



Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

Linked data and international standards for cultural heritage Brussels, 13 Sep 2022

Martin Alvarez (@espinr)

About me

Dataset Catalog Vocabulary

This Version

http://data.fundacionctic.org/vocab/catalog/datasets 20090928 [HTML] [RDF]

http://data.fundacionctic.org/vocab/catalog/datasets#

Author(s)

Martin Alvarez-Espinar (CTIC CT)

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- RDF Schema
- License

Introduction

This vocabulary is used for modelling catalogs of datasets and its relationships with the datasets

Changes From Previous Version

• 2009-09-28 - first issued

IT Engineer

Web Standards

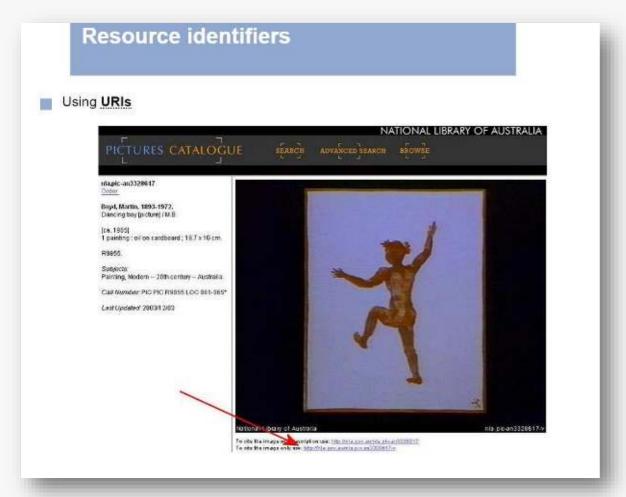
Open Data advocate

Linked Data advocate

Quick App Initiative

https://espinr.github.io/vocab/catalog/datasets 20090928.html

About me



Talk at Workshop on Digital Libraries and Access to New Content (Barcelona, Oct 2005) https://espinr.github.io/talks/2005/1018-WebSemanticaREBIUN-MA/index.html

IT Engineer

Web Standards

Open Data advocate

Linked Data advocate

Quick App Initiative

Some background

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

Local communities are proud of their culture and history

Every town/region has dozens of items in the streets (artworks or not) representing its history

- > Statues, old buildings, bridges... but also
- > castles, vineyards, gardens...

We all want to preserve our cultural heritage

Artworks may be lovely, but the origin and the history are the most relevant part... **unknown to most of visitors.**

Archives help, but also the local experts



'De Koeieschieter' ('Cow Shooter')
A story from 1691 that explains why Leuven's people were nicknamed koeschieters or cow-shooters.

Hidden (inaccessible?) gems

- Accessibility
- Multilingual



Difficulties to understand foreign languages



Not easy to discover the non-popular monuments

ICT as an ally to understand details

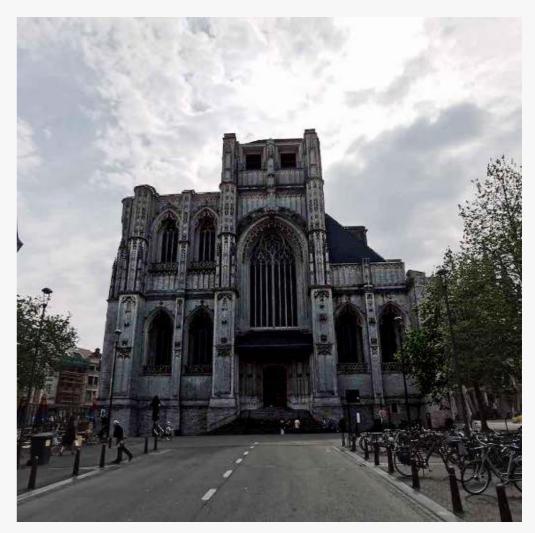
Easy to collect contextual information

- Geolocation
- Environment
- Type of user (visitor, expert, citizen...)

Easy to visualize data:

- Images and descriptions (also accessible)
- XR
- Large cities already have tourism apps and tools.

Most of small/medium cities usually do not have enough IT resources... but they always have good experts and enthusiasts.



https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sint-Pieterskerk_(Leuven)

ICT as an ally to understand details

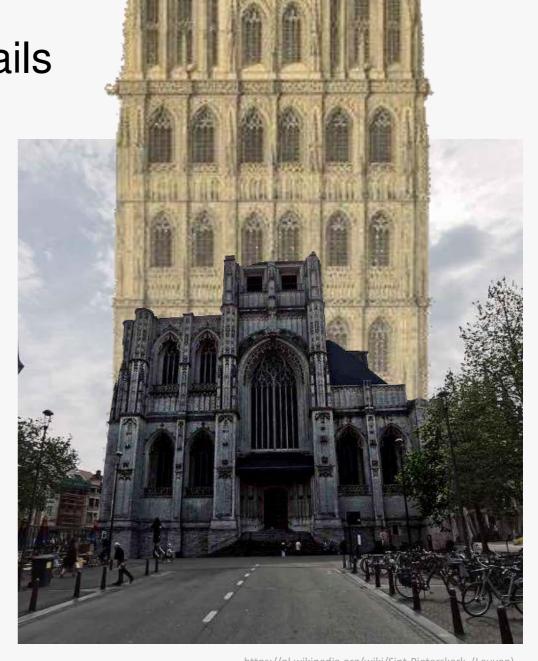
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Project's Objectives

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

Local Cultural Heritage & History App

Objective: tool and methodology to generate apps and services for European towns promoting their local art, culture, history, or whatever...

Open (Linked) Data + Open Source + Crowdsourced + Sustainable

No-code: no development, just configuration (minimum IT skills required)

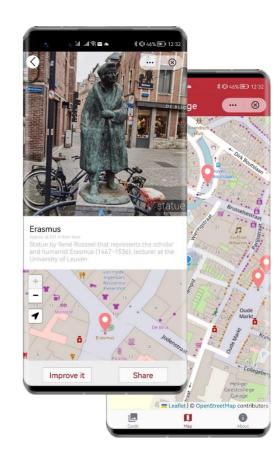
No-cost: design based on public resources

Community-driven: updates by the community

No maintenance costs (minimum moderation by volunteers/experts)

One app ≈ one-day effort (any citizen can launch a project)

Templates to replicate the app in **other scenarios/places**

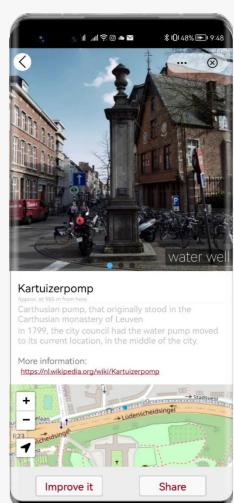


Let's understand the city

Proposing a new service for end-users (locals and tourists):

- ✓ Direct and simple: open and enjoy
- ✓ Multilingual interface and contents
- ✓ **Intuitive** user interface
- ✓ (Optional) Offline information in local Tourism offices
- ✓ (Optional) QR codes next to monuments to increase discoverability

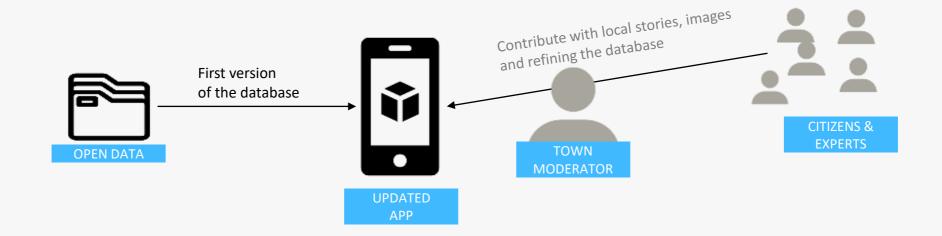




Who can implement it?

Municipalities and regions (cultural associations, governments, and enthusiasts):

- ✓ **No-code, easy-to-deploy** application to show off their cultural, and artistic assets.
- ✓ Free of charge: no deployment and maintenance costs.
- ✓ Reuse of the existing open data (public libraries, open data project, Wikipedia...)
- ✓ **Crowdsourced and participative**: app that fosters the citizen's collaboration.
- ✓ Adapted to the local needs, like culture, language, and types of assets



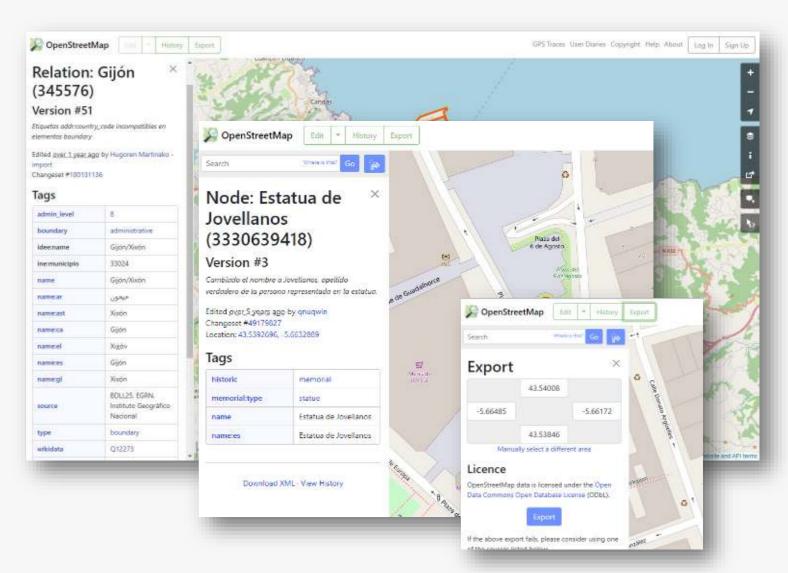
First: The Data

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

Data, what data?

