Wiki-based Communities of Interest: Demographics and Outliers

Hiba Arnaout¹ Simon Razniewski¹, Jeff Z. Pan²

¹Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Saarbrücken, Germany ²The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Abstract

In this paper, we release data about demographic information and outliers of communities of interest. Identified from Wiki-based sources, mainly Wikidata, the data covers 7.5k communities, such as members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, and 345k subjects, e.g., Deborah Birx. We describe the statistical inference methodology adopted to mine such data. We release subject-centric and group-centric datasets in JSON format, as well as a browsing interface. Finally, we forsee three areas this research can have an impact on: in social sciences research, it provides a resource for demographic analyses; in web-scale collaborative encyclopedias, it serves as an edit recommender to fill knowledge gaps; and in web search, it offers lists of salient statements about queried subjects for higher user engagement.

Introduction

Motivation

A community consists of a group of people who share a commonality such as geography (Texans), religion (Christian), ethnicity (Arab), or a combination (Arab Texans). One commonality that is less often discussed are communities of passion or purpose, the so-called communities of interest (Fischer 2001). This refers to groups of people who share a profession, practice, or an interest. For instance, members of White House Coronavirus Task Force is a community of practitioners in the medical field. Not to be confused with the much broader community of all medical practitioners, we focus on contextualized groups of people. In this case, people who were appointed by the White House for a specific task. A second example is recipients of ACM Fellowship, rather than all computer scientists. This allows for finegrained analyses over various topics, cultures, time frames, etc.

One standard task for understanding communities is identifying their demographic factors. Demographics are statistical information about a community that includes such factors as gender, occupation, linguistic background, nationality, and location (Ashraf 2020). In geo-based communities for example, identifying demographics can contribute in local policy making or in understanding consumer behavior

Community	Demographics	Outliers
		Deborah Birx
members of White House	male	(female)
Coronavirus Task Force	republican	Jerome Adams
		(independent)
members of Indian	male	Jörg Hacker
National Science Academy	indian	(german)
winners of ACM Fellowship	male american computer science	Susan Nycum (female, lawyer) Calvin Gotlieb (canadian)

Table 1: Demographics and outliers of 3 communities.

for national businesses. In communities of interest, it could contribute to identifying under-represented groups or understanding cultural differences between similar communities across countries or continents. Moreover, compiling top demographics facilitates the task of finding outliers, i.e., members that have different characteristics than the majority, e.g., *Deborah Birx* is a female while 86% of the *White House Coronavirus Task Force* members are male. These can contribute in studies of under-represented groups in different settings.

While extensive research has been conducted on demographics of large geo-based communities (Chambers 2020; Brass 1996) and topic-specific study cases (Poschmann and Goldenstein 2022; Sun and Peng 2021; Zhou et al. 2020), to the best of our knowledge, this is the first work to address communities of interest, releasing data which covers 16 topics from 4 main domains, namely *culture*, *geography*, *history & society*, and *STEM*.

Contributions

We construct a dataset to capture demographics and outliers about communities of interest from Wikidata (Vrandečić and Krötzsch 2014). Table 1 shows three sample communities of interest, including winners of *ACM Fellowship*. While most winners are *male American computer scientists*, two outliers are *Susan Nycum* who is *not* male neither a computer scientist, but a female lawyer, and *Calvin Gotlieb* who is not *American* but *Canadian*. In a nutshell: we collect communities of interest from Wikidata using pre-defined properties ¹

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¹https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:List_of_properties

indicating interest, inspired by the idea for collecting peer groups in (Arnaout et al. 2021). For example position held indicates people holding the same public office and member of indicates people belonging to the same organization, club or group. We then query its topic and domain using the Wiki-topic tool. In the case of ACM Fellows, the domain is STEM and the topic is Computing. Next, we query Wikidata for demographic statements about members of the community using demography-describing properties in Wikidata, e.g., gender (P21). We compute the most frequent value for each of the factors, e.g., occupation-computer scientist (0.93) and gender-male (0.80). Finally, we use common factors to identify outliers in the community. These are members whose characteristics do not fully match the community's demography profile. For example, members who are not computer scientists. This results in a groupcentric dataset. In addition, we construct a subject-centric dataset, by merging for every subject, the list of salient statements across multiple communities they are a member of.

Our datasets can be downloaded from the Zenodo sharing service at: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7410436. We release the data in an easy to parse JSON format. We also publish a web interface for friendly browsing: https://wikiknowledge.onrender.com/demographics.

