons Structured Data Tab Example

- Item | depicts | university building
- Item | depicts | Old Main

Structured Data in Wikimedia Commons

- Structured data in Commons:
  - Connects to Wikidata entities
  - Multilingual
  - Improves searching (e.g. show me all files that [depict a bunny](#))
  - Is pretty new!
- [Pilot structured data template](#)
- [More about structured data](#)

Wikimedia Structured Data Guidelines
Minitex Wikimedia Pilot Project
Summer 2023

Table of Contents

What We Learned

Minnesota State University, Mankato

- **Easier than First Imagined**
  - Existing metadata
  - Templates/Team
- **Challenges**
  - Avoiding "I should just quickly edit that page and that one and that one…" or "I should create a page…"
  - Where to Link in Wikipedia
  - Audio files
- **Access**
  - MDL Referral Traffic = commons.wikimedia.org
  - Linked to Wikipedia = more Requests ([Searing](#) = 685)

Blue Earth County Historical Society

- **Access**
    - Increased access to often unviewed images
    - New referral source to MDL
    - A way to reach new/broader audiences
- **Interest**
    - From national history (C & NW Locomotive 1,833 requests)
    - To local history (Judson Township Plat Map 156 requests)
- **Partnership**
    - Navigating new ideas/platforms in a group setting incredibly helpful and effective

University of Minnesota Libraries

- **Rhythm and Workflows**
  - Easy to upload once content was identified
  - Even better working with a team and setting attainable goals
    - The Wiki-verse is vast - working w/ others prevents wandering and getting lost
- **Metadata (Wins and Losses)**
  - Templates allow easy reuse and mapping of existing metadata; BUT, metadata must exist
    - Major challenge: Identifying content with proper copyright clearance (not all of our material has certain dates). Same with material that may not have solid description.
- **Access**
  - Portrait of Louise M. Powell - 853 requests (!)
    - Added to Wikipedia article - specifically the infobox and included lots of "Categories" with image
  - Uploads with structured data - more requests than uploads without structured data; but, not as many requests as uploads linked to a Wiki article
  - UMedia referral (2 months of pilot):
    - Wiki ranked 15th in overall site referral tracked on UMedia (in other words, visitors from Wiki were in the top 90% of overall visitors to UMedia)
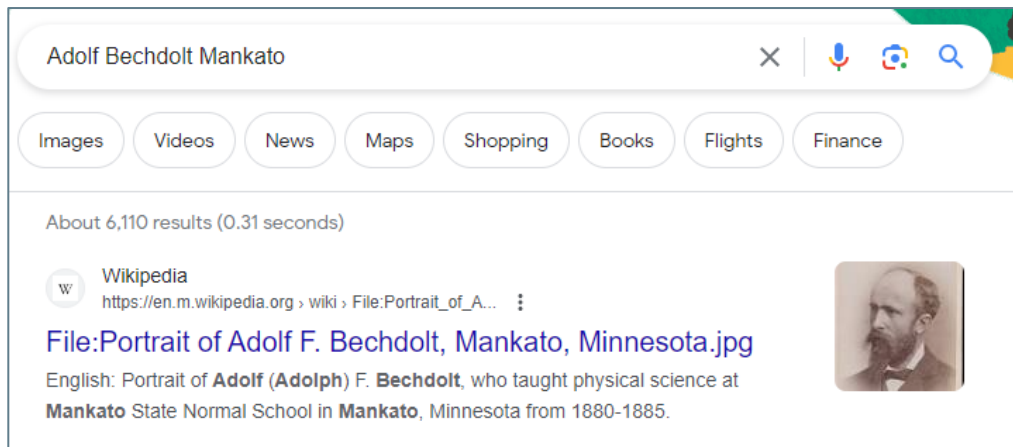   - Users from at least 6 different countries

Summary/Future Projects

Assessment: Did Access and Use Increase?

Overall

- More discoverable on the web (e.g. Google Search)
- All new views
- Images linked to a Wikipedia article tended to get more views

Assessment: Did We Learn and Gain Experience?

Awareness

- **Before:** Some awareness noted
- **After:** Strong awareness noted, Wikimedia Commons highest

Experience

- **Before:** No experience
- **After:** Strong experience with Wikipedia (1), Wikimedia Commons (3)
  - Some experience with Wikidata and Linked data (3)
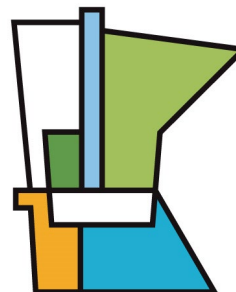
Summary Thoughts and the Future

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Blue Earth County Historical Society

University of Minnesota Libraries

Minnesota Digital Library

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Credits

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