Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

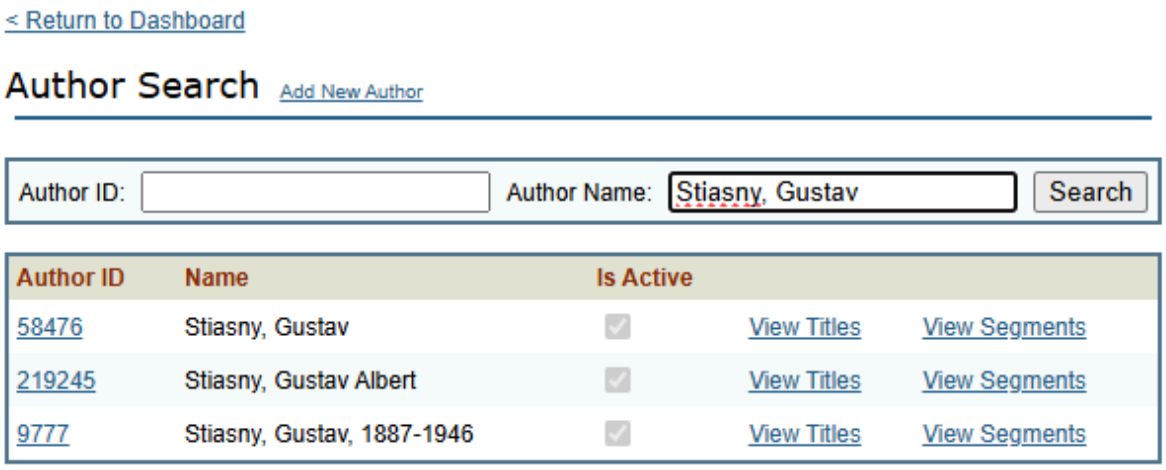
Merging the Author IDs in BHL

1. Select an author from the spreadsheet. Some authors will have one duplicate; others may have several.

For example, Gustav Stiasny appears 3 times in BHL:

Author	9777	Stiasny, Gustav, 1887-1946 [Person]	Wikidata	Q1555598	Wikidata identifier associated with more than one BHL author	
Author	58476	Stiasny, Gustav [Person]	Wikidata	Q1555598	Wikidata identifier associated with more than one BHL author	
Author	219245	Stiasny, Gustav Albert [Person]	Wikidata	Q1555598	Wikidata identifier associated with more than one BHL author	

2. Search the name in BHL Admin (https://admin.biodiversitylibrary.org/account/login)



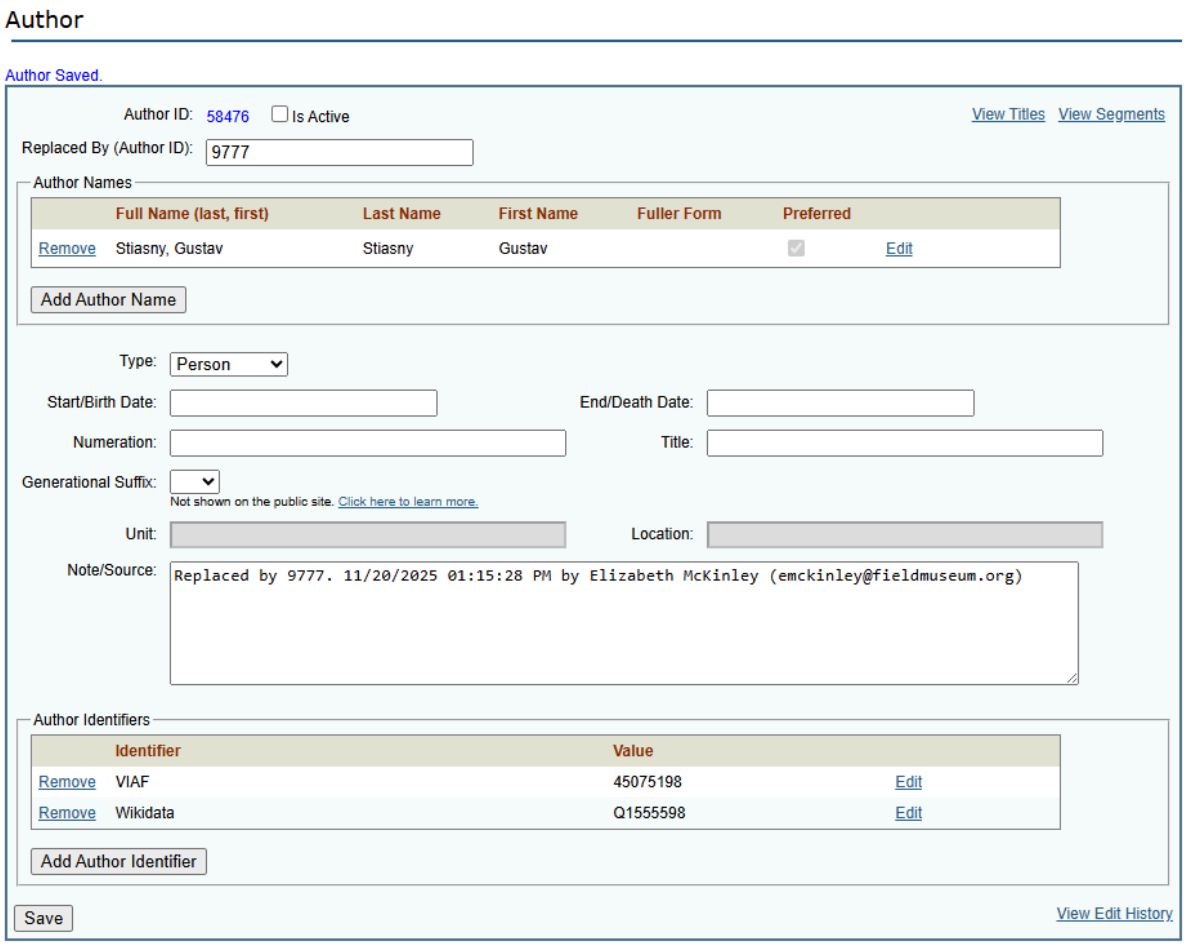
3. Choose the primary record. In this example, Author ID 9777 will be the primary.