Data and pictures extracted from:

- ✓ Official open data (hopefully)
- ✓ Local experts with knowledge
- ✓ Crowdsourced data \rightarrow e.g. OSM \rightarrow



Different fields of knowledge

It's not just architecture, politics, or art

Statues, buildings, landscapes bring us heterogeneous stories

Challenge: with minimum resources, how to get accurate information

Jack-of-all-trades, master of none





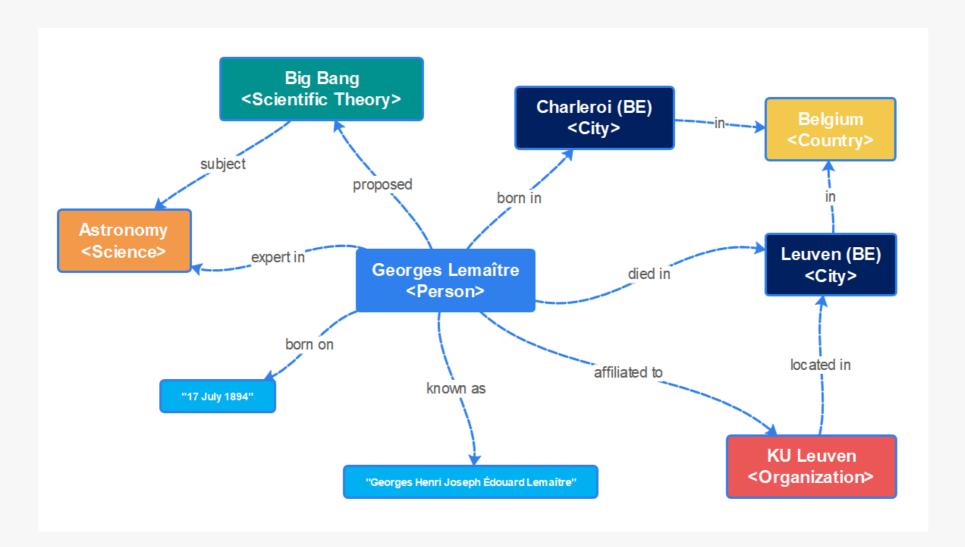








Knowledge graphs and semantics to the rescue





Different fields of knowledge

It's not just architecture, politics, or art

Statues, buildings, lands Why is this relevant?

Challenge: with minimum resources, how to get accurate information

Jack-of-all-trades, master of none

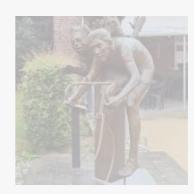
This artwork is a tribute to Lemaitre, focused on astronomy





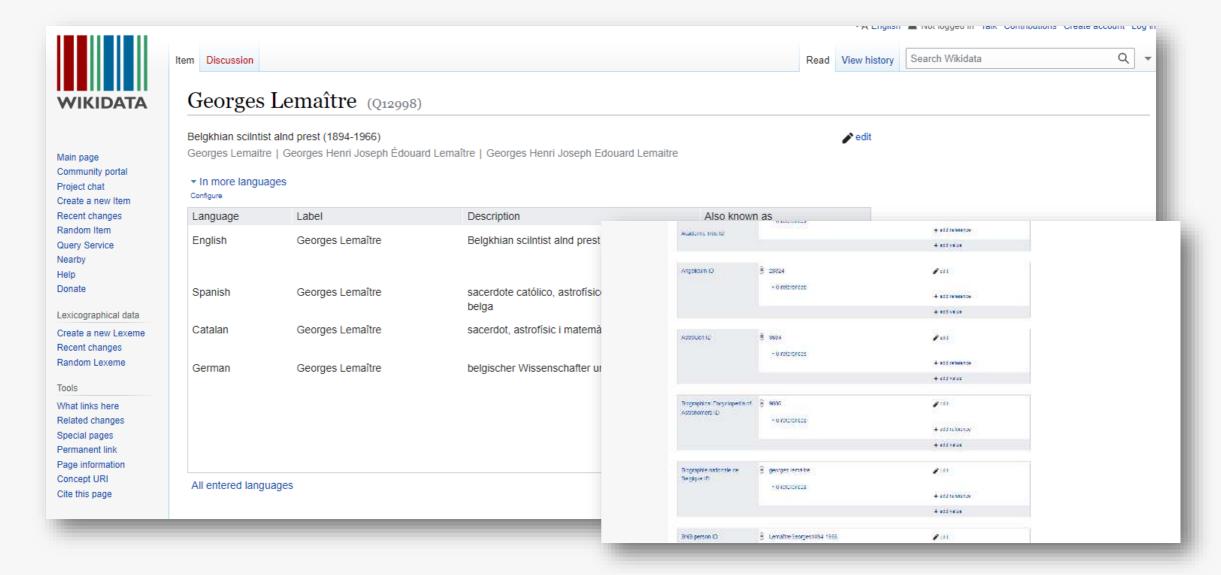








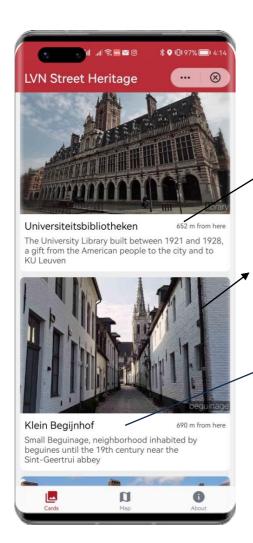
Wikidata, master of (almost) everything



Second: The App

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

The App



CONTEXTUAL

Points of Interest shown by current distance

CROWDSOURCED

Images submitted by citizens, tourists...

OPEN DATA

Public information and images from local archives, open data initiatives

EXPERT'S INPUT

Anyone can share their knowledge and enrich the database





USEFUL

User's position on the map and the Pol



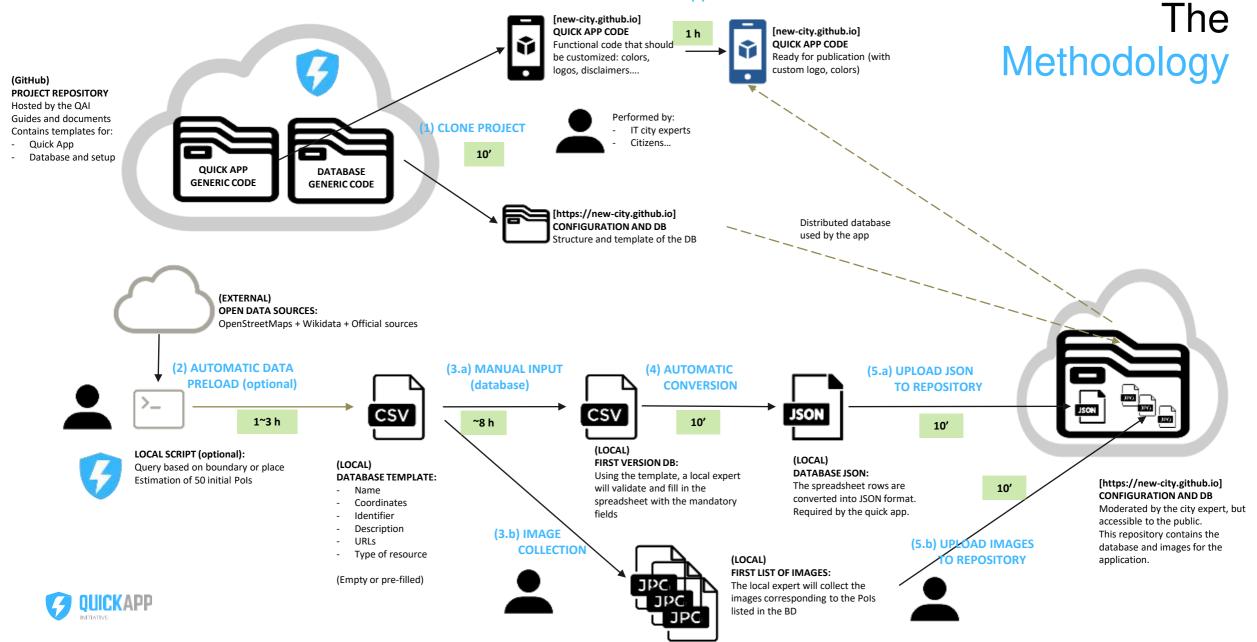
PROMOTION

Users can share the content and a link with their friends (Twitter, WeChat, etc.)

Third: the methodology

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

(2) CUSTOMIZE APP



Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Fancy a sustainable cultural heritage project for your town (in minutes)?

