

# Wikidata Conversation

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

group, community, theology, religion, practice, question, collaborate, goals, atla, talking, figure, idea, chat, share, area, presented, learn, models, hoping, discussing

## SPEAKERS

Christa Strickler, Speaker 1, Charlotte Liu

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Christa Strickler 00:01

Welcome to our first meeting of the Wikidata Religion & Theology Community of Practice. I'm Christa Strickler, and I'm Associate Professor of Library Science and then also Resource Description Librarian at Wheaton College. I'm going to be presenting during the first part of this session, and then we'll have some time for discussion afterwards, the session will be recorded up through my presentation, and then I will we will be turning off the recording for the discussion portion. And then I'll also be posting my slides with the recording after the session as well. So I'm going to go ahead and turn off my camera, so it's not a distraction here, and then we'll go ahead and get started. Okay, first, I wanted to thank Atla, for supporting this initiative as a group of collectors and connectors in religion and theology, they are what I consider to be the perfect group to help connect us in this way. So thank you, Atla, for your support in this. And then also thank you to Matt Davis from Atla's Scholarly Communications and Digital Initiatives Committee. He's been collaborating with me on getting this started, I don't know if he's here right now or not. But thank you, Matt, for all your help in getting this going. So just to start here, some of our basic goals for the meeting, we're going to be discussing the basic framework of the group by talking about what methods of communication we have, what our group goals are, and then also a little bit about the nature of a community of practice, what is a community of practice, and then also, number two, hopefully get to know each other a little bit better get more comfortable talking with each other, just so that we can start building what this group needs to be. And that plays right into number three, which is just figuring out what this group needs. I haven't talked with all of you. So I don't know what it is that you're hoping to get out of this group. So hopefully, we can get a better sense of this from the end of this session. So to start with, we have three methods of communication. One is a website, that's more of a really a way to post information rather than communication, I'm going to put the link to that in the chat. And it will also be in the slides that are posted. It's just basically a site that's hosted on wikidata of various resources that might be of help to this group, I'm not going to go over what's in it right now. Maybe we're going to have time later, we'll just see. But feel free to poke in, poke around in it, some after the meeting, or we can look at it later. And then also, we have a Google group, and I'm putting that in the chat as well. And that's going to be our main area of communication where we can post questions to the group. Put announcements in there just basically share information right in there. If you have trouble signing up for that, please feel free to contact me and I can help you get going on that. And then third, let me get the link to

this. We also have a Slack channel, which provides a different form of communication and collaboration. putting that in there as well, that is a link to the invitation to join the slack workspace. So if you're interested in joining that, feel free to connect with the link that is in chat as well. Okay, group goals, these could be flexible over time. But I did want to put some goals in place right at the outset, just so we can kind of get a sense of initial direction for the group. First goal is to offer an accessible arena for library professionals and others who are interested in religion and theology to learn more about wikidata. There are a lot of wikidata training materials out there. But it can be challenging and intimidating to get started. There's so much out there if you don't know where to start it. Yeah, it can be really challenging. So hopefully this group will be will be a place where maybe we can make some of this more accessible. Some of us can share what we know others can learn, we can we can work on this together. And hopefully it will be a little less intimidating. And then a second group goal is to improve the representation of religion and theology on wikidata, that there's a lot of coverage in other areas, particularly the sciences have a lot of coverage. But I've noticed as I've been working in various areas of religion and theology, there's not as much representation of that general domain of knowledge. So hopefully by getting together as a group We can improve the representation of that as well. And then third is also to provide support for collaboration on projects relevant to religion and theology. So some examples and could be, say sponsoring a wikidata edit- a-thon, in areas of interest, or supporting each other on projects originating from our individual institution, sometimes just trying to go at a project alone can be a little bit too much. And maybe if you get others to collaborate with you, there could be more interest and could get more done that way. Another option is creating data models. And I can, that that might be a confusing term right now. But basically, for data models, that would be if there's an area of wikidata where there hasn't been much contribution. Sometimes it's hard to figure out, okay, how do I describe a particular item, we could, if there's gaps in certain areas, we might be able to collaborate and figure out what is a model of what we think is a best practice of a way to describe a particular thing of interest to our group, and then that could support more consistent data contribution for topics in our area. So that's just some of the things we might be able to collaborate on. There's all sorts of possibilities. I just wanted to throw out a few ideas right there. Okay, and then community of practice, what is it? I have calling our group, a community of practice does make the group name very long and unwieldy. And I realized that, but I included in there intentionally because it means a particular thing. And in case the idea is new to you as it is to me, I thought I would just briefly go over what exactly do we mean when we say, we're a community of practice, because I think it sets the tone for what I'm hoping this group can be. Community of Practice is a term that is coined, but that was coined by educational theorist Etienne Wenger, and it's an idea of learning as social participation. I'm not going to go into all the details of that. But what I mainly wanted to talk about is that the idea of a community of practice has kind of a structural model with three general components. You have a domain, the community, and a practice. And so what a domain is that is the subject matter that brings the group together. So in our case, that's the intersection of wikidata and its coverage of religious and theological topics. It's just the general subject area of interest, kind of gives the group some, some identity and also some boundaries that help us decide what activities will we pursue, or what knowledge do we share with each other. And then second, the community that that is what is considered the social fabric of the learning experience. So if a strong community develops, it can foster interactions based on respect and trust. And what I find especially important about this is that it encourages group willingness to, to, to share ideas, to expose our ignorance of things, and to ask difficult questions. And I especially wanted to emphasize the importance of this, in exposing one's ignorance. We do have a variety of experience levels with wiki data, and probably a variety of experience in different areas of religion and theology. So I don't want anyone to feel embarrassed for not knowing something, even if it feels like the stupidest question in the world. I'm hoping this group can be a place

