

# How to... Wikibase

## Training material for Wikibase

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**WIKIMEDIA**  
DEUTSCHLAND

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## Welcome!

This is a set of training and educational material about how to get started with Wikibase. Here you will find descriptions and examples about how to create an instance, how to create items and properties, how to model and import data and more :)



## Contents:

1. [Introduction to Wikibase \(and\) Data Modelling](#)
2. [Creating a Wikibase Instance \(Wikibase Cloud\)](#)
3. [How to create Items \(Q's\) and Properties \(P's\) in your wikibase instance](#)
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5. [Importing Data \(Quickstatements\)](#)

# 1. Introduction to Wikibase (and) Data Modelling



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Wikibase is free software that stores and organizes information that can be collaboratively edited and read by humans and by computers; translated into multiple languages and shared with the rest of the world as part of the Linked Open Data (LOD) web



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# Wikibase software

- You can **create** and **manage** your own linked open **knowledge base**
- Its flexibility allows you to build your own **data model** to suit your needs
- The MediaWiki interface means that you can easily **access** and **update** data
- You can interact with your data using **SPARQL**, the powerful query language



## Further reading:

- [Wikibase Essentials](#)
- [What is Wikibase and who's using it?](#)

# Data Modeling

Maya Angelou (Q19526)

Item identifier  
(Q item)

American poet and author (1928-2014)

Marguerite Annie Johnson | Marguerite Johnson | Marguerite Ann Johnson | Marguerite Anne Johnson

► In more languages

## Statements

instance of

human

Value

edit

► 1 reference

+ add v

Property

Triple structure:

Subject (Item)

Predicate (Property)

Object (Value)

# The essentials of Wikibase Data Modelling

- **Items (Q followed by a number)**

- An item is a uniquely identified entity representing a concept, object, or topic, described using structured data with labels, descriptions, aliases and statements.

- **Properties (P followed by a number)**

- A property in a Wikibase instance is a structured data element that defines a specific type of relationship or attribute used to describe items through statements.
- Properties can accept various [data types](#)

- **Statements**

- A statement is a structured assertion about an item, consisting of a property and a value (or values), used to describe the item's characteristics or relationships. Additionally, a statement may include qualifiers as well as references for the assertion made.

[Main page](#)  
[Recent changes](#)  
[Random page](#)  
[Help about MediaWiki](#)

## Tools

[What links here](#)  
[Related changes](#)  
[Special pages](#)  
[Printable version](#)  
[Permanent link](#)  
[Page information](#)

## Wikibase

[New Item](#)  
[New Property](#)  
[New Schema](#)  
[All Properties](#)  
[Query Service](#)  
[Cradle](#)  
[QuickStatements](#)

[In other languages](#)

 [Add links](#)

**label** — **Wole Soyinka** (Q41488) — **item identifier (Qid)**

**description** — Nobel laureate Nigerian writer  
Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka | Akinwande Oluwole "Wole" Soyinka — **aliases**


► In more languages

**Statements**

**property** — **award received** — **value**

<b>Nobel Prize in Literature</b>	
point in time	1986
prize money	2,000,000 Swedish krona
award rationale	som i ett brett kulturellt perspektiv och med poetiska övertoner gestaltar tillvarons drama (Swedish) who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence (English)
► 2 references	

**statement group** — **references**

<b>Nigerian National Order of Merit Award</b>	 edit
► 1 reference	

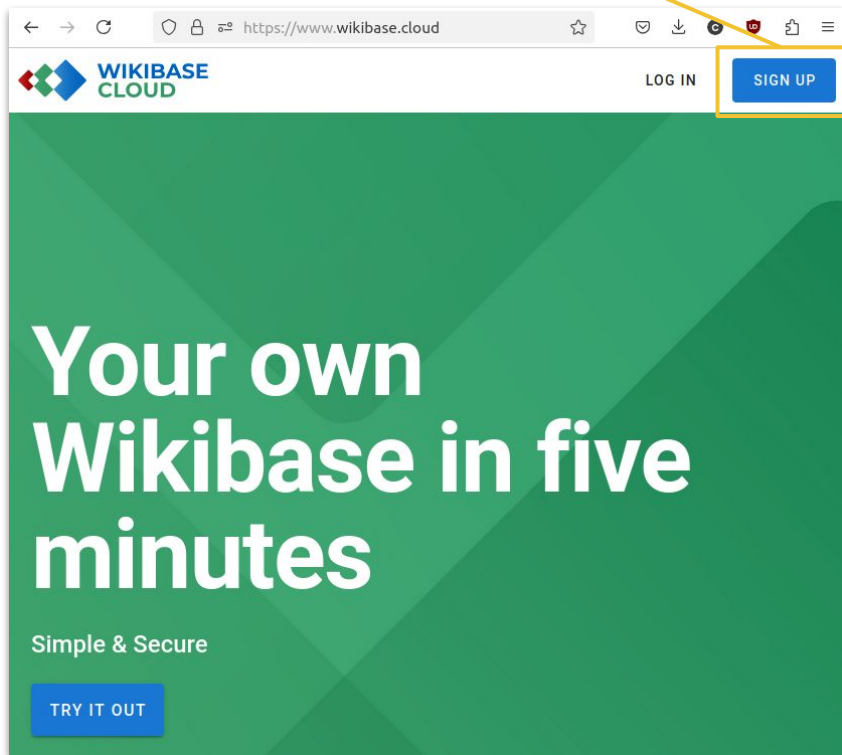
**Further reading:**  
[Wikibase Data Modelling](#)