Brussels' Comic Book Route

Since the early 90s, Brussels pays tribute to **characters and authors** of the Franco-Belgian comics on the walls in the city center

Objective:

- > Discover paintings around you in Brussels
- > Quick, simple and ready to test

Context

- > Brussels' open data initiative (https://opendata.brussels.be)
- > Methodology and templates ready to use



Source: https://www.parcoursbd.brussels/en/fresques/froud-stouf/

Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

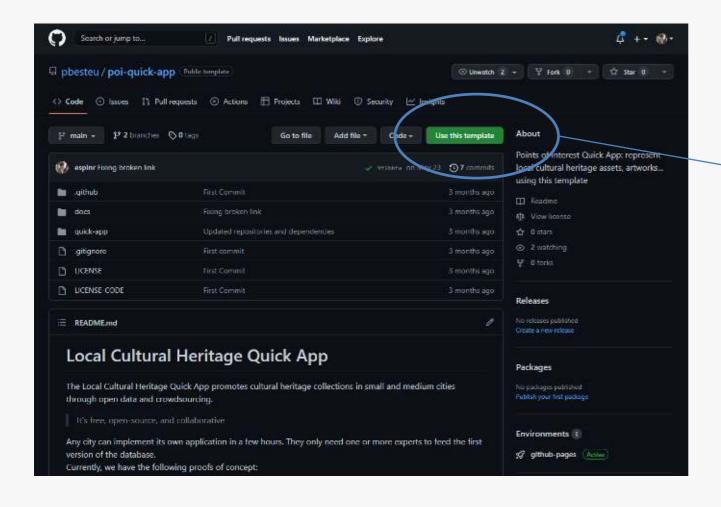
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

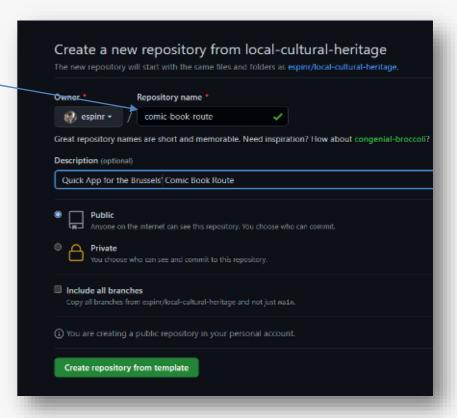
Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

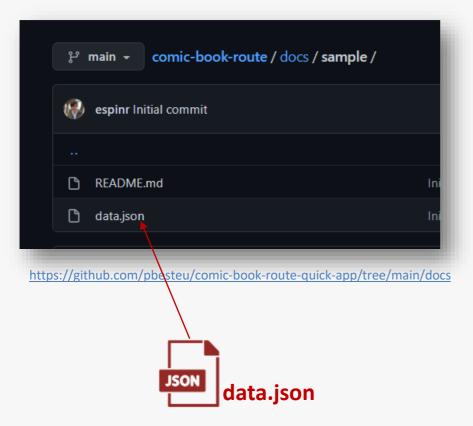
Clone the open source project (basic git skills needed)





Structure of the repository: the database

 $docs/ \rightarrow$ the database



data.json → database open to anyone

We activate Github/Gitlab... publication

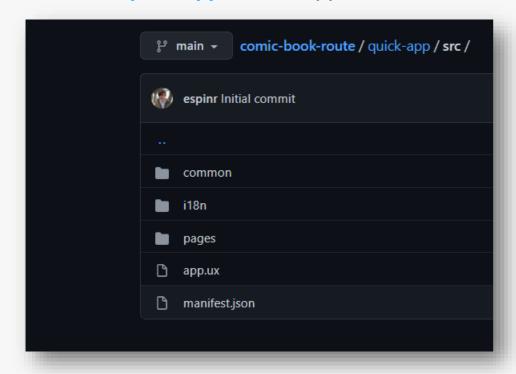
Automatic validation of the JSON format once a new version is updated

The database is accessible from the web

https://pbesteu.github.io/comic-book-route-quick-app/bxl/data.json

Structure of the repository: the quick app

quick-app/ → the app code



https://github.com/pbesteu/comic-book-route-quick-app/tree/main/quick-app

Contains the code of a **quick app** (MiniApp for Android) ready to customize.

Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

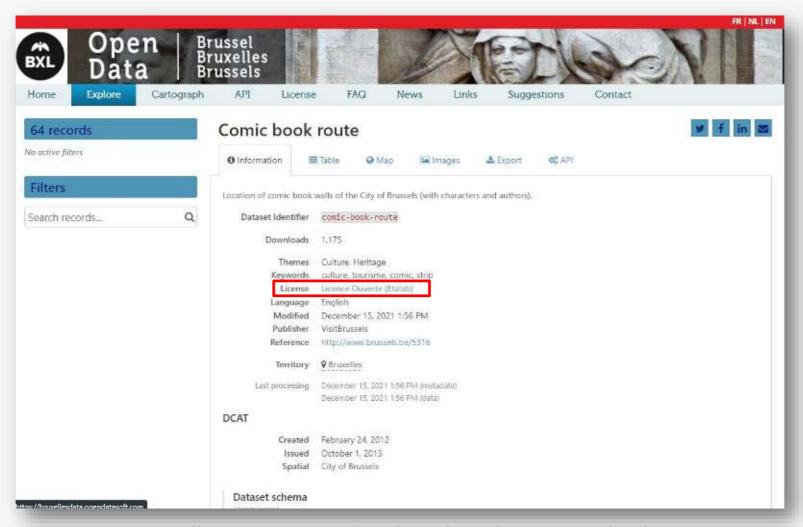
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

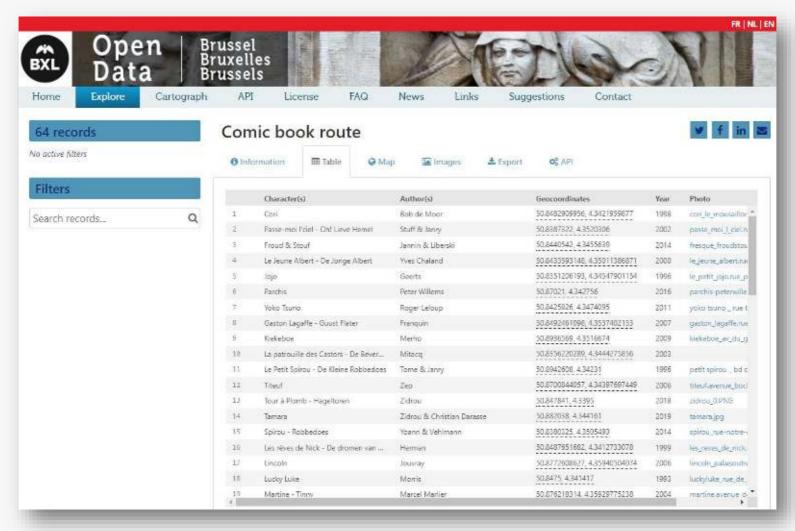
Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Brussels Open Data provides a dataset



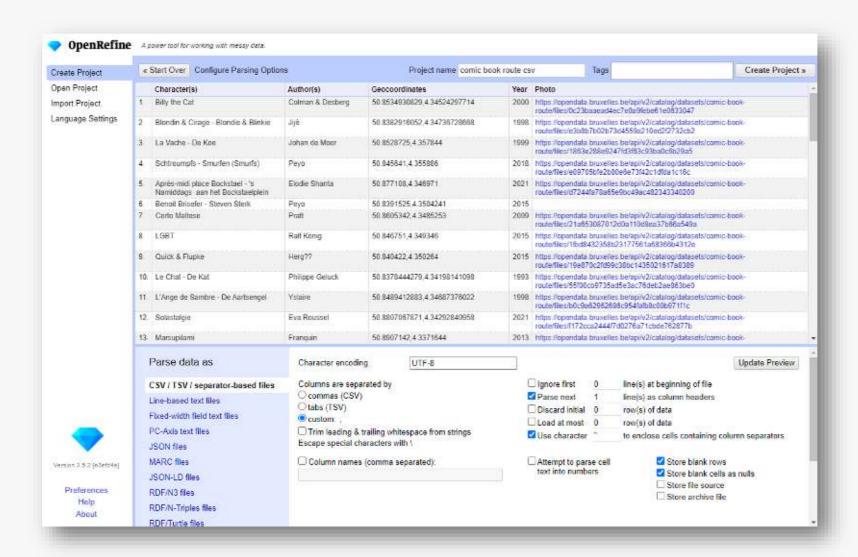
https://bruxellesdata.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/comic-book-route/table/

... in open format (CSV), by the way 🙂



https://bruxellesdata.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/comic-book-route/table/

