

Topic: Wrap up from Wikidata workshop part II (*Using wikidata to capture and share information about paleontological collecting sites*)


Date: 2022 October 6

Time: 12 PM Eastern

In Attendance

Lindsay Walker, Symbiota	Margaret Landis, Sam Noble Museum	Ian Engelbrecht
Jessica Utrup, YPM	Ben Norton, NCMNS	Wai-Yin Kwan
Roger Burkhalter, Sam Noble Museum	Talia Karim, CUMNH	Jessie Nakano, NMNH
Nicole Volden, NMMNH	Jacob Van Veldhuizen, CUMNH	Erica Krimmel, iDigBio
Amanda Millhouse, NMNH	Vicky Wang, PRI	Holly Little, NMNH

Resources

- Paleo Data Working Group [Google Folder](#)
- Paleo Data Working Group [wiki page](#) with schedule of upcoming Happy Hours and recordings/notes from past Happy Hours
- [Workshop wiki page](#)
-  Wikidata Paleo Sites Workshop - Shared Notes

Agenda & Notes

- Workshop take-aways...
 - For reducing the burden on digitization, including georeferencing, we would ideally like to be able to share very specific information about the geography, geology, and potentially the collecting events of a site. Wikidata is not the right tool to share information at this level of specificity. Options for sharing this information could include a private Wikibase, or a Symbiota portal.
 - Wikidata is, however, a good place to share information about paleontological collecting sites at a more general level so that it is accessible to a broader audience. Although more notable sites are also often represented on Wikipedia, Wikidata is a distinctly useful platform because it facilitates multilingual and machine access better than Wikipedia. In order to effectively share site data, we

need to spend more time refining guidelines for what Wikidata properties to use, and we may need to propose new properties: one for .

- Sharing general information about paleontological collecting sites allows us to make connections between sites and institutions. One valuable area to focus on in Wikidata is documenting which institutions have specimens that were collected from a given site.
 - Wikidata is also a good platform for sharing and using stratigraphic data. Chronostratigraphy from ICS already exists in Wikidata, and Wikidata can model connections between ICS and other chronostratigraphic scales, such as North American Land Mammal Age (NALMA). Some stratigraphy also already exists in Wikidata, and more could be imported in bulk from a source like Macrostrat. For stratigraphy, Wikidata provides an excellent way to record informal aliases for units where this is helpful. As for people, for stratigraphic data, Wikidata can serve as an information broker that can be referenced with the unique Wikidata Q number identifier.
- Refining concept definitions:
 - **Site:** A geographic location or place. Site is synonymous with “**locality**.” Sites may be constrained by geological unit(s) or a geologically defined area, as well as by geography. Scale is an inherent element of a site, which may refer to locations with varying spatial extents. Due to the nature of fossils, it can be argued that at the smallest scale, a single point in the ground or a single specimen is a site. It is possible for a site to become inaccessible, be destroyed, or no longer exist. Sites may have an identifier or code assigned to them.
 - Example site... [including examples that highlight a site no longer existing]
 - **Collecting event:** A visit to a site for a specified period of time (known or unknown) where one or more specimens are collected. A single site may be the location of multiple collecting events and should include data about collecting method and collector(s) when known. Collecting events may have an identifier or code assigned to them.
 - Example collecting events...
 - **Collecting expedition:** An extended series of collecting events connected as part of a single journey and/or by a shared research goal. Specimens collected

on an expedition have shared collecting event (including site) data, though they may end up being deposited at multiple institutions.

- **Shared locality:** A site, or locality, from which multiple specimens were collected, either during the same or different collecting events. For specimens collected during the same collecting event, possibly as part of a collecting expedition, identifiers assigned to the shared locality are a primary (and sometimes the only) link between those specimens, especially if they ended up in different institutions.

Chat Copy

00:22:04 Jessie Nakano: Could we word " a site may be inaccessible, destroyed or no longer exist due to emerging property/land regulations and possible developments and/or all the specimens are collected" also agree to not have any because as well to

00:23:50 Jessie Nakano: Agree with example sites

00:23:59 Jessica Utrup: I would so they don't match at all!

00:24:07 Jessica Utrup: Anthro folks are unique

00:24:18 Jessica Utrup: At least here at YPM

00:31:14 Holly Little: we do currently classify the USGS Loc numbers as locality or site ID for what it's worth.

00:33:35 Holly Little: I have to sign off. Will catch up on the edits later! thanks! We have a big staff event now.

00:34:05 Jessie Nakano: Me as well! Sorry bye everyone!

00:44:46 Talia S. Karim (She/Her): during a specified time period

00:45:00 Jessica Utrup: or say point or range

01:00:58 Vicky Wang (V, V's): Should we state that shared locality could also include classic collecting spots that multiple collectors visited over many years?