## 2. Creating a Wikibase Instance [Wikibase Cloud]



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1. Visit [wikibase.cloud](https://wikibase.cloud) and click 'sign up'

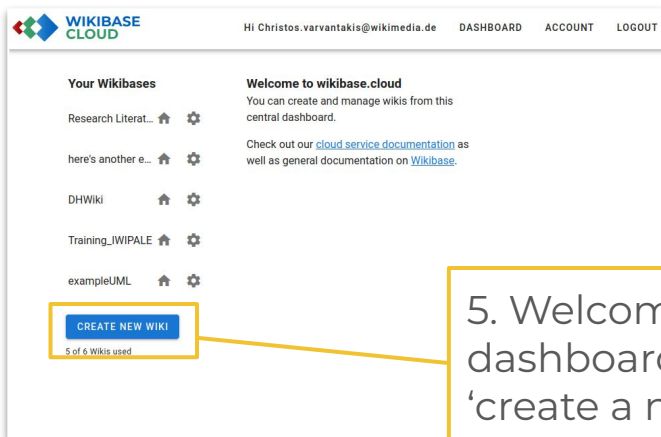
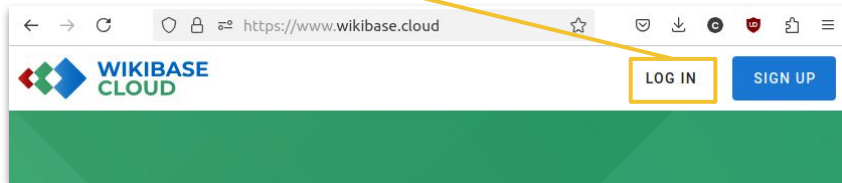


2. Fill in the form

A screenshot of the 'Sign up' form on the Wikibase Cloud website. The form is titled 'Sign up' and contains the following fields: 'Email address', 'Password', and 'Confirm Password'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'I agree to the Terms of Use.' with links to 'Terms of Use', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Terms of Service'. At the bottom right of the form is a 'CREATE ACCOUNT' button. Below the form, there is a link 'Already have an account?' followed by a 'LOG IN' button. A yellow arrow points from the 'SIGN UP' button in the previous screenshot to this form.

3. Check your email and confirm your address

4. Visit again [wikibase.cloud](https://wikibase.cloud) but this time, login :)



5. Welcome to your dashboard! Now, let's 'create a new wiki'

A screenshot of the 'Create a wiki' form. The form has a blue header with the title 'Create a wiki'. It contains several fields: 'Site name' with an information icon, 'Site domain' with an information icon, 'Your user' with an information icon, and 'Terms of use'. The 'Site domain' section has two radio buttons: 'Free Subdomain' (selected) and 'Custom Domain'. Below the 'Terms of use' section, there is a checkbox labeled 'I agree to the Terms of Use.' and a blue button labeled 'CREATE WIKI'. Yellow arrows point from various text boxes to these elements: 'A name for your wikibase instance' to 'Site name', 'A free subdomain will include .wikibase.cloud in the domain. You cannot reuse a wikibase cloud domain.' to 'Site domain', 'Your Username for this particular wiki' to 'Your user', 'Read carefully, and f you agree. tick the box.' to the checkbox, and 'And, off you go!' to the 'CREATE WIKI' button.

A name for your wikibase instance

A free subdomain will include .wikibase.cloud in the domain. You cannot reuse a wikibase cloud domain.

