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Summer 7-21-2021

San Francisco Changemakers: A PCC Wikidata Pilot Project

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Recommended Citation

Rodrigues, Elisa J.; Reid, Annie; Benrubi, Deborah S.; Solares, Gina; and Withers, Justine, "San Francisco Changemakers: A PCC Wikidata Pilot Project" (2021). Gleeson Library Faculty and Staff Research and Scholarship. 39.

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO Gleeson Library |

Inspired by the 96 people whose images appear on San Francisco's Ella Hill Hutch Community Center murals, students in the University of San Francisco Martín-Baró Scholars and Esther Madríz Diversity Scholars programs (2015-2019) wrote and edited Changemakers: Biographies of African Americans in San Francisco Who Made a Difference. The biographies within celebrate Black excellence and honor the legacies of African American educators, community activists, politicians, sports figures, pastors, doctors, entertainers, artists, and parents in San Francisco.

In 2020, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) issued a call for participation in a pilot project to explore Wikidata community practices and establish relationships between Wikidata and library authority files. We chose to create or enhance Wikidata items for the 96 persons listed in the Changemakers book and created a project webpage. The list gave us a discrete set of identities and offered the potential to tie into existing Wikimedia/Wikipedia projects/articles and collaborate with campus centers and students.



Changemakers Book Cover: Portrait of Ella Hill Hutch, painted by Eugene E. White, 1992.

Photograph of Southeast corner of the Inspiration murals by Brian Brooks @underdogfilmlab

Goals

- Create and enhance Wikidata items and related entries in authority repositories representing local people, places, and events of significance to USF, with an emphasis on underrepresented communities
- Increase staff capacity and understanding of linked open data models and practices
- Explore the opportunities that Wikidata offers for creating new and more flexible workflows for authority control

San Francisco Changemakers: A PCC Wikidata Pilot Project

Geschke Resource Center

Linked Data Working Group: Elisa Rodrigues, Gina Solares, Annie Reid, Debbie Benrubi, Justine Withers



Workflows

Deliberately and thoughtfully matched biography characteristics to entity schema:

- Developed a list of "required" properties, adapted from Wikidata:WikiProject Archives Linked Data Interest Group/Describing People
- □ As resources allowed, we added further "optional" properties such as occupation (P106), educated at (P69), notable work (P800), field of work (P101), or residence (P551) for example
- Created additional Wikidata items for references and related entities as needed

Challenges

- Collating from multiple sources Wikidata community norms for property usage
- Inconsistency in community standards, definitions, and use of similar properties
- Conflicting information found in varying reference sources
- □ Representing the unique, notable biographical aspects of each person using the available Wikidata properties
- No direct way to represent a person in Changemakers "first in their field" status. Wikidata editors discussed a <u>"historic first"</u> property proposal in 2019, but it was not adopted by Wikidata editors

	Item Discussion		Read	View history Search Wi	
WIKIDATA	Naomi Gra	y (Q106171670)			
Vain page Community portal Project chat Create a new Item	Activist for public health in San Francisco and the first black female Vice President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Naomi Jean Thomas Gray • In more languages Configure				
Recent changes	Language	Label	Description	Also known as	
Random Item Query Service Nearby Help	English	Naomi Gray	Activist for public health in San Francisco and the first black female Vice President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America	Naomi Jean Thomas G	
Donate	Spanish	No label defined	No description defined		
exicographical data	Traditional Chinese	No label defined	No description defined		
Create a new Lexeme Recent changes	Chinese	No label defined	No description defined		
Random Lexeme	All entered languages				
What links here Related changes	Statements				
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Reflections

- Data and description are not neutral and we need to consider our positionality and biases in the language and properties we choose to use in Wikidata items
- Property:P21 sex or gender posed issues for our working group around preference and authority and we created a statement on why it was not used to describe the people in Changemakers
- □ The need to consider carefully the purpose and potential outcomes when creating open, linked data about people

urg, Mississippi, on May 1 four other siblings. In 1945 sh V. DR. AMOS C. BROWN e vice president (Knight). After a vorce, Gray decided to move to San BILL CHESTER

Perceived Impact

- Changemakers

Projects in progress or planning at Gleeson Library					
Project name	Description	Status in progress	Related queries Changemakers query @ Listeria list @		
SF Changemakers	Creating or enhancing items representing the people described in Changemakers: African American Leaders in San Francisco Who Made a Difference (Q99756434)				
Wasmann Journal of Biology	Creating wikidata items for the articles and authors represented in the Wasmann Journal of Biology (1950-1996)	1950-1977 complete	Scholia display ଢ Listeria listଢ		
USF Archival Collections Enhancement	Adding "archives at" property to items for people and organizations for which USF holds an archival collection	planning	Archived at USF		
USF Employees LCNAF Enhancement	Adding Library of Congress authority ID (P244) identifiers to people currently or formerly employed at USF	Status April 2021: 298 items in wikidata; 56% (166) LCNAF ID added; 44% (132) no LCNAF ID	People employed by USF at any time with no LCNAF &		
USF Faculty Enhancement	Adding or enhancing Wikidata items for USF Faculty	planning	Employed at USF @		

- Scholars programs
- Service and Common Good at USF
- <u>PCC Wikidata Pilot</u> organizers and participants

University of San Francisco Martín-Baró Scholars and Esther Madríz Diversity Scholars (Eds.). (2019). Changemakers: African Americans in San Francisco Who Made a Difference. University of San Francisco. Retrieved from https://repository.usfca.edu/mccarthy_stu/4/ Ibid. (n.d.) Changemakers: African Americans in San Francisco Who Made a Difference. Retrieved from https://usfblogs.usfca.edu/sfchangemakers/ Reid, A., Benrubi, D., Rodrigues, E., Solares, G., and Withers, J. (2021) Wikidata: WikiProject PCC Wikidata Pilot/University of San Francisco. Retrieved from https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject PCC Wikidata Pilot/University of San Francisco



Description Potential for exploitation and harm when adding data representing historically marginalized communities. Who does the data represent and who will be using that data?

□ Since most people in Changemakers would be considered 'out of scope' for LCNAF, and might not meet Wikipedia "notability" criteria, adding them to Wikidata might provide more visibility Potential for increased interest and visibility of USF scholarship

Future Steps

Community review process for creating new Wikidata properties that could better capture the work and lives of the people in

Repurpose Wikidata items as "lite" authority records □ Add Inspiration mural images to Wikimedia Commons Test our workflow on a similar project, like student work for the Fillmore Activist Project and other USF collections

Acknowledgements

□ USF students in the <u>Martín-Baró Scholars</u> and <u>Esther Madríz Diversity</u>

□ <u>Engage San Francisco</u>, part of the <u>Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public</u>