We need to refine the data

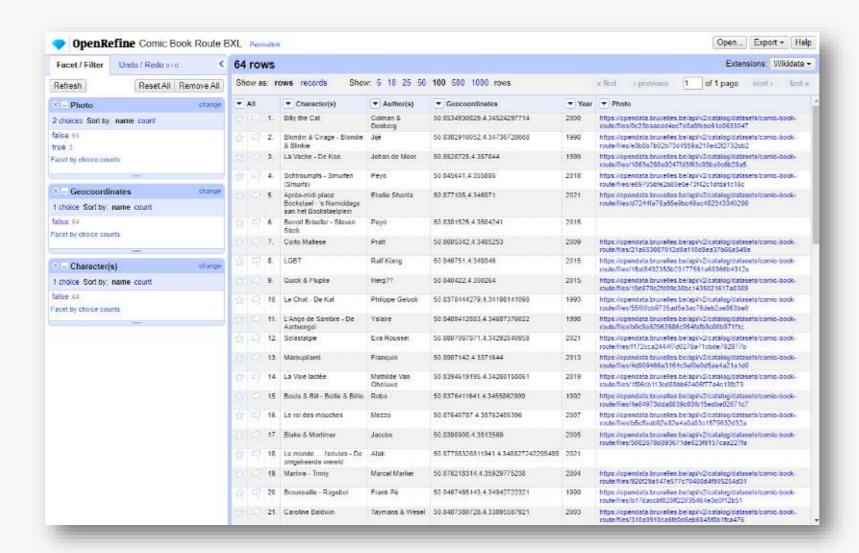


Adaptation to our templates

Using own scripts or Open Refine

https://openrefine.org

High-quality dataset with 64 Points of Interest

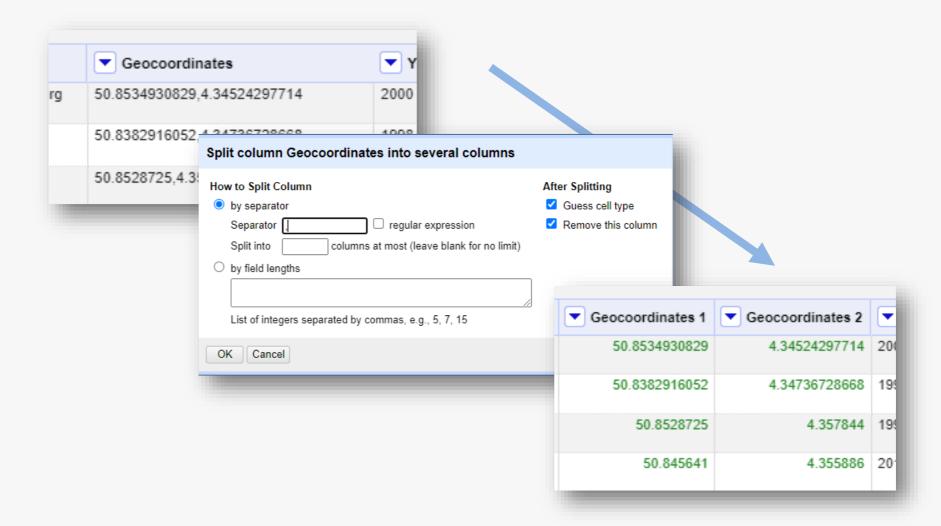


3 with no picture

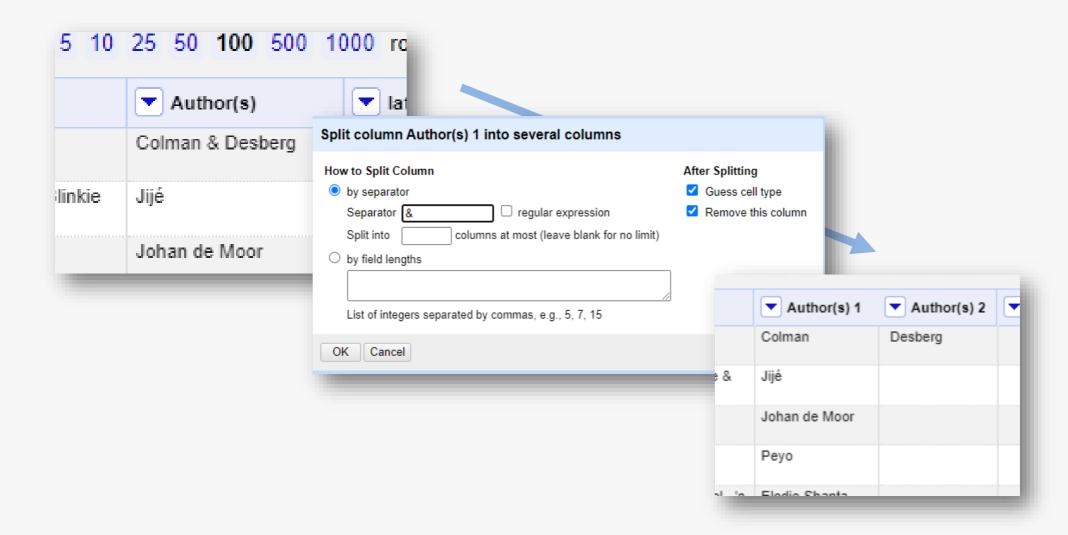
All had name, and coordinates



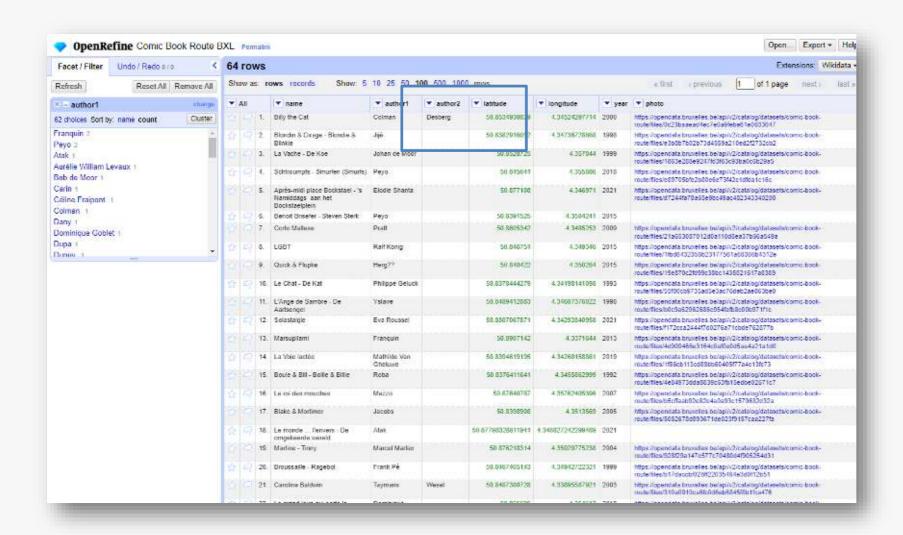
Data cleansing: split coordinate components



Data cleansing: split several authors



Original dataset properly formatted

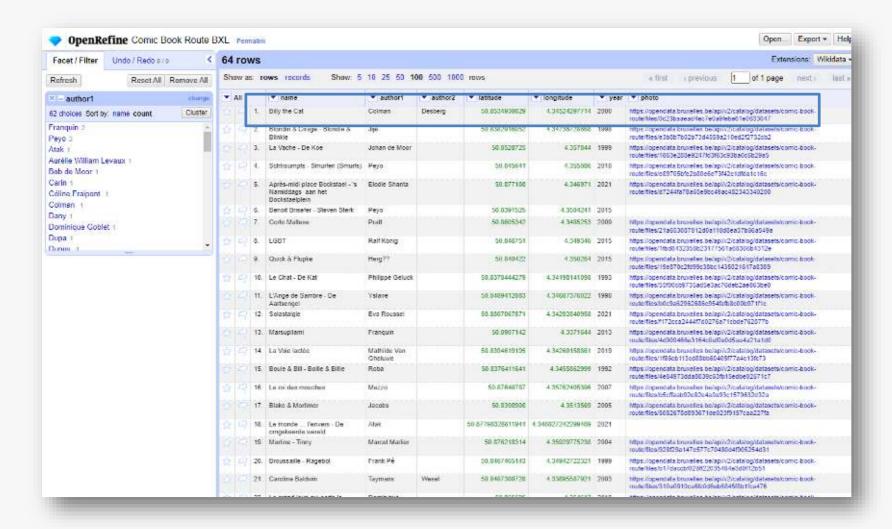


One author/column

Geo. coordinates

Minor editorial changes

Okay... but...

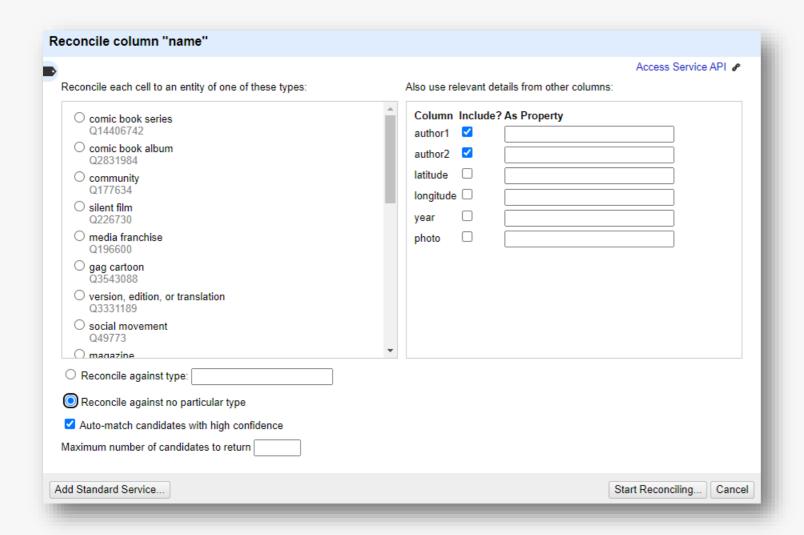


Who is *Billy the Cat*? ...and *Colman*? ...and *Desberg*?