Your Username for this particular wiki

Read carefully, and f you agree. tick the box.

And, off you go!

**WIKIBASE CLOUD**

Hi Christos.varvantakis@wikimedia.de DASHBOARD ACCOUNT LOGOUT

**WIKI SETTINGS** FEATURES

**Details**

Please check your emails for your log in details.  
Status: Published  
Site name: wiki, basically  
Domain: **wikibase.wiki**  
Date created: 2020-06-24 12:09:00-0000000000  
Database Version: mw1.39-wbs1

**Registration Options**

Disable direct account creation and require the approval of new accounts by a site administrator.  
This is powered by the [ConfirmAccount](#) extension.  
☐ Accounts must be requested

**Set Skin**

Skin  
The default skin is Vector.  
**SET SKIN**

**Set Logo**

Logo  
Upload a square PNG logo that is at least 135x135 pixels.  
**SET LOGO**

**Wikibase Options**

**Value lengths**

Longer than default lengths (which are used on Wikidata) is generally untested and might have some unexpected outcomes.  
The default values for both of these fields is 400 characters. The maximum you can set here is 2500

String  
400

Monolingual text  
400

**Multilang (term) lengths**

Longer than default lengths (which are used on Wikidata) is generally untested and might have some unexpected outcomes.  
The default values for this field is 250 characters. The maximum you can set here is 2500

**Additional Spam Protection**

QuestyCaptcha offers an extra layer of protection against spam

7. That's the domain of your wikibase instance. The link will get you to your wiki.

English Create account Log in

Main Page Discussion Read More Search here's

**Main Page**

Welcome to Wikibase Cloud!

This is your main page. For the start we have assembled some information for you that we think might be useful. This page is supposed to work for you. Feel free to change

Main page  
Recent changes  
Random page  
Help about MediaWiki

6. Once you clicked 'Create Wiki' you will be taken to the settings page for your wiki. Here, you're still on the 'wikibase.cloud' website, in the dashboard section of your account.

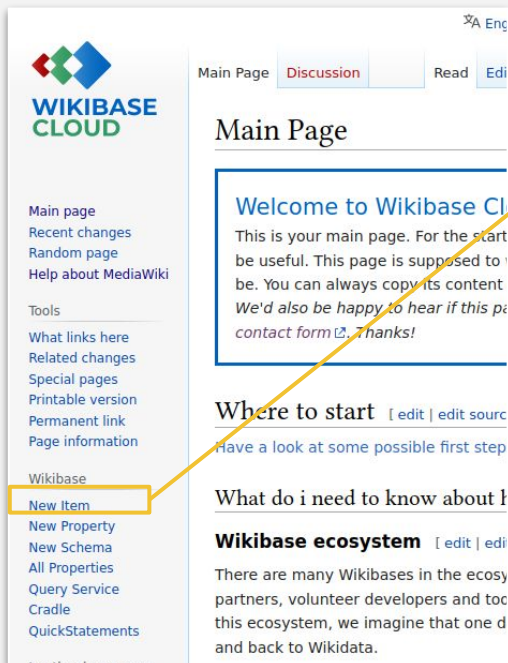
8. Check your email (the one you used at step 2). You should have received an email from your newly created wikibase instance. Use your Username (see step 5) and the temporary password provided in the email to create your password and to log in in your wiki :)

### 3. How to create Items (Q's) and Properties (P's) in your wikibase instance



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Remember: you must be logged in to edit!



The screenshot shows the Wikibase Cloud Main Page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Main Page', 'Discussion', 'Read', and 'Edit' tabs. The 'Main Page' tab is active. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Main Page'. A blue-bordered box contains the text: 'Welcome to Wikibase Cloud. This is your main page. For the start, this page is supposed to be useful. This page is supposed to be useful. You can always copy its content. We'd also be happy to hear if this page is useful for you. Please contact me on my contact form @. Thanks!'. Below this, there's a section titled 'Where to start' with links to 'edit' and 'edit source'. A yellow box highlights the 'New Item' link in the left sidebar. The sidebar also contains links to 'Main page', 'Recent changes', 'Random page', 'Help about MediaWiki', 'Tools', 'What links here', 'Related changes', 'Special pages', 'Printable version', 'Permanent link', 'Page information', 'Wikibase', 'New Property', 'New Schema', 'All Properties', 'Query Service', 'Cradle', and 'QuickStatements'.

## What is an item?

An item in a Wikibase instance is a uniquely identified entity representing a concept, object, or topic, described using structured data with labels, descriptions, and statements.

