

Archival documents on Wikimedia Projects: Uses and applications of Archival Science for Open Culture

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Abstract

This project aims to research on the usage of archival documents across the Wikimedia projects towards the systematization of potential applications of archival processes and the [norms of archival description](#)¹ for free culture on the Wikimedia Projects

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1 Objectives

- To develop directives and recommendations to organize, describe, digitize and preserve archival documents for their use on Wikimedia,
- To generate usage and application cases of archival documents on Wikimedia Projects,
- Generate applications for massive uploading of archival documents on Wikimedia Common *[sic]*
- Generate applications of ISAAR's² data usage on Wikimedia.

¹ *Translator's note:* On the document there seemed to be a link here, but the reference is lost.

² *T.N.:* Possibly the [International Standard Archival Authority Record](#), but the link is also broken.

2 Main parts

The project has two main parts:

1. **How are archival documents being used today across the several Wikimedia projects?** To research on the usage of archival documents, mostly in Wikimedia Commons, Wikipedia and Wikidata. Interviews to professionals at archival functions to know if they use Wikimedia projects, and if so, how.
2. **What are the potential uses of archival sciences in Wikimedia projects?** An analysis of Open Refine. Structured data based on archival norms. Codes of archival identification. Contextualization of archival documents.

3 Introduction

There are norms and experiences that guarantee the right to free culture and the access to information contained in documents to guarantee other fundamental rights:

“Archives are an educational tool against denialism, ensuring that their victims, society as a whole, and future generations will have access to primary sources. At the same time they allow us to have a documentary foundation useful for the concretion of rights, for avoiding repetition of grave violations to human rights, and the dissolution of authoritarian enclaves that might survive within democracy.”

However, and in spite of the importance of granting access to our archives, these archives are neither organized nor open.

The work done in heritage institutions, mostly in countries like Argentina, is a complex labor that requires resources, both material and human.

The Wikimedia projects are a central tool to **promote and foment open archives as a right.**

This project aims to collaborate with the GLAM community in the organization, preservation, visibilization, and access granting of their archival documents on Wiki *[sic]* projects, as well as to grow the GLAM community benefiting from said projects.

4 Timeline

June 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2024.

5 Methodology

Data will be gathered from the Wikimedia projects themselves. What is an archival document? What kind of documents are uploaded to Wikimedia Commons? How many are archival documents? How are they used on Wikipedia? How can this usage be increased?

Interviews [will be carried out] to professionals on GLAM institutions, mostly on Archives. Do they upload documents on Wikimedia or not? Why? Hurdles. Advantages and disadvantages. It is aimed to work with memorial archives and university archives. We already belong to related networks.

Tests will be carried on normalized spreadsheets for files using OpenRefine.

Quantitative and qualitative analyses will be carried out on the data so gathered. An inform will be written.

6 Expected results

Workshops and day-long activities: We expect to spread the word on the importance of using Wiki *[sic]* projects on GLAM institutions. Virtual and in-person gatherings, both national and international.

Community editions: We expect to grow the Wikimedia editing community and the releasing and uploading of archival documents on Wiki projects. In-person and virtual editing [events].

Publishing: We expect to generate directives on the organization, description, digitization and preservation of archival documents for their usage on Wikimedia and develop applications for using archival documents on Wikimedia, applications for massive uploading of archival documents to Wikimedia Commons, applications for ISAAR data usage on Wikidata.

7 Evaluation

Evaluation would be done on the importance of the fundamentals of this proposal and what work has been done with archival documents on Wikimedia projects.

Evaluation would be done on the impact on GLAM institutions, how many institutions joined in the editing and releasing of documents. How many documents were released.

These institutions would be surveyed to get their comments.

Evaluation would be done on the quality and usage of the resources to be developed as part of this project.

8 Budget

ANDY NEEDS TO REVIEW THIS SECTION IN THE ORIGINAL [TRANSLATOR'S NOTE]

30,000 USD

- Wages 100 USD per month x 4 Coordinators
- 200 USD per month x 1
- Technology and equipment
- Digitization
- Preservation supplies
- Publishing
- Activities (breaks, food, organization)

9 References

- CIDH. Principios sobre Políticas Públicas de Memoria en las Américas. Resolución 3/2019
- <https://www.ica.org/es/normas>

10 Previous work

The archives, libraries and museums of UNLP³ have worked together as a network since many years ago and they're in the process of organizing their funds and archive collections. The visibilization of these sources is a constant work to be done and includes day-long events, training, informative talks, all spreading the word on these materials and everything related to promoting the proper valorization of these spaces as fundamental to our culture. Besides that, the Historical Archives of the UNLP has worked along with Wikimedia (specifically Wikimedia Argentina) in the following meetings, projects, events, and workshops:

- 2023: *Archivos abiertos es un derecho*⁴ was a project by the Wikimedia [Argentina] community. First Wikiarchivist Day. ([Final report](#)⁵)
- 2023: Presented a poster on *Archivos en Vigilia*⁶ at the 18th Wikimania
- 2023: Co-organized the 3rd edition of *Archivos en Vigilia* along with the Comission and Provincial Memorial Archives of Córdoba, Provincial Memorial Archives of Santa Fe, Provincial Memorial Archives of Buenos Aires and National Memorial Archives.

³ *T.N.*: National University of La Plata.

⁴ *T.N.*: Lit. «Open Archives are a Right».

⁵ *T.N.*: Original link also broken, I'm guessing this is the right one.

⁶ *T.N.*: Lit. «Archives on vigil».

- 2022: Took part of the online workshop #1Pic1Article: *Añadir una imagen* on Wikimedia projects, GLAM-Wiki initiatives, visual culture and the “Add an Image” tool.
- 2022: Co-organized the 2nd edition of *Archivos en Vigilia*, along with the National Memorial Archives.
- 2021: Organized the workshop «*Cultura para abrir*», along with the Open Culture and Knowledge Program of Wikimedia Argentina.
- 2021: Dissertation at the 3rd Meeting of Historical Archives: «Digital Heritage. Accessibility, diffusion and education», organized by the [City of Buenos Aires Historical Archives]
- 2021: Co-organized the virtual meeting *Celebrar los Archivos*.⁷
- 2021: Co-organized the virtual cycle of meetings *Archives on the Long Term: Tools for the organization, preservation, and digitization of documents in their diverse materials and formats*.
- 2022: Co-organized the 1st edition of *Archivos en Vigilia*.
- 2020: Took part in a series of webinars for librarians. Fourth Webinar: «Digitization projects, the Wikimedia Argentina case.»
- 2019: Assisted to the «Wikimedia for librarians and archivists» workshop

⁷ T.N.: Lit. «To Celebrate Archives».