



Unveiling New Research and Updates: Happy New Year from the Journal of Open Humanities Data

JOHD Newsletter January 2026

Hello << Test First Name >>,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! We hope you had a restful holiday season and are ready for an exciting year of open scholarship. The Journal of Open Humanities Data (JOHD) is entering a new phase of growth, and we are thrilled to share our plans for the year ahead, which include expanding our special collections and increasing our engagement with the global Digital Humanities community.

We are also excited to announce that, in an effort to keep you more regularly informed of our activities and the latest research, we will be transitioning to a quarterly email schedule starting this year.

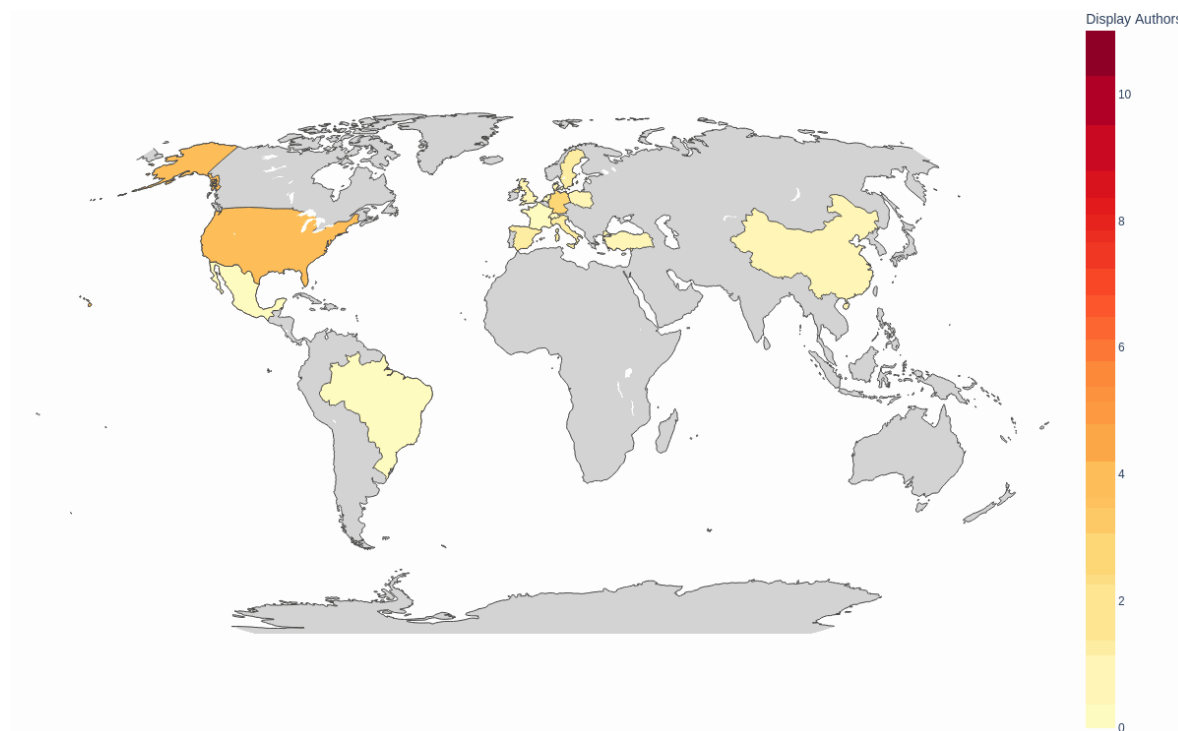
If you know someone who would be interested in our activities, please share [this sign-up link](#) to our mailing list. Follow us on [X](#), [WeChat](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#) for more updates. You can now also check out our new [LinkedIn](#) page.

This newsletter was created by Caitlin Wilson and Vesna Wen, with the support of the JOHD team.

Article Highlights

Our Special Collection, “[Wikidata Across the Humanities: Datasets, Methodologies, Reuse](#)”, has seen a tremendous response, becoming a key focus for the journal as we enter 2026. Edited by Andrea Farina, the collection showcases how Wikidata is being actively used as a platform for integrating and analysing humanities datasets.