On usage, we believe this dataset can provide useful seeds in social computing problems, by identifying demographic data for a better analysis of communities of interest and action-warranting under-representations, e.g., gender or ethnicity-bias in certain communities. Downstream applications include comparing similar communities within the same culture/country, e.g., the majority of winners of the Latin Grammy Award for Best New Artist are men while BET Award for Best New Artist are women (both American musical awards for newcomers). Moreover, the data can give insights into equivalent communities of interest between different cultures, e.g., the typical Prime Minister of Iran is Shia but the typical Prime Ministers of Lebanon is Sunni, which are the two main religious branches of Islam. One might be intrigued to look more into the historical reasons of these findings or predict future election winners. Beside social sciences, this data can be useful for knowledge curation of collaborative knowledge bases such as Wikidata by providing the curators with edit recommendations about missing information, e.g., a missing profession of a member in a community can be derived from its common profession (the typical Turing Award recipient is a computer scientist). Finally, producing salient provenance-extended statements about outliers can increase user engagement in web search (Tsurel et al. 2017), e.g., unlike 560 out of 636 recorded winners of Presidential Medal of Freedom, Stephen Hawking is not an American, but British, recipient.

Dataset Creation

Identifying Communities

We choose Wikidata as our source of communities of interest. It is a web-scale collaborative knowledge base which covers 97% of Wikipedia articles (called items). For example, *ACM Fellowship* as an arti-

cle (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACM_Fellow) and (https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q18748039) as an item.

Wikidata, and structured stores of data in general, are a good source for constructing communities of interest, due to their well-canonicalized entities and properties, i.e., using IDs. For instance, one does not have to worry if an Oscar is referred to using the word Oscar or Academy Award or different wording but can simply query it using its unique ID Q19020. Moreover, Wikidata contains additional information about every item, including temporal signals and links to Wikipedia articles, which allows for more sophisticated use cases, e.g., demographics in a certain era. We pick 6 properties indicating interest or profession (position held - P39, award - P166, participant in - P1344, candidate in election -P3602, nominated for - P4353, member of - P463). We instantiate a SPARQL query ² with a property of interest and one of its objects (community) to collect its members, e.g., select distinct ?subject where {?subject wdt:P166 wd:Q18748039} is used to collect ACM Fellowship recipients. A list of subjects is returned, including Thomas Henzinger, Susan Nycum, Calvin Gotlieb, etc.

The outcome of this step is 7.5k communities of interest covering 16 topics and 345k subjects. Given a community of interest, the Wiki-topic tool ³ is queried for top-3 topics. An overview is shown in Table 2⁴. Note that a community can belong to more than 1 topic, e.g., *Presidents of the Senate of Nigeria* is both related to *Politics* under *History & Society* and to *Africa* under *Geography*.

Defining Demographic Factors

Now that we have communities of interest with their members and topics, we want to identify their most frequent values given a set of standard demographic factors (Ashraf 2020). We map each of those to equivalent Wikidata properties (see Table 3). For instance, we identify the nationality of a certain member using property P27.

Inferring Demographics and Outliers

At this point, we have all the ingredients to start collecting community demographics and outliers. For every community, e.g., award-ACM Fellow:

- 1. From Wikidata, query values for the predefined demography-properties, e.g., gender(*Thomas Henzinger*, *Calvin Gotlieb*, ..) = male.
- Compute relative incidence of each factor-value pair, e.g., # male recipients of ACM Fellowship/# recipients of ACM Fellowship= 673/839 = 0.80
- 3. Sort by descending order of relative incidence, e.g., occupation-computer scientist (0.93), gender-male (0.80), nationality-U.S. (0.58), etc..
- 4. Collect outliers as members with demographic data not matching that of the top-k of the community,

²https://query.wikidata.org/

³https://wiki-topic.toolforge.org/topic

⁴For readability, we only display topics with ≥ 50 communities.