4. Redirect each duplicate record to the primary ID. To do this,

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

- Open the duplicate record
- Uncheck “Active”
- Enter the primary ID in “Replaced By (Author ID)”
- Press save.

5. Verify that a note confirming the redirect appears in the record. This will appear in the Note/Source box and will be formatted as “Replaced by [Primary ID number]. [Date and Timestamp] by [Your name (your email)”



6. Repeat this step for all duplicate records.

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

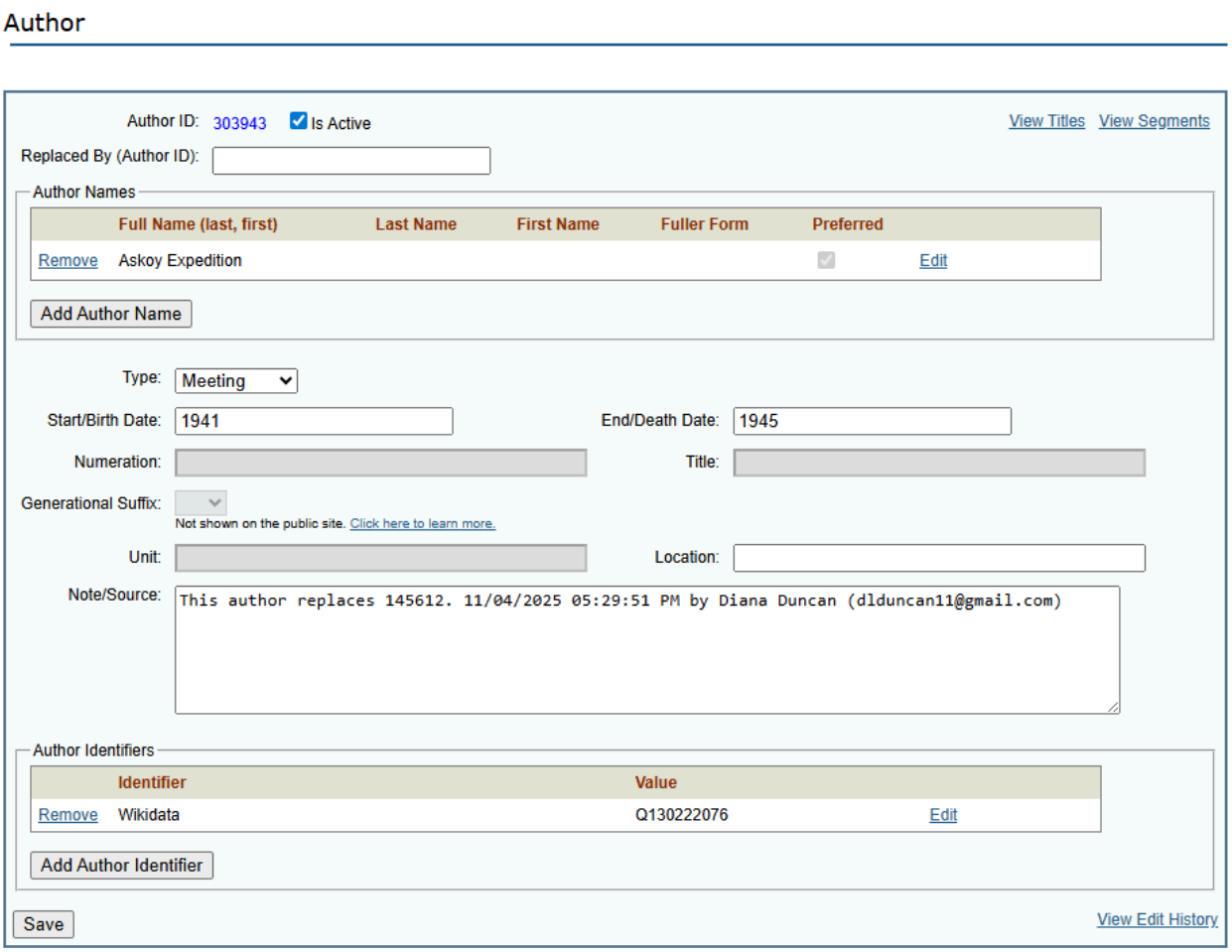
Special Considerations

Expeditions

Many of the IDs requiring deduplication relate to expeditions. These records have been inconsistently categorized – some are labeled as corporations, while others are classified as meetings. Additionally, dates are recorded inconsistently: in some cases, they are included as part of the name, while in others they appear in the Start and End date fields.