## Create a new Item

Make sure to [check if the Item already exists!](#)

You should create a [label](#) and a [description](#) for all new items.

By clicking "Create", you agree to the [terms of use](#).

### Create a new Item

Language:

en

Label:

enter a label in English

Description:

enter a description in English

Aliases, pipe-separated:

enter some aliases in English

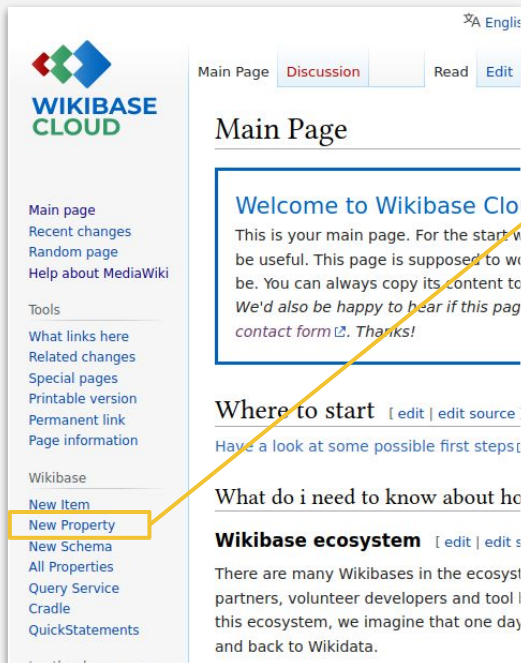
Create

The language code used to define the item's label, description, and aliases, ensuring multilingual support within the knowledge base.

the primary name of the item in a specific language, used to identify and display the item in searches and interfaces

short explanatory text that provides context about an item, helping to distinguish it from other items with similar labels

alternative names or synonyms for the item in a specific language, helping improve searchability by allowing users to find the item using different terms.



The screenshot shows the Wikibase Cloud interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Main Page', 'Discussion', 'Read', and 'Edit'. The main content area displays a 'Welcome to Wikibase Cloud' message. The left sidebar contains a list of links, with 'New Property' highlighted by a yellow box. A yellow line connects this box to the 'Create a new Property' form on the right.

## What is a property?

A property in a Wikibase instance is a structured data element that defines a specific type of relationship or attribute used to describe items through statements.

### Create a new Property

Language:  ▼

Label:

Description:

Aliases, pipe-separated:

Data type:  ▼

[Create](#)

the language code used to define the property's label, description, and aliases to support multilingual usage.

the primary name of the property in a specific language, used to identify and display the item in searches and interfaces

short explanatory text that provides context about the property, helping to distinguish it from other items with similar labels

alternative names or synonyms for the property in a specific language, helping improve searchability by allowing users to find the item using different terms.

data type defines the kind of values a property can have, such as string, quantity, item, URL, or date, determining how the property is used in statements. Read more about the available data types [here](#).

## 4. Making a statement



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Item

Discussion


Read

View history

★

Search here's another 

## Audre Lorde <sup>(Q2)</sup>

American writer, professor, philosopher, intersectional feminist, poet and civil rights activist  [edit](#)

Audrey Geraldine Lorde

▼ [In more languages](#)

[Configure](#)

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Audre Lorde	American writer, professor, philosopher, intersectional feminist, poet and civil rights activist	Audrey Geraldine L...

### Statements

+ add statement

This is an example of an item in a Wikibase instance. Currently it has no statements. We can add one by clicking on '+ add statement'

## What is a statement?

A statement is a structured assertion about an item, consisting of a property and a value (or values), used to describe the item's characteristics or relationships. Additionally, a statement may include qualifiers as well as references for the assertion made.

## ▼ In more languages

Configure

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Audre Lorde	American writer, professor, philosopher, intersectional feminist, poet and civil rights activist	Audrey Geraldine Lorde

By clicking "save", you agree to the [terms of use](#).

I accept these terms for my future edits. Do not show this message again.

## Statements

Property

✓ save ✕ cancel ?

+ add qualifier

▼ 0 references

## Statements

yea

✓ save ✕ cancel ?

+ add qualifier

### Year of birth

Year that the individual was born

## Statements

Year of birth

1934

✓ save ✕ cancel ?

edits. Do not show this message again.

will be displayed as:

**1934**

Precision: [year](#)

☐ set manually

Calendar: [Gregorian](#)

☐ set manually


First, add a property. Choose from the properties you have created in your database. You can start typing the name of the property or the P+number of the property and your property will appear.