Торіс	Domain	# of Communities	Sample Community (title, recorded members, sample member)
Biography		1358	Winners of Suffrage Science award, 35, Pippa Goldschmidt
Literature		416	Winners of EU Prize for Literature, 96, Magdalena Parys
Media	re	1071	Winners of Academy Award for Best Actress, 79, Emma Stone
Performing Arts	ltu	74	Winners of Special Tony Award, 21, Judy Garland
Philosophy & Religion	Cu	250	Popes, 269, John Paul II
Sports		267	Winners of NBA Coach of the Year Award, 52, George Karl
Visual Arts		189	Members of Royal Academy of Arts, 840, William Etty
Āfrica	~ ~ ~ ~	191	Presidents of Uganda, 13, Idi Amin
Americas	hd	927	Governors of Wisconsin, 47, Jim Doyle
Asia	gra	947	Chiefs of the Philippine National Police, 23, Rodolfo Azurin Jr.
Europe	eoi	2737	Prime Ministers of Poland, 44, Jan Olszewski
Oceania	9	247	Winners of New Zealand Order of Merit, 148, Charles Higham
Business & Economics		148	Winners of Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, 11, Tim Berners-Lee
Education	~	134	Chancellors of the University of Oxford, 28, Roy Jenkins
History	Cio	252	Dukes of Normandy, 26, William the Conqueror
Military & Warfare	list	386	United States secretaries of War, 49, William Howard Taft
Politics & Government	щ	950	Leaders of the House of Commons, 80, Andrew Lansley
Society		63	Winners of Civil Courage Prize, 36, Alexei Navalny
Biology		116	Winners of Darwin Medal, 67, Ernst Haeckel
Chemistry		63	Winners of ACS Award in Pure Chemistry, 92, Stuart Schreiber
Earth & Environment	ME	76	Winners of Paleontological Society Medal, 54, Alfred Romer
Mathematics	Ē	75	Winners of SIAM Fellow, 537, Ernst Hairer
Medicine & Health	01	98	Winners of Pollin Prize for Pediatric Research, 17, Basil Hetzel
Physics		120	Winners of Nobel Prize in Physics, 222, Albert Einstein
Space		55	Winners of NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 319, Frank Borman

Table 2: Overview of covered topics and sample communities.

e.g., NOT(gender-male) applies to *Susan Nycum* and NOT(nationality-U.S.) applies to *Calvin Gotlieb*.

Accuracy of Inferred Information. When inferring nonasserted factors for certain members, one unavoidable challenge is the correctness of these inferences. Due to the open-world assumption knowledge bases such as Wikidata postulates, absent statements can be either false (negative), or true but simply absent (missing positive). Present statements in some cases can also be undetectable using exactmatch querying due to potential modelling issues. We remedy these using three heuristics: (i) The partial completeness assumption PCA (Galárraga et al. 2013; Dong et al. 2014), which asserts that if a subject has at least one object for a given property, then there are no other objects beyond those that are in the knowledge base, e.g., if we have at least 1 award for subject x then we assume that their list of awards is complete. (ii) Hierarchical checks, where we exploit the type system, i.e., class taxonomy, in search for a contradiction of a certain negated factor. For instance, occupation-Catholic priest does not hold for subject X, but occupation-Latin Catholic priest does, and (Latin Catholic priest, subclassOf, Catholic priest) is a statement in Wikidata. Hence, if X is a Latin Catholic priest, they are also a Catholic priest. (iii) Semantic similarity checks to avoid possible synonymous or near-synonymous contradictions, we compute the sentence similarity between a candidate statement and an existing statement for subject x. We do so using SBert (Reimers and Gurevych 2019) with 0.6 as a similarity threshold, e.g., similarity (*"teacher"*, *"professor"*) = 0.62, avoiding the inference that someone is a professor but not a teacher and vice versa. 95% of the eliminated candidates are due to PCA, 2% due to hierarchical checks, and due to 3% semantic sim-

Factor	Wikidata Property
Gender	sex or gender (P21)
Sexual orientation	sexual orientation (P91)
Occupation	occupation (P106)
Political leaning	member of political party (P102)
Religion	religion or worldview (P140)
Linguistic background	native language (P103)
Ethnicity & race	ethnic group (P172)
Nationality	country of citizenship (P27)
Location	residence (P551)

Table 3: Standard demographic factors and their properties.

ilarity checks.

Dataset Description

We release two datasets on Zenodo 5 and a browsing interface 6 .

Group-centric Dataset

This dataset consists of 7530 rows in English language, with a total size of 64MB in JSON format. The fields of a JSON record are:

- Title ID: title of the community using Wikidata IDs.
- Title label: title of the community using equivalent Wikidata labels.
- Number of recorded members: number of subjects in Wikidata that belong to the community.

⁵https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7410436

⁶https://wikiknowledge.onrender.com/demographics/

- Topics: a list of topics describing the community, e.g., Culture.Media.Music.
- Demographic factors: a list of top demographics, each consisting of an ID, value, and a score. The ID describes the factor using Wikidata identifiers and value has their labels. The score is the relative incidence within the community.
- Outliers:
 - Reason: a statement on why the following members are considered outliers.
 - Score: a numerical value indicating the frequency of this factor in the community.
 - Members: a list of members for which this factor does not hold.