where you can ask when or speak up, if somebody if somebody says something you don't understand, or you don't understand how something's working, I don't want people to be embarrassed. So hopefully, this can become a community where we can all expose our ignorance together and then learn together as a community. And then finally, practice is the body of knowledge that we will create together as a group. So the domain is this general topic that we focus on, but the practice is specific to us. So for example, the webpage that I shared earlier that could become a place where we share links to group projects or data models that we come up with together. I don't know yet what it will be. Hopefully, it'll become a place where we can share practice that is specific to this group. So that is mainly all I wanted to say about the community of practice. I don't want to spend this whole meeting me being the only one talking. But before we go on to group introductions, are there any initial questions about what I've presented before We move on, feel free to unmute yourself or talk in the chat. whatever is most comfortable for you.

**C** Charlotte Liu 10:12

Hi, Krista, this is Charlotte Liu, I have a very simple question. Do you have any idea? How often are we meeting?

**C** Christa Strickler 10:20

That is an excellent question and one I have not figured out yet. Hopefully we can partly figure that out as what does the group need. Partly, it's also my own busyness, I can't just offer training sessions or whatever, every week. So we don't know that yet. But hopefully, we'll figure that out soon. Um, let's see. Let me write that down, taking notes and talking at the same time. So there will be some awkward pauses as I do that. And then I'm seeing in the chat, a question about does this group have a code of conduct? That is also an excellent question. And that's what I've been thinking about. And I've looked around for some examples. I haven't found any that just yet. But I'm hoping to do something like that. Because we're a diverse group of people from a diverse areas of expertise, even within religion and theology and librarianship. So I think a code of conduct might be good just to make sure we can all all understand what are the expectations of interacting professionally, within the confines of this group? Does that answer your question? Great. Any other questions?

**S** Speaker 1 11:48

Regarding what would make sense for this group? Would it make sense to do some sort of pull about our wikidata experience and goals? Or did you do that as part of our signup? It's, it's been a long January, I can't recall. But I was thinking that can help guide what would be useful next.

**C** Christa Strickler 12:06

That is something we could potentially do. I'm trying to think back when this idea actually started back in June, it's been a long time. And getting to this point, I presented on this idea at a conference that not all of you were present for. And I did put out a survey then to kind of get

a general idea of what sorts of things people would be interested in. And but not all of you were able to participate in that because now it has grown outside of that initial group. And there are more participants, so I think it could be worthwhile doing that. I was also hoping depending on Okay, there are 24 people here today, we might be able to talk about that some today. I was born just seeing going to be seeing I didn't know how many people would actually attend today. So I didn't know how much time would be taken up. But a poll would potentially be a good idea. I've written that down as something to look into Thank you. And then in chat, Iman is saying maybe as we discuss more we can define goals and deliverables. Yes, that I didn't want to put too much structure at the outset. I didn't want to necessarily control things. So I like the idea of discussing that more in the future as well. Any other questions before we move to introducing each other? Okay, I am going to say that we are good for moving on.