We are particularly excited by the broad international participation in the collection and are proud to highlight four recently published articles that exemplify its breadth and depth. So far, we have published 20 papers as part of the collection out of an expected 40+, with a diverse cohort of authors from 15 countries—and counting. Explore which countries are most represented in the collection so far:



Author Distribution Map: This animated map illustrates the global reach of our Wikidata Special Collection. The intensity of the colour for each country reflects the total number of contributing authors, with darker shades indicating a higher concentration of authors. Country representation was taken from each author’s current institution.

We look forward to welcoming more submission from across the globe in 2026, especially from under-represented countries.

Featured Articles from the Wikidata Collection

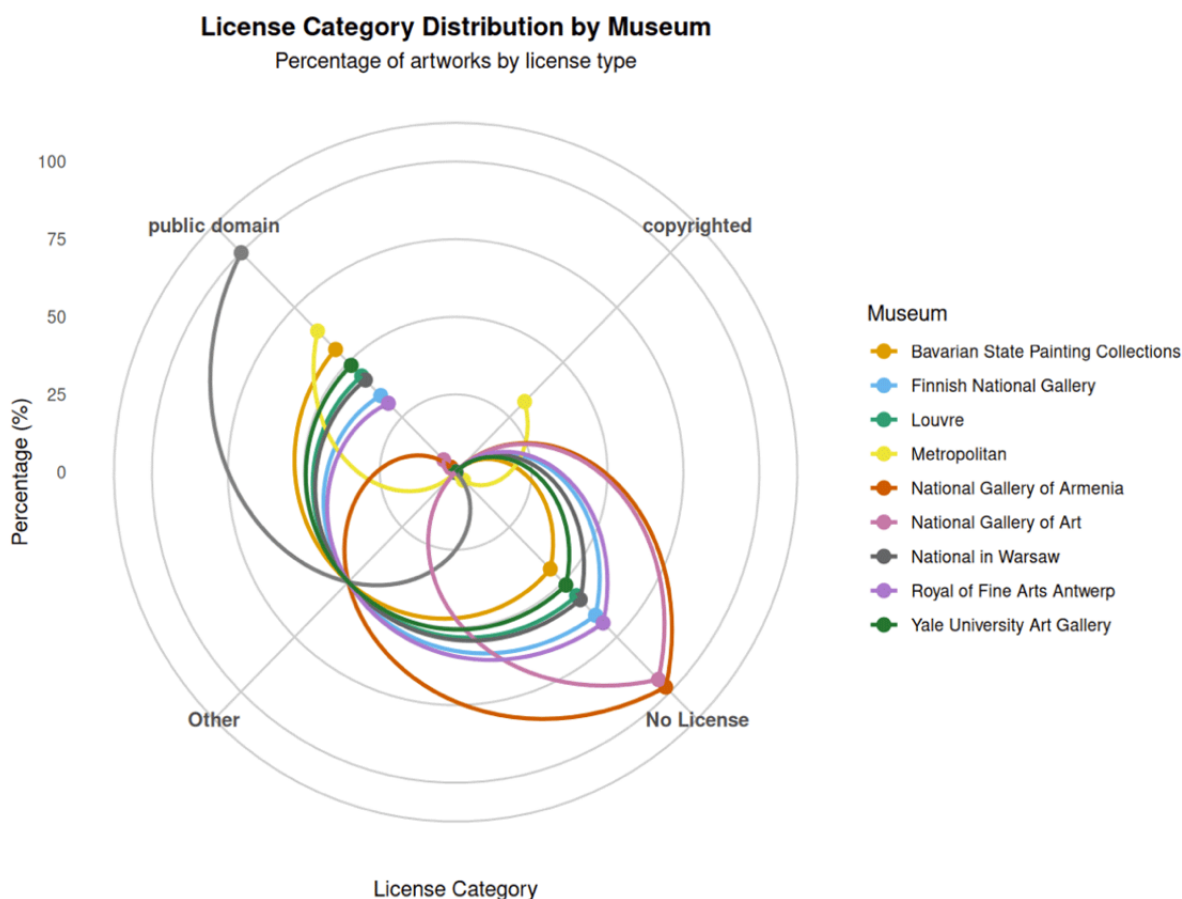
For this newsletter, we have highlighted four recently published articles that exemplify the breadth and depth of research in this collection:

Open Data Practices of Art Museums in Wikidata: A Compliance Assessment

Author: Meltem Dişli, Gustavo Candela, Silvia Gutiérrez, Giovanna Fontenelle

Summary: This work focuses explicitly on Art museums in Wikidata. It aims to benchmark their adoption of key open data best practices using defined open data compliance criteria. Examples of the criteria defined include providing machine-readable data, ensuring licensing clarity, and enabling reuse through APIs and examples. Ultimately, this study maps the current adoption of these practices among leading Art museums and provides a guideline for institutions seeking to improve their open data compliance in the Wikidata ecosystem.

[Read the full article](#)



Disrupting the Dust: Identifier Properties and the Future of Cultural Heritage Metadata in Wikidata

Author: Hanna-Lena Meiners, Klaus Bulle

Summary: This data paper examines how Wikidata identifiers can be used to improve the linking, sustainability, and interoperability of cultural heritage metadata. Drawing on case studies from European GLAM projects, the authors explore the challenges of aligning local collection data with Wikidata's open, community-driven knowledge graph, including issues of identifier conflicts and data modeling. Rather than treating these frictions as problems to eliminate, the paper argues that they reveal productive interactions between local and global knowledge systems. The study highlights iterative "round-tripping" workflows as a key strategy for building sustainable, linked cultural heritage data infrastructures.

[Read the full article](#)

Epigraphical Datasets of the Temple of Atargatis from Dura-Europos for the WikiProject International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive

Author: Aleksandra Kubiak-Schneider

Summary: The paper concerns the datasets of epigraphic material from the Temple of Atargatis in Dura-Europos in Syria. It covers the 43 inscriptions in Greek and two in Middle Aramaic from two locations: the proper temple and the hall of female cultic association. The datasets are a part of the WikiProject International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive, having their own Q-identifier in the Wikidata.org and being listed in the finds within the temple. The datasets present a high potential of reuse for historians and archaeologists, especially in preparation of the digital and analog corpus of inscriptions.

[Read the full article](#)



Behind the Picture: German Filmmakers as Agents of Natural History Collections. The Case Study of Adolf Freiherr von Dungern in the Amazon

Author: Rodrigo Campos Castello Branco, Sabine von Mering

Summary: This Wikidata dataset provides information on these expeditions, their participants, the films produced, the specimens collected, and the publications about them. The compilation of data is supported by historical research on archival documents, scattered in different archives and collections, aiming to bring together different sources by connecting relevant entities and visualising the information. The dataset is archived in Zenodo and interlinked data is made available via Wikidata. This project offers a unique perspective on the entangled relationship between film historical studies, zoological research and collections from colonial contexts, facilitating further interdisciplinary research.

[Read the full article](#)

Benchmarking in Digital Humanities

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new Special Collection: "[Benchmarking in](#)

[Digital Humanities](#).” This collection, edited by Dr. Jenny C.Y. Kwok and Dr. Liam Jianliang Gao, aims to elevate the role of systematic evaluation in the humanities. It seeks contributions that explore the creation of shared evaluation data, the systematic comparison of tools, and the establishment of benchmarking frameworks to drive progress and enhance reproducibility in the field.

News

Celebrating One Year of the JOHD WeChat Official Account

Launched in October 2024, the JOHD WeChat Official Account marks its first anniversary after a year of steady growth and engagement. Over the past twelve months, the account published 25 articles, generating 143 new followers, and 3,418 total views across multiple traffic channels. Average monthly traffic in the second half of the year increased by 66% compared to the first half, highlighting the account’s growing reach within the Chinese-speaking academic community.