Next, add a value for the property. In this example, the property accepts data types 'Point in time', which allows the entry of dates/ points in time in various formats.

You can add as many statements as you want. Additionally, for each statement you may add qualifiers and/or references. Those will be in the same format as statements, consisting of a Property from your knowledge base and a corresponding value (or values)

### Statements

Year of birth

 1934



 edit

▼ 0 references

+ add reference

+ add value

Place of Birth

  New York


✓ save ✕ cancel ?

+ add qualifier

▼ 1 reference

remove

Wikipedia Entry

 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audre\\_Lorde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audre_Lorde)

remove

+ add

+ add reference

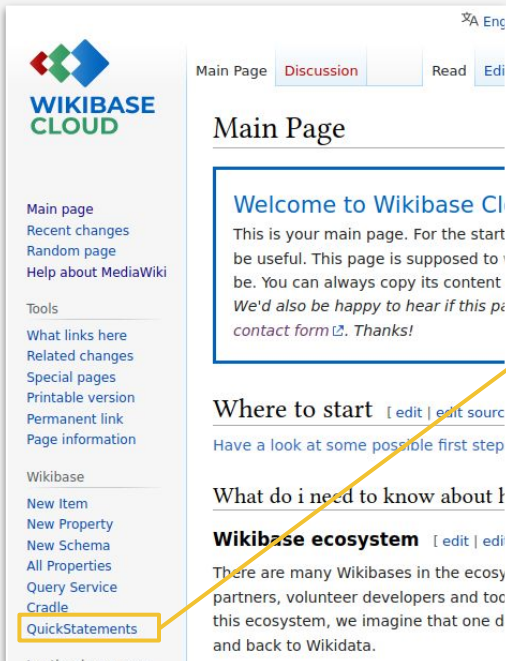
+ add statement

Example of a reference. Here, we are using a property titled 'Wikipedia Entry', which accepts URLs as values.

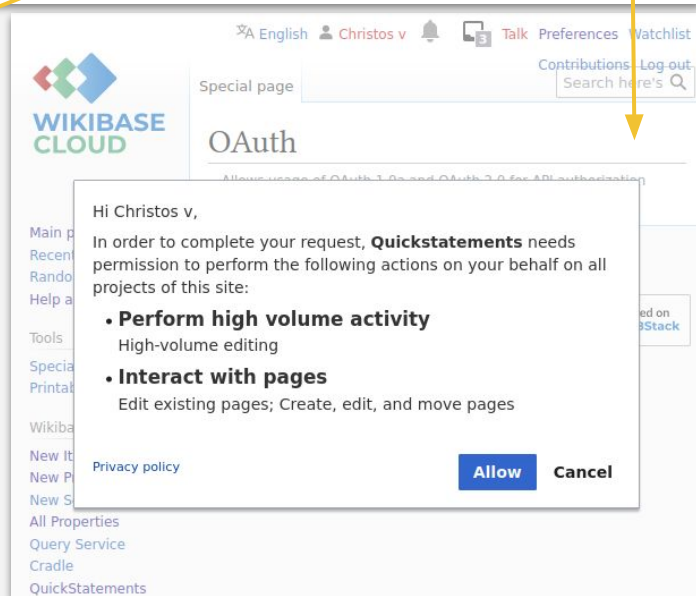
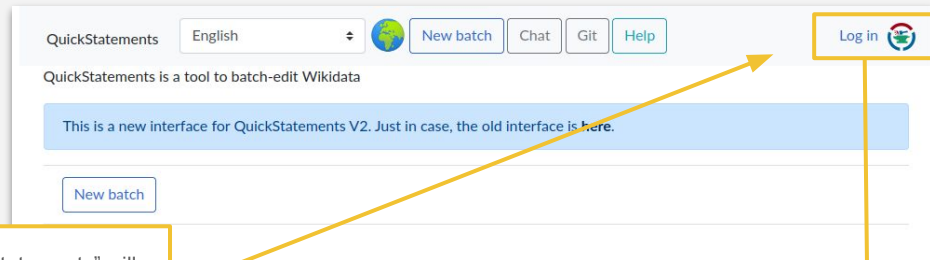
## 5. Importing Data (Quickstatements)



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Clicking on "QuickStatements" will open up the page of the tool. First, you will need to log in.



**What is QuickStatements?**

QuickStatements is a tool for batch editing in Wikibase, allowing users to create, modify, or delete items and statements efficiently using a simple command-based syntax.