https://www.parcoursbd.brussels/en/fresques/billy-the-cat/

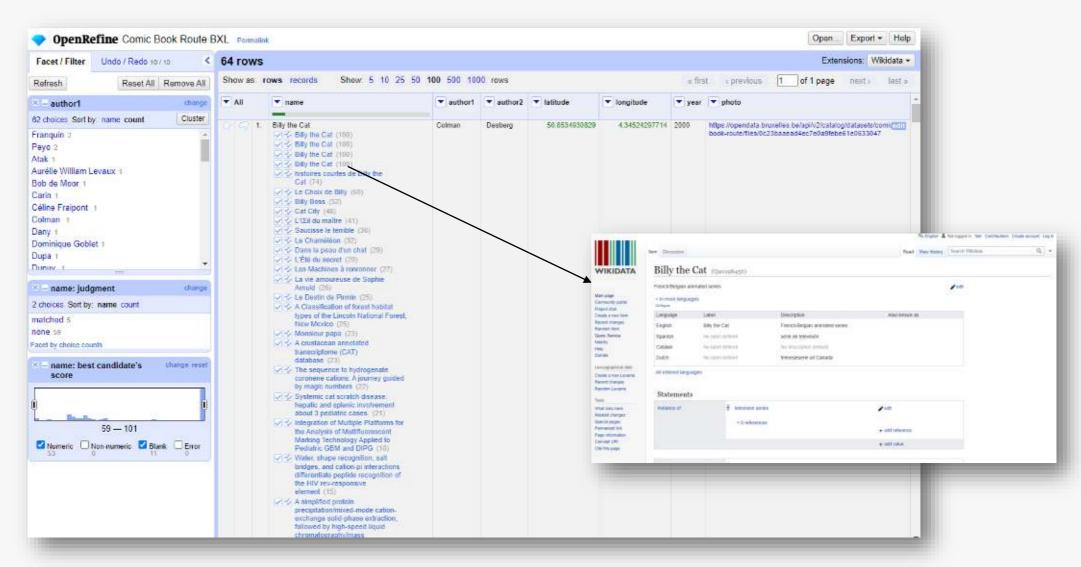
Looking for the semantics



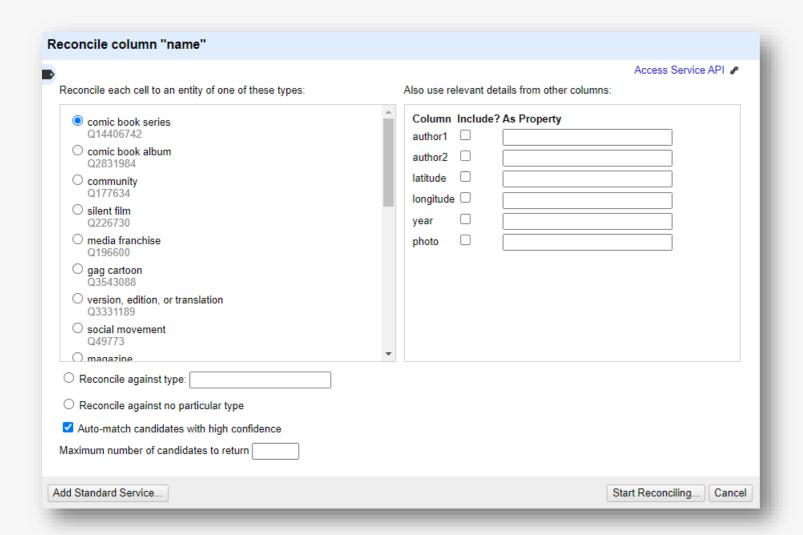
Reconciliation of painting title to external semantic entities (Wikidata)

We could use official (trusted) endpoints

30" later, we have semantics in our spreadsheet

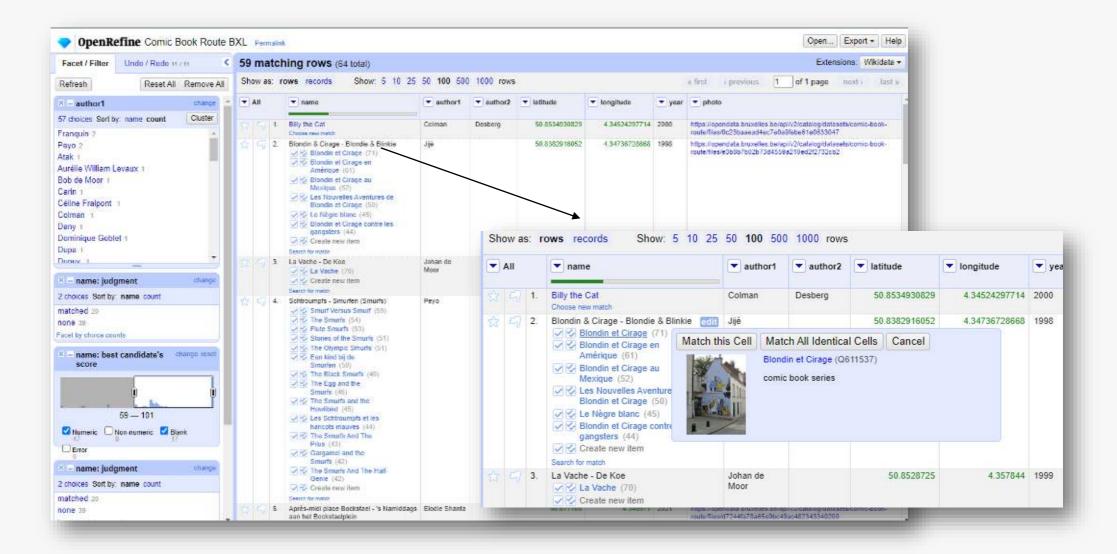


We can reconcile by a specific type

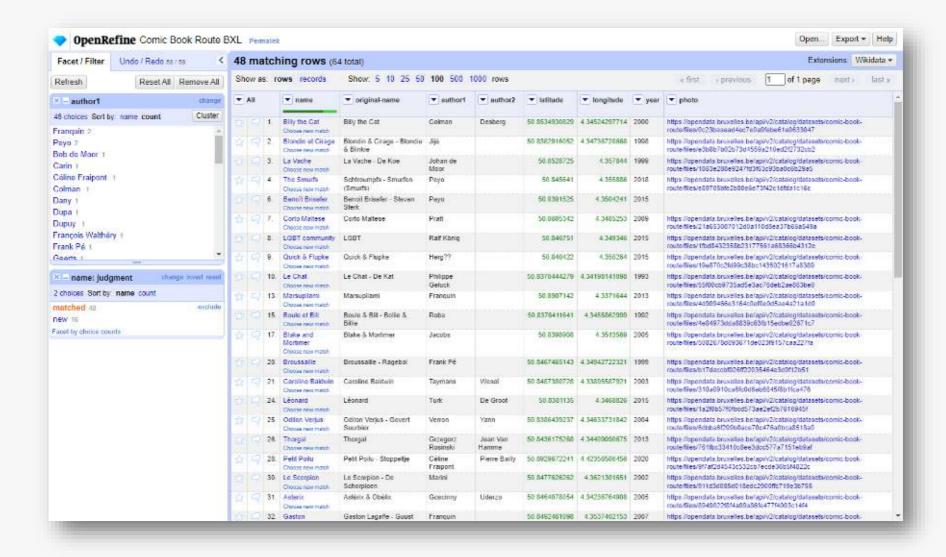


We are just focused on comic books, so we'll be accurate.

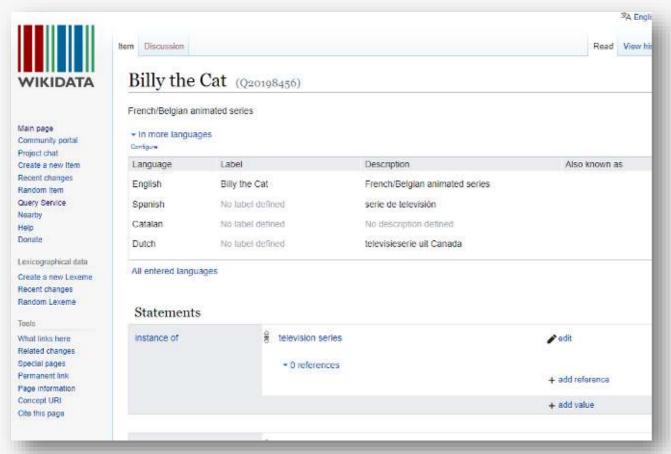
Some perfect, and close matches



Finally, 48 matches

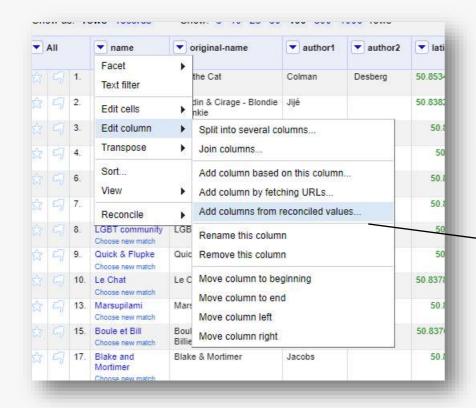


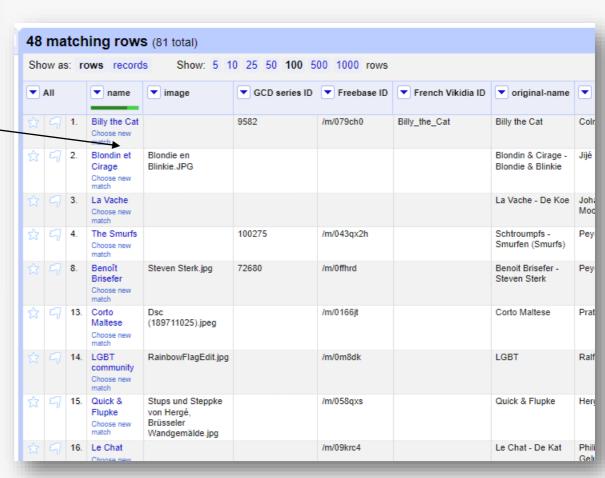
We are speaking in terms of Linked Data (for almost humans)



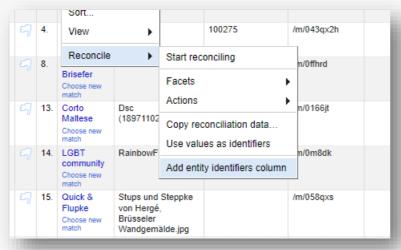
```
wd:Q863286 a wikibase:Item .
<https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy the Cat> a schema:Article ;
        schema:about wd:Q863286;
        schema:inLanguage "fr";
        schema:isPartOf <https://fr.wikipedia.org/> ;
        schema:name "Billy the Cat"@fr .
<https://fr.wikipedia.org/> wikibase:wikiGroup "wikipedia" .
<https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy the Cat> a schema:Article ;
        schema:about wd:Q863286;
        schema:inLanguage "nl" ;
        schema:isPartOf <https://nl.wikipedia.org/> ;
        schema:name "Billy the Cat"@nl .
<https://nl.wikipedia.org/> wikibase:wikiGroup "wikipedia" .
<https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy the Cat> a schema:Article ;
        schema:about wd:0863286 ;
        schema:inLanguage "id";
        schema:isPartOf <https://id.wikipedia.org/> ;
        schema:name "Billy the Cat"@id .
<https://id.wikipedia.org/> wikibase:wikiGroup "wikipedia" .
<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy the Cat> a schema:Article ;
        schema:about wd:0863286 ;
        schema:inLanguage "de";
        schema:isPartOf <https://de.wikipedia.org/> ;
        schema:name "Billy the Cat"@de .
```

Enrich the dataset with more information (thanks, KGs ©)