Over its first year, the WeChat Official Account has become an important channel for sharing JOHD research and promoting open access humanities scholarship. Through curated research highlights and informational content, it has helped build connections between the journal and its readership. As we celebrate this one-year milestone, we look forward to continuing to grow the community and to supporting open, accessible, and collaborative humanities research in the year ahead. You can follow the JOHD WeChat Official Account via [this link](#).

Updates from the Team

Our Editor-in-Chief, Barbara McGillivray, has been actively representing JOHD and its mission.

- In December, Barbara presented the paper "Finding the Paper Behind the Data: Automatic Identification of Research Articles related to Data Publications" at the Workshop on Information Extraction from Scientific Publications (WASP 2025)

- In February, Barbara will be a featured speaker at the event "The Benefits and Challenges of Open Source Software in Research."

Andrea Farina and Caitlin Wilson are pleased to be chairing the "[Quantitative Diachronic Linguistics and Cultural Analytics: Data-Driven Insights into Language and Cultural Change](#)" conference. This event, hosted at King's College London this 15th and 16th of January, will explore the intersection of quantitative diachronic linguistics and cultural analytics, providing a platform for researchers working with computational and data-driven methods to investigate how language evolves and how these changes relate – directly or broadly – to cultural dynamics.

Team Changes

JOHD's team is growing! We're proud to support the development of early-career researchers and thrilled to welcome 5 new copyeditors. They bring a diverse range of expertise, strengthening our commitment to open humanities data:



Tanja Gaustad

I am currently working as a data scientist and senior computational linguist at the Centre for Text Technology (CTexT) at the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. My research focuses on (digital) resources for South African languages (ranging from corpora to linguistically annotated data), Universal Dependency annotation, lexical semantics and the use of data and linguistic information in under-resourced languages in general. I recently joined JOHD as a Copyeditor.

Francesco Cotana

I am a Research Fellow in Architectural History at the University of Perugia. I completed my PhD at the University of Perugia in joint supervision with the University of Florence and developed my dissertation through research visits at King's College London and New York University. My research integrates global architectural history with quantitative methods, using databases to analyse archival data and nineteenth-century transnational networks. I recently joined JOHD as a Copyeditor.



Isaac Parkinson

I am a PhD candidate in Digital Humanities at King's College London. My research explores the intersections of data visualisation, knowledge production, and documentary aesthetics in digital image cultures, focusing particularly on OSINT visual investigations and documentation of humanitarian crises.

Nadia Di Leo

I am a PhD Student in Education, Development and Learning Sciences at the University of Foggia (Italy), where I

collaborate with the Chair of Special Education. My research explores how digital media and video games shape learning, culture, and participation, spanning themes such as game-based learning and representation in games. I recently joined the Journal of Open Humanities Data as a copyeditor.



Lena Pickartz

I'm a Master's student in Data and Information Science, prior to that I worked for museums and archives before diving into computational approaches to cultural data and materials. My research focuses on applying NLP as well as computer vision to historical texts and visual collections. I recently joined JOHD as a copyeditor.

Call for Papers

Language datasets reuse: opportunities, challenges, and best practices

A reminder that our Special Collection "[Language datasets reuse: opportunities, challenges, and best practices](#)" is still accepting submissions. Guest editors of this special collection: Darja Fišer (CLARIN ERIC) and Francesca Frontini (ILC-CNR) and our

coordinating editor Paola Marongiu (ILC-CNR/JOHD) invite submissions showcasing reuse of mono- or multilingual language datasets across humanities research. Contributions may also describe cases where dataset reuse led to the creation of a new dataset. We welcome papers that present both successful and less successful experiences of language data reuse, with reflection on encountered issues and lessons learned. Position papers on how data creators can maximise the future reuse potential of language datasets are also encouraged. You can still [submit to the special collection](#) until **30 January 2026**.

We welcome your contributions to showcase the very best in open research. Together, let's advance the future of Open Humanities. **Submit your work** [here](#).

Thank you for being part of the JOHD community.

Warm regards,
The JOHD Team



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