

Conference

## Wikimedia versus Traditional Biographical Dictionaries?

31 March 2025, Prague

Wikipedia has become the primary source of biographical information due to its extensive coverage. Traditional academic biographical dictionaries mostly serve to cross-verify or find entries not yet covered by Wikipedia.

However, a mutual dependence between Wikipedia and traditional biographical dictionaries is still evident, as Wikipedia and even more so Wikidata rely on authority data generated by traditional producers of dictionaries.

The aim of the conference is to discuss how the creation of traditional dictionaries and Wikipedia/Wikidata could complement each other.

### Venue

Akademické konferenční centrum  
Husova 4a, 110 00 Praha 1, Czechia  
(entrance from the Husova street)

For registration to the conference, please send e-mail to [baranek@hiu.cas.cz](mailto:baranek@hiu.cas.cz).



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# Conference programme

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening**

9:30 – 10:30 **Procedures and challenges**

*Creating academic biographical dictionaries in the age of Wikipedia*

**In the Shadow of Wikipedia? Regional and Universal Biographical Portals from the Perspective of the Saxon Biography**

Joachim Schneider | Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde

**Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands - Perspectives and Prospects**

Jiří Martínek | Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Digitization, open knowledge**

*Searching for the meaning of academic dictionaries in the digital era*

**(Re-)configuring biographical knowledge: the digital journeys of the Dictionary of Irish Biography**

Turlough O'Riordan | Royal Irish Academy

**(E-)Dictionary of Slovak Historians: The outline of the project**

Oliver Zajac | Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:30 **Competition or cooperation?**

*The relationship between academic dictionaries and Wikipedia/Wikidata*

**Can Wikipedia help academic dictionaries to increase their popularity?**

Kristýna Kysilková

**The problem of contextual information: geographical locations and institutions in authority data**

Johannes Gleixner, Pavla Šimková | Collegium Carolinum, Munich

**Wikidata as a source of biographical data: experiences of Czech Literary Bibliography**

Vojtěch Malínek | Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences

14:30 – 15:00 **Coffee break**

15:00 – 16:30 **Czech Librarians Have Moved to Wikibase**

Linda Jansová | National Library of the Czech Republic

Aleš Brožek | Ústí Regional Library

**Modernizing Historical Scholarship: Between Wikibase and the Polish Biographical Dictionary**

Adam Zapała, Konrad Kołodziejczyk | Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences

**Conversion of biographical records into structured data using machine learning tools**

Daniel Baránek, Veronika Kršková | Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Science

16:30 – 17:30 **Closing discussion**