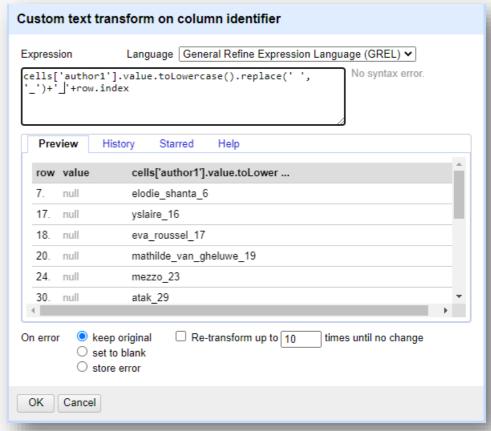




Polish the dataset: unique identifiers for each row

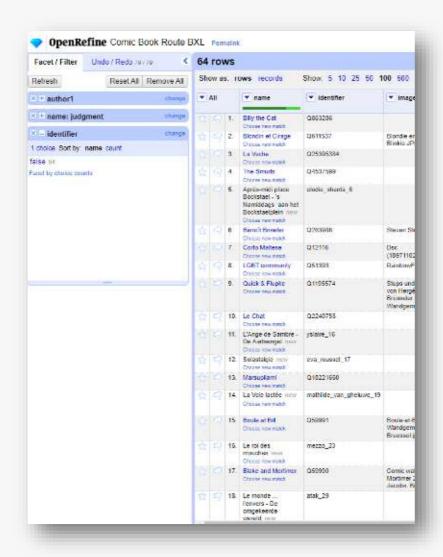


Based on Wikidata IDs



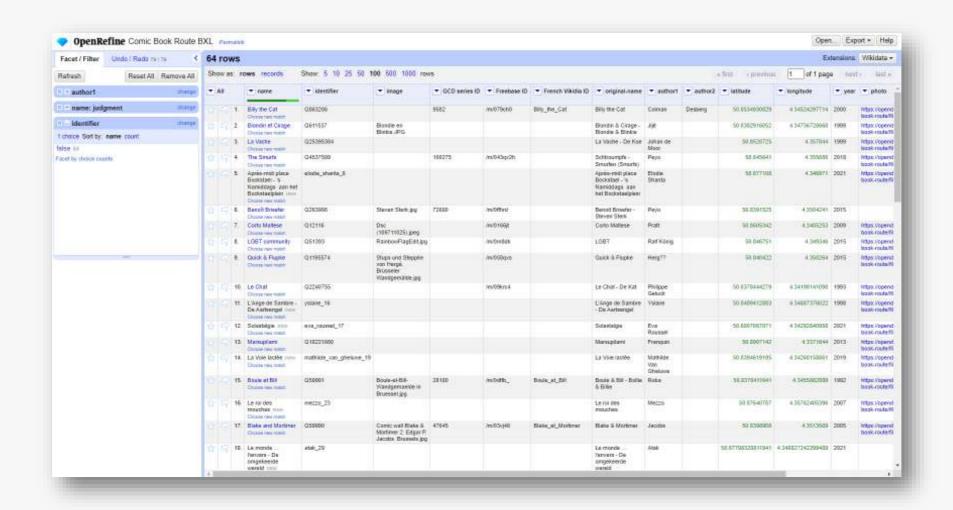
For the rest we create it, based on author's name

Double check there are no duplicates

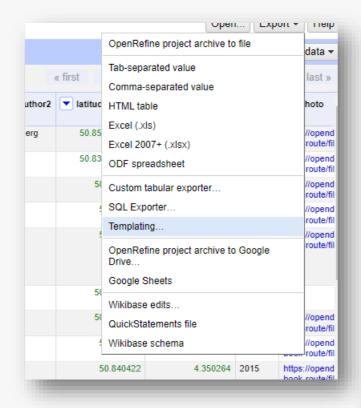


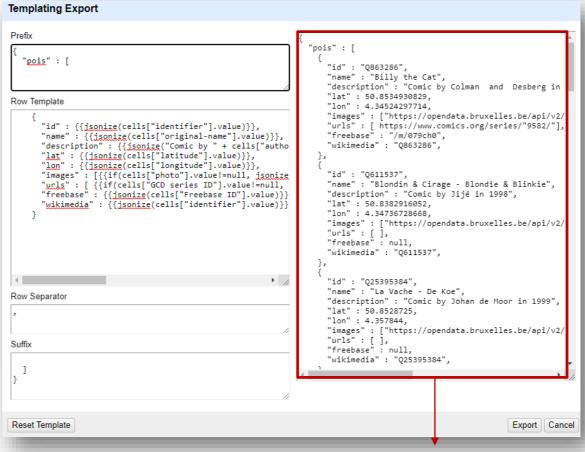
We use facets

Data ready to be exported to our templates



And we have the database of Pols



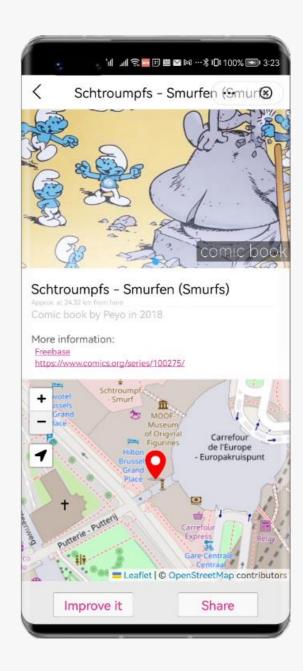




Details of a Point of Interest (by default)

```
"id" : "Q863286",
"name" : "Billy the Cat",
"description": "Comic book by Colman and Desberg in 2000",
"lat" : 50.8534930829,
"lon": 4.34524297714,
"images" : [
  "https://opendata.bruxelles.be/...",
   "https://pbesteu.github.io/comics/bxl/images/001.jpg"],
"type" : "comic book",
"urls" : [ "https://www.comics.org/series/9582/"],
"freebase" : "/m/079ch0",
"wikimedia" : "Q863286"
```

Anyone can **upload images to docs/** folder in the repository (they will be public) and link them from the data.json file.



Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

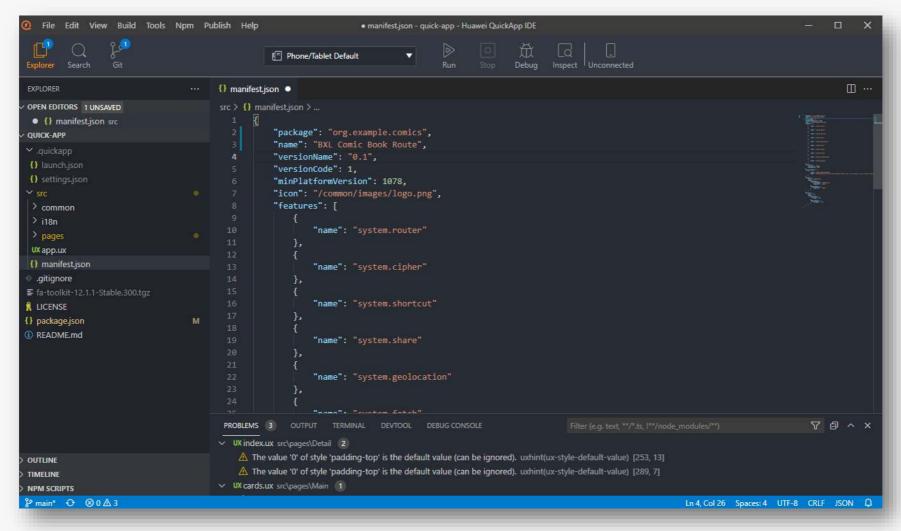
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

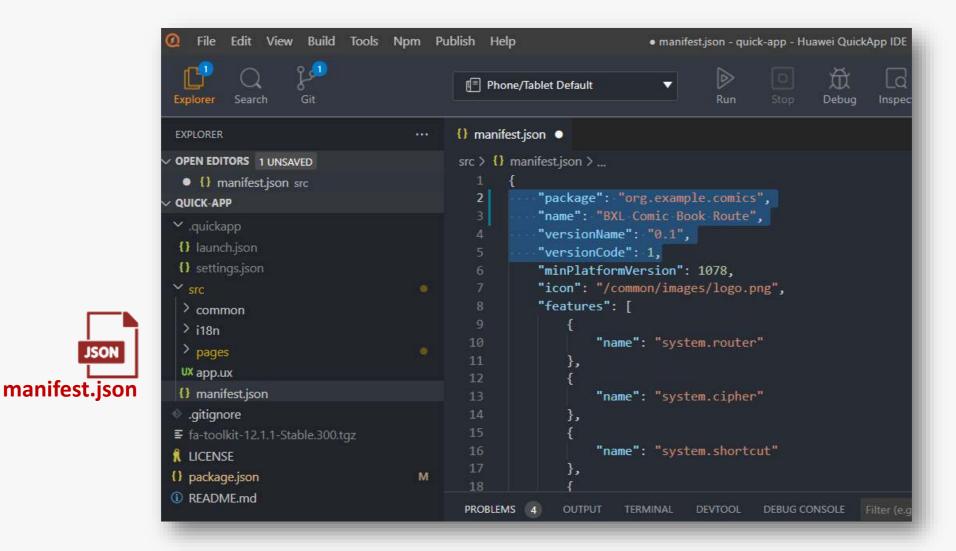
Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Load the project (quick-app/src/) in your favorite editor