By clicking 'Log in', and assuming that you were logged in in your wikibase instance, you'll be taken to an OAuth window. Click on allow and you'll return to the QuickStatements home screen, logged in and ready to edit. In the home screen, click on "New Batch"

Create new command batch for  as 

```
CREATE
LAST|Len|"Albertina Sisulu"
LAST|Aen|"Nontsikelelo Thethiwe"
LAST|Den|"South African anti-apartheid activist"
LAST|P2|+1918-00-00T00:00:00Z
LAST|P4|en:"South Africa"
```

Import V1 commands

Import CSV commands

We'll create a command batch to import a new item in our wikibase instance. In this example we want to create a new item with some statements.

LAST|Len|"Albertina Sisulu"

[Len defines the label of the item and the language:]

LAST|Aen|"Nontsikelelo Thethiwe"

[Aen will create an alias in english]

LAST|Den|"South African anti-apartheid activist"

[Den will be the item description]



LAST|P2|+1918-00-00T00:00:00Z

[Creates a statement for the item, setting a value (1918) for a property (P2: Year of birth)]

LAST|P4|en: South Africa

[Creates a statement, setting a value (South Africa) for a property (P4: Place of birth), english]

Once done with the command, click on the 'Import V1 commands'

QuickStatements English  [New batch](#) [Chat](#) [Git](#) [Help](#) Christos v 

Batch on by Christos v [\[Batches\]](#)

Status:  0% (0) of 1 done

1 init CREATE Item


en:Albertina Sisulu  
 en:Nontsikelelo Thethiwe  
 en:South African anti-apartheid activist  
 Year of birth [P2]:1918  
 Place of Birth [P4]:en:"South Africa"

First Page 1 Last

Run

In the next screen you see the edits you are about to make. Click 'Run' to execute the command. Provided that there are no errors in the command, QuickStatements will create this item and statements in your Wikibase instance :)

**Further reading:**  
[Help:QuickStatements](#)  
[From Spreadsheet to Wikidata](#)  
[Mass edits](#)



Wikibase Cloud

- Main page
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help about MediaWiki


Tools




- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Concept URI


Wikibase

- New Item
- New Property
- New Schema
- All Properties
- Query Service
- Cradle
- QuickStatements


In other languages

-  Add links

English  Christos v   [Talk](#) [Preferences](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

Item [Discussion](#) [Read](#) [View history](#) 



## Albertina Sisulu (Q25)

South African anti-apartheid activist   
 Nontsikelelo Thethiwe

[In more languages](#)  
[Configure](#)

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Albertina Sisulu	South African anti-apartheid activist	Nontsikelelo Thethiwe



### Statements

**Year of birth**  1918 

[0 references](#)

[+ add reference](#)

[+ add value](#)

**Place of Birth**  South Africa (English) 

[0 references](#)

[+ add reference](#)

[+ add value](#)

[+ add statement](#)



# Thank you!



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# Dedicated community spaces

The Wikibase user community **continues to grow**. Whether to remain informed about our continued work with **Wikibase** or to **engage with other community members**, there are a number of avenues to connect with the community:

- [Wikibase Community User Group](#)
- [General user group Mailing list](#)
- [Wikibase.cloud mailing list](#)
- [Wikibase community Telegram channel](#)
- [Wikibase Cloud Telegram channel](#)
- [Wikibase Suite's contributing guide](#)
- [Monthly Live Sessions](#)
- [Wikibase stakeholder group](#)
- [DHWiki - A DARIAH-EU Working Group](#)
- (German - LOD) [WikiKult - Offene Kulturdaten](#)

**Discover** more wikibase instances and get inspired:

- [Wikibase.cloud discovery](#)
- [Wikibase World](#)

**Explore** presentations and training material and get in touch to discuss potential partnerships:

- [WMDE Data Partnerships Team](#)

**Workshops:** In collaboration with community members, we're organising onboarding workshops and training events. Get in touch if you're interested on hosting such events!

- In 2024: 6 Workshops with approx 120 participants



# Support and Resources

Further, support resources are available on [mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org), including detailed **documentation** on how to set up Wikibase using the **docker images** or **manually**. You can also find a useful **FAQ** there.

In the [DHWiki Wikibase](#), you can find a curated collection of scientific research about wikibase.

If you're looking for technical support, we maintain a space on [meta](#) where **third-party support providers** can list their services (for Wikibase Suite).





Reach out to us!

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[swe\\_partnerships@wikimedia.de](mailto:swe_partnerships@wikimedia.de)



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