

## Hidden women in science (Topic 9)

### *Aim/problem/goal*

Due to various sociological and historical reasons, great achievements of women in science often disappear under the radar. It is essential to make sure that women are equally represented in the infrastructures and that their works are correctly linked to the person. The starting point of this project was to investigate the role of the infrastructures in improving the visibility of the 'hidden' scientists.

### *Method*

The methodology of this project varied substantially from manual search of information inside the infrastructures and related infrastructures towards connecting APIs together to improve the visibility of the scientific achievements of women. Interconnectivity of the infrastructures is also what makes that scientific merit become more visible. It is also widely known that much of the achievements of people are locked-up inside natural history collections. Potential ways of liberating this information were investigated.

### *Results*

During the hacking session, Wikipedia articles were jointly written, but also the profiles of over 200 women on Wikidata were added or completed. A big majority of these women also have a ScienceStories.io page available, showing also their specimens on Bionomia through IIIF compliant images. In order to engage more interested volunteers, a Wikipedia weekly session (Wikipedia Weekly 2021) was recorded explaining to a wider audience the power of connecting these tools together. Using GBIF data and an extract of the internal collection management system of Meise Botanic Garden, the potential of data enrichment was investigated.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion of this project, it is key to notice that a large community of highly motivated 'volunteers' is crucial in unlocking the information on hidden women, including suitable collaborative platforms. APIs need to talk to each other, and linked open data needs to be used within the different infrastructures. Much of the information on these hidden women is either locked-up inside the natural history collections or inside of literature. It is therefore of most importance that this information is made available by the infrastructures (e.g. through DiSSCo, the Biodiversity Heritage Library etc.)

### *References*

- Kalfatovic, Martin R., Grace Costantino, and Constance A. Rinaldo. 2019. 'The Biodiversity Heritage Library: Unveiling a World of Knowledge About Life on Earth'. In *Digital Libraries for Open Knowledge*, edited by Antoine Doucet, Antoine Isaac, Koraljka Golub, Trond Aalberg, and Adam Jatowt, 11799:352–55. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Cham: Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-30760-8\\_32](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-30760-8_32).
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