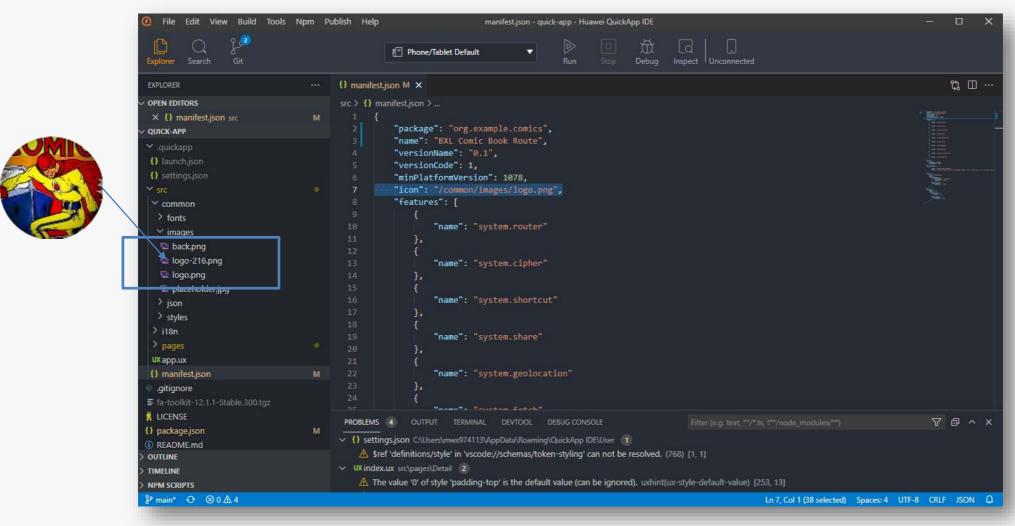


- 1. https://developer.huawei.com/consumer/en/quickApp-ide
- 2. https://www.quickapp.cn/docCenter/IDEPublicity

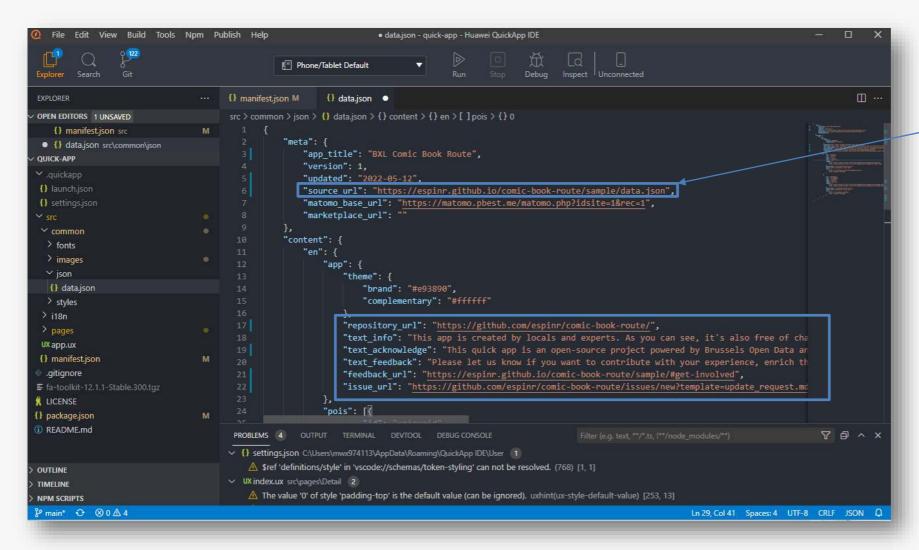
manifest.json: choose a name for your app



Rewrite the app main logo and the icon



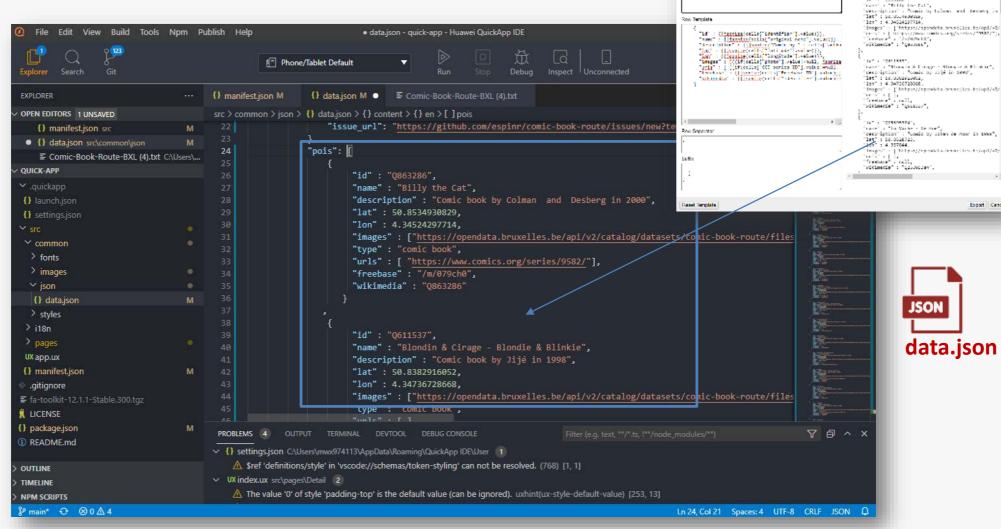
data.json: customize app with descriptions and URLs



Public URL of the data.json in the repository.

Initially, both data.json (local database of the app and in the repository) have the same content.

Paste the Pols database we generated



Templating Export

resta : [

"pote" : [

data.json

Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

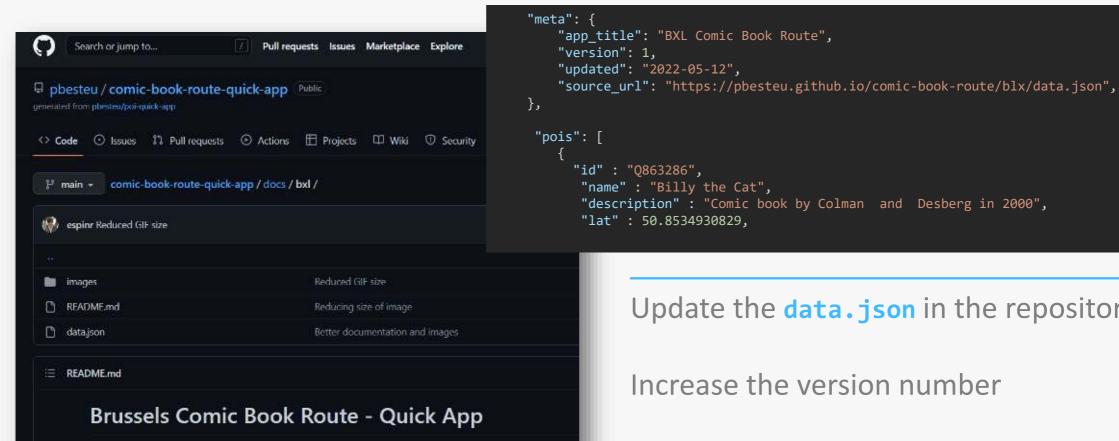
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

How to update the database



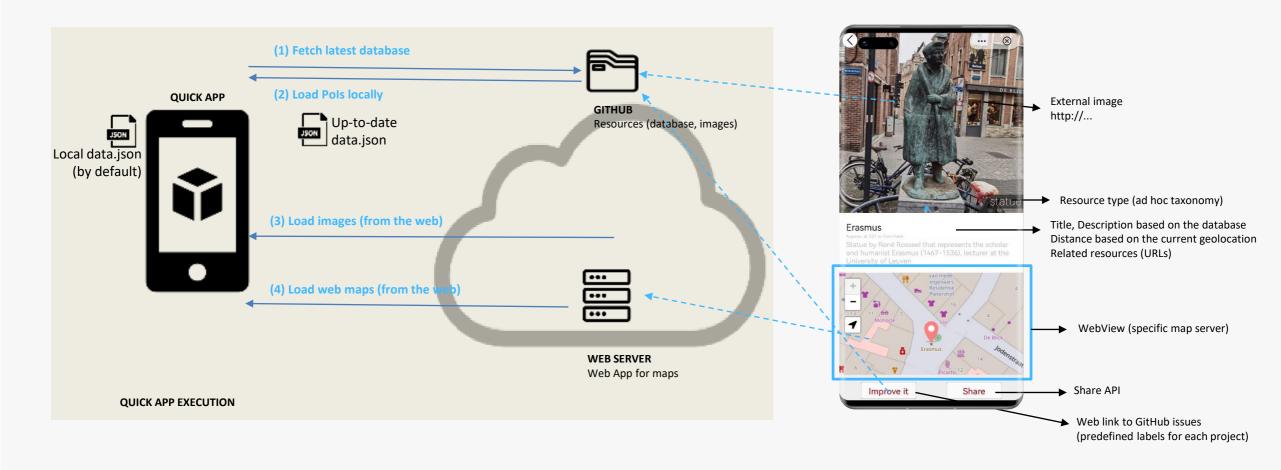
This project is based on the City of Brussels Open Data initiative. It uses the data from the official data

Update the data.json in the repository

Increase the version number



Project components and app execution



Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

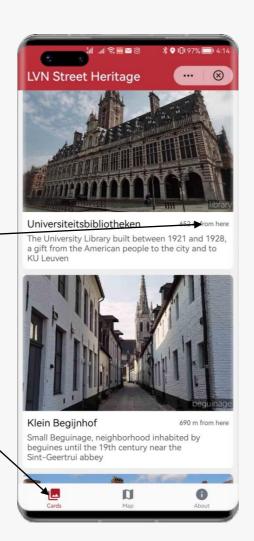
Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Internationalization: adapted to user's locale



User interface (UI) in different languages. The community may help translate the UI (10' per language)



CONTENT (Pols database)