Following discussion at the March 2026 Cataloging and Metadata Committee meeting, the decision was made to standardize the treatment of expeditions as Meetings. Dates should be recorded exclusively in the Start and End fields rather than included in the Full Name.

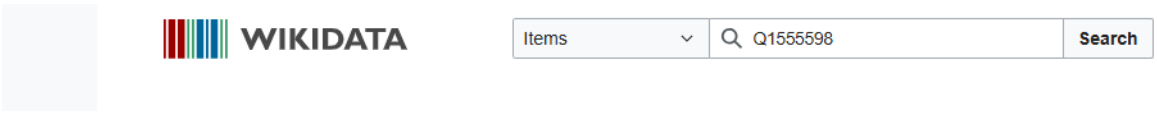
See example:



Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

Deprecating the IDs in Wikidata

1. Login to your Wikidata account
2. Search for the relevant Wikidata QID



3. Locate the BHL IDs (Using Ctrl+F and searching “BHL” is often fastest.)
4. Deprecate any BHL IDs that were redirected in BHL.

Find the BHL creator id in need of deprecation.



BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Press “edit” button on the right hand side of that BHL creator id statement.

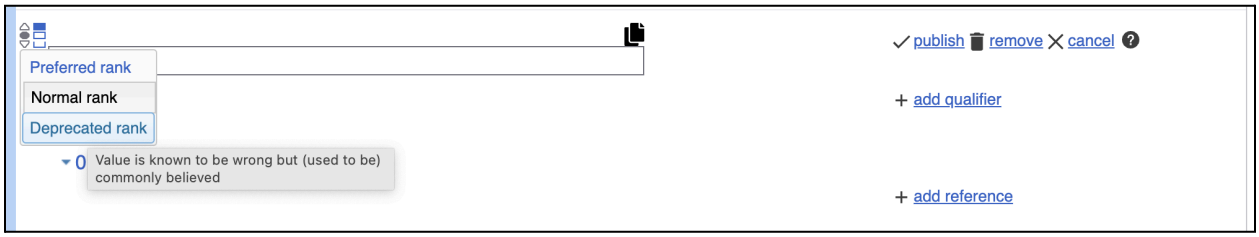


BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

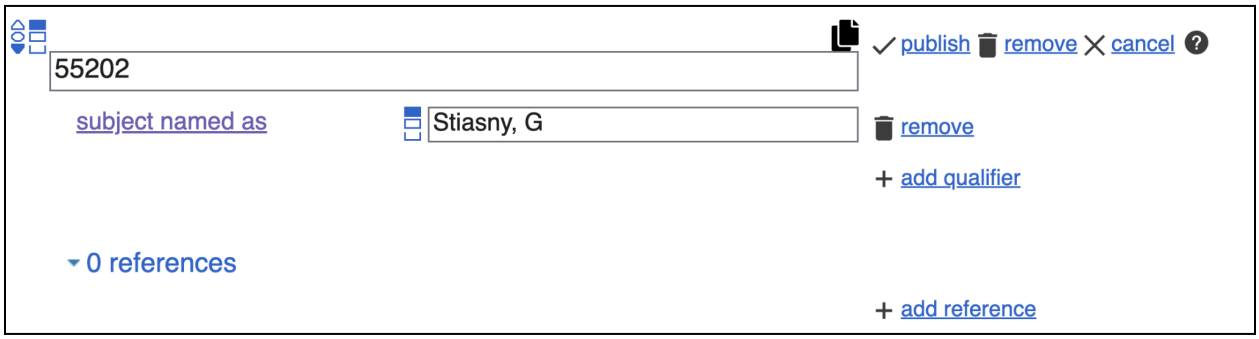
Go to the small  symbol on the left hand side of the BHL creator id needing to be deprecated.