Content can be in different languages For instance: German and English below



Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

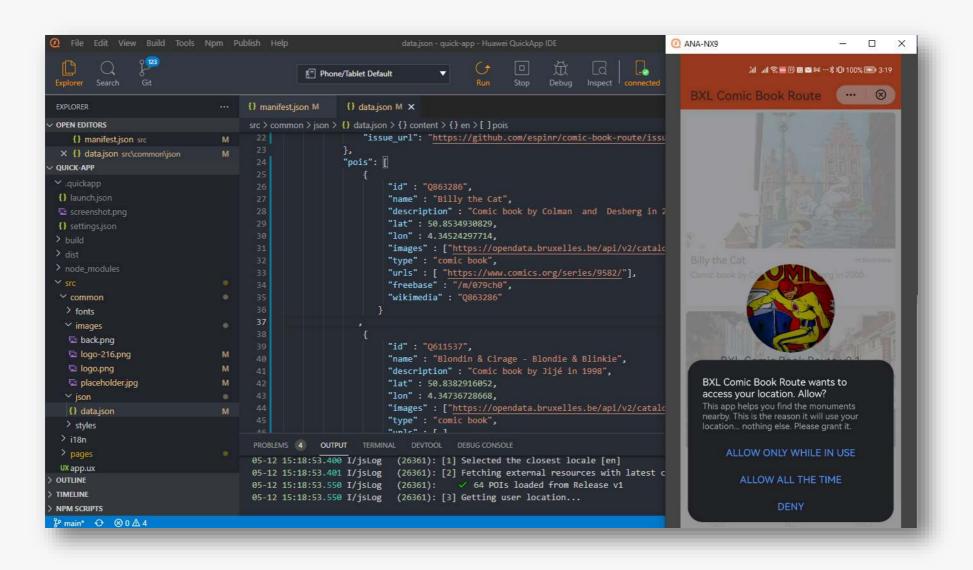
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

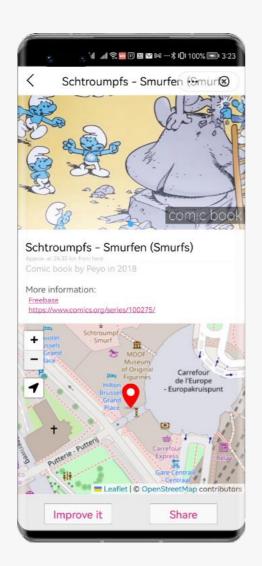
Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Compile (generate an RPK package) and run the app

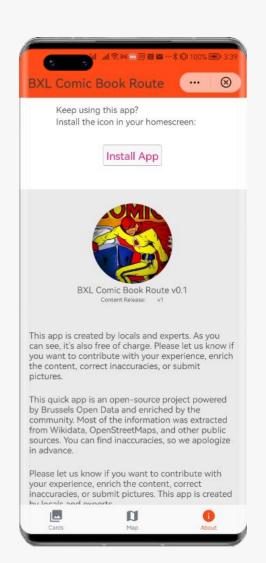


What we got

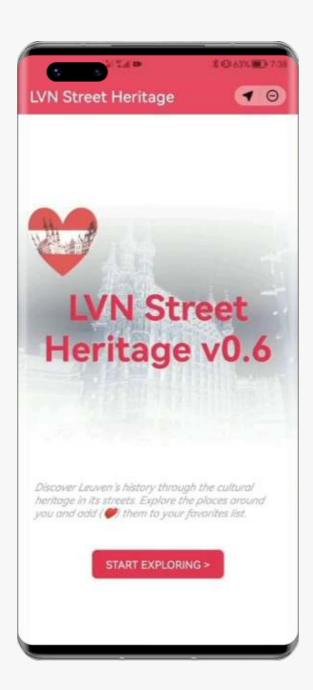








Customized for Leuven (BE)...



https://youtu.be/m8zpySR8t7M

https://github.com/pbesteu/cultural-heritage-quick-app

What about Astronomy?...



https://youtu.be/TilDCRIq2ic

https://github.com/pbesteu/oeratoom-leuven-quick-app







Martin Alvarez @espinr

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Annexes

More details

Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Repository docs/ sample/ images/ README.md schema.json quick-app/ SFC/ common images/ logo.png json/ data.json styles/ style.less default json en.json de.json pages/ Main Detail manifest.json

Structure of the code

Database and images, publicly accessible (also on the Web)

sample/ → example to rename and reuse

schema.json → JSON schema to validate the database once it's updated.

data.json → database

Repository docs/ sample/ images/ data.json README.md schema.json quick-app/ src/ common images/ logo.png logo-216.png json/ data.json styles/ style.less i18n default json en.json de.json pages/ Main Detail manifest.json

Structure of the code

Quick App source code (need to compile before run)

common/ → media, images, resources

data.json → local version of the database (it will be replaced in case the app finds a more recent update on the Web.

Repository docs/ sample/ images/ data.json README.md schema.json quick-app/ src/ common/ images/ logo.png logo-216.png json/ data.json styles/ style.less i18n default json en.json de.json pages/ Main Detail manifest.json

Structure of the code

 $i18n/\rightarrow$ localization of the user interface

Repository docs/ sample/ images/ data.json README.md schema.json quick-app/ src/ common/ images/ logo.png logo-216.png json/ data.json styles/ style.less default json en.json de.json pages/ Main Detail manifest.json

Structure of the code

pages/ → main components of the app

Repository docs/ sample/ images/ data.json README.md schema.json quick-app/ src/ common/ images/ logo.png logo-216.png json/ data.json styles/ style.less default json en.json de.json pages/ Main manifest.json

Structure of the code

manifest.json/ → app metadata and setup

Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Publication of content on GitHub pages

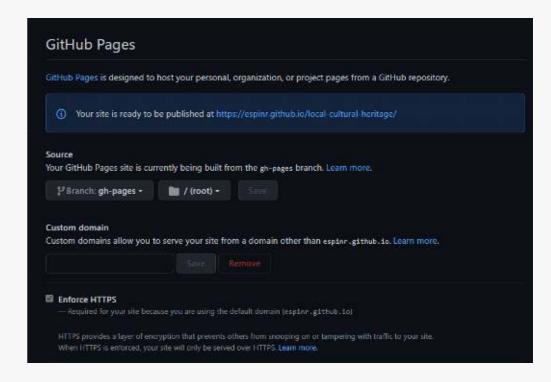
The content of the project (info, database and images) are served as HTML using GitHub pages.

There is a custom action to publish the ./doc directory of the main repository into the gh-pages branch

GitHub is configured to serve the content of the root directory of the gh-pages (the last valid copy of the content in the repository).

If the latest version of the database JSON is not valid, the deployment is halted.

GitHub Settings > Pages



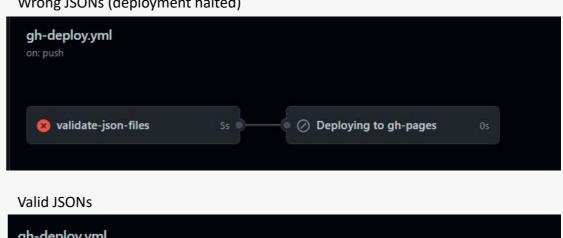
Push content [main] | Push ./doc | Serve content [gh-pages] | [gh-pages]

Validation of JSON files (continuous integration actions)

After every update, the new JSON files are validated against a JSON Schema This prevents mistakes and corrupt databases causing fails in the app.

```
name: Validate JSON data and config files
on: [push]
jobs:
  validate-json-files:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      uses: actions/checkout@v3
      - uses: vanekj/validate-json-action@v1.0.0
       with:
          schema: docs/schema.json
          pattern: docs/*/**/*.json
```

Wrong JSONs (deployment halted)



gh-deploy.yml on: push validate-json-files Deploying to gh-pages

Activate GitHub Pages

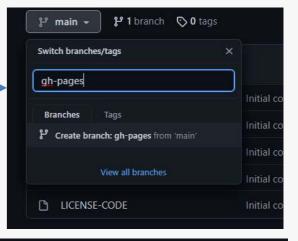
If you cloned the project, you also have access to all the CI actions and configure these steps:

- 1. Create a gh-pages branch that will be used to publish the content.
- 2. Create a personal token
 - a) (Profile > Settings > Developer Settings > Personal access tokens)
 - b) Generate new token > Add a name + [no expiration] + check "repo" in the scope > Generate token
 - c) Copy the token generated in the clipboard
- Create a secret with your token
 - a) Project's Settings > (Security) Secrets > Actions
 - b) New repository secret with

Name: ACCESS_TOKEN

Value: the token (in your clipboard)

- 4. You can verify that the CI Action works properly (Project's Actions) → re-run the jobs with failure (after that, they must be in green)
- 5. In project's Settings > Pages you can see the public URL of your site with the template of the documentation.







Step 1: clone & configure the project

Step 2: the database

Step 3: customize the app

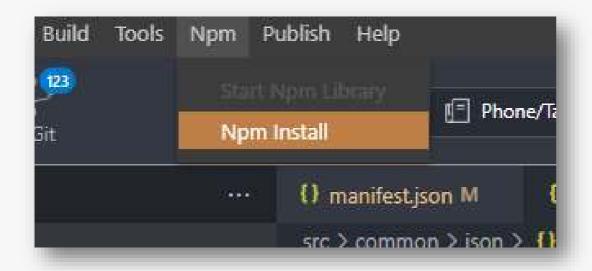
Step 4: upload content to GitHub

Step 5: configure the app

Step 6: run the app

Step-by-step example (an easy one)

Install the dependencies



\$> npm install

The app requires geolib for geographic functions (e.g., getDistance(from, to))

Other libraries may be added to the package.json







A big thanks

Pictograms:

- Cloud by Aya Sofya from NounProject.com
- App by Adrien Coquet from NounProject.com
- Folder by HideMaru from NounProject.com
- Jpg by Ilham Fitrotul Hayat from NounProject.com
- Json by Md Moniruzzaman from NounProject.com
- Csv by Ilham Fitrotul Hayat from NounProject.com
- User by Benny Chaw from NounProject.com
- Terminal by Hare Krishna from NounProject.com