Press the down pointing triangle and select “Deprecated rank”.



BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

The down pointing triangle should now be coloured blue.

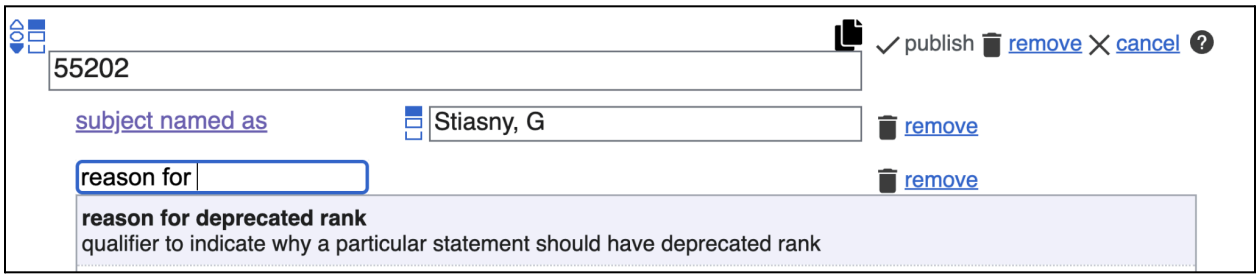


BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Press the “+ add qualifier” text on the right hand side under the BHL creator number.

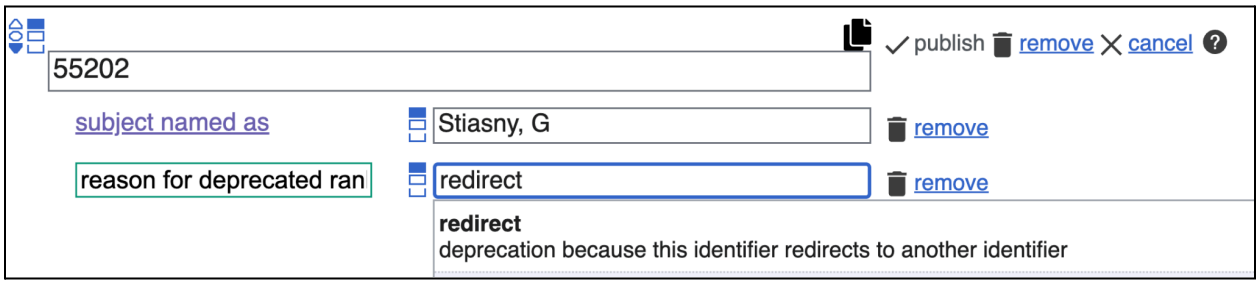
Add qualifier “reason for deprecated rank”

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata



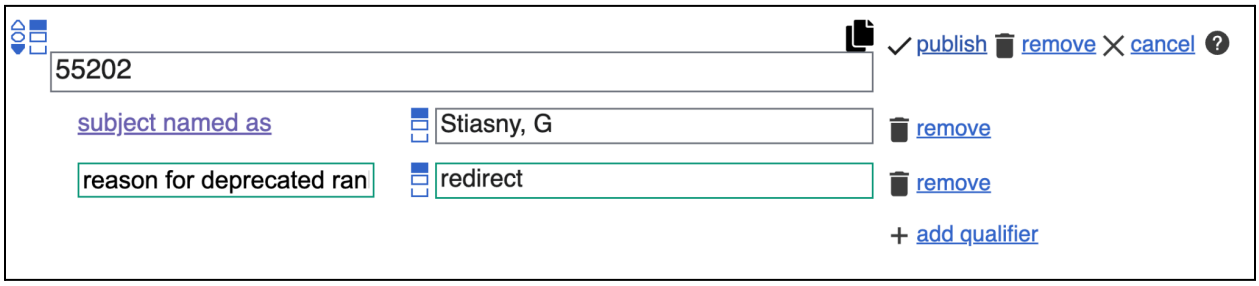
BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Then type and select “redirect”



BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Then press “publish” at the top right of the statement being edited.



BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Once successfully deprecated and published the deprecated statement should be shaded pink.

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata



BHL creator identifier on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

5. Repeat these steps for all deprecated BHL IDs.

6. Update the *primary* Wikidata record to match the authoritative BHL record (e.g., fuller name, birth and/or death dates), if needed.



BHL creator identifiers on a Wikidata item. Wikimedia Foundation. CC BY-SA 4.0

Author & Title Disambiguation in BHL and Wikidata

7. When complete, note your initials in the “**Resolved? (Initials)” column of the spreadsheet.**