A sample record ⁷ from the group-centric dataset:

```
1
2
     "title": "holders of position Lord
         Mayor of Dublin",
     "recorded_members": 91,
3
     "topics": ["Geography.Northern_Europe"
4
         ],
     "demographics": [
5
                "gender-male",
6
                "occupation-politician"
7
8
9
     "outliers": [
10
         "reason": "NOT(male) unlike 81 out
11
              of 91 recorded members",
         "members": [
12
                "Catherine Byrne (female)",
13
                "Emer Costello (female)",
14
                "Alison Gilliland (female)"
15
16
                1
17
18
         "reason": "NOT(politician) unlike
19
             47 out of 91 recorded members",
         "members": [
20
                "John D'Arcy (businessperson
21
                   )",
                "Dermot Lacey (
22
                    environmentalist)"
23
24
25
26
```

Listing 1: JSON record from Group-centric dataset.

Subject-centric Dataset

We rerun the method described in the previous section but with two adjustments: for a given subject, we merge all outlier statements across different communities and rank them by descending order of incidence. Moreover, we extend the list of demography-properties to *all* possible Wikidata properties. This subject-centric dataset consists of 345435 rows in English language, with a total size of 172MB in JSON format.

The fields of a JSON record are:

- Subject ID: the Wikidata ID of the subject.
- Subject label: its equivalent label.
- Statements: a list of salient statements across all communities of interest this individual is a member of:
 - Statement ID: a statement using Wikidata ids.
 - Statement label: a statement using Wikidata labels.
 - Score: relative incidence.
- A sample record ⁸ from the subject-centric dataset:

```
1
     "subject": "Serena Williams",
2
3
     "statements": [
4
         "statement": "NOT(gender-male) but
5
              (female) 56 out of 68 recorded
              winners of L'Equipe Champion
             of Champions.",
6
         "score": 0.82
7
       },
8
         "statement": "NOT(sport-basketball
9
             ) but (tennis) unlike 4 out of
             8 recorded winners of Best
             Female Athlete ESPY Award.",
10
         "score": 0.50
11
12
13
```

Listing 2: JSON record from the Subject-centric dataset.

Browsing Interface

For users who wish to sample rows from each topic, we publish a web interface that can be accessed at: https://wikiknowledge.onrender.com/demographics/. A screenshot is shown in Figure 1. It shows that the user selected *Computing* as their topic of interest. It contains 40 communities about *computing*, one of which is *Winners of Turing Award* with top demographic factors as *male computer scientists from the U.S.*. Outliers include women, e.g., *Barbara Liskov* and non-*Americans*, e.g., *Tony Hoare* who is from the *U.K.*. Users can also directly search for communities of their choice. On top of this feature, the website offers an entity summarization interface where users can query for the favorite public figures and get a list of top salient statements about them.

Applications

Demographic Data Analysis for Social Sciences

Discovering Under-represented Groups. One use case for our data is in academic research in humanities. One standard social problem is identifying under-represented groups (Atkinson et al. 2019; Burek 2021; Clark 1991).

⁷For readability we omit some of the listed fields.

⁸For readability we omit some of the described fields.

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Image: Second	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	C 🗘 https://wikiknowledge.onrender	.com/demogra	aphics/	රූ Q Search		=
Matrix Benographics & Outliers: search by community Entity Summarization Download Data Parent Project Select topi: Computing • <t< td=""><th>- Import boo</th><td>kmarks 👏 Getting Started</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>	- Import boo	kmarks 👏 Getting Started					
Community# of membersDemographicsOutlierswinners of Turing Award76Occupation : computer scientist (0.99)NOT(sex or gender-male), unlike 72 recorded members. • Barbara Liskov - female • Frances E. Allen - female • NOT(country of citizenship-United States of America), unlike 55 recorded members. • Occupation : engineer (0.49)vinners of Turing Award76	Find D	ings in Wiki-based Knowledge emographics & Outliers: search by topic Demo Select topic: <u>Computing</u> ~] 40 total rows for Computing.	graphics & O	Dutliers: search by community Ent	tity Summarization Download Data Parent Project		
winners of Turing Award 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 76		Community	# of members	Demographics	Outliers		
		winners of Turing Award		Occupation : computer scientist (0.99) Gender : male (0.95) Nationality : United States of America (0.72) Occupation : university teacher (0.7) Occupation : engineer (0.49)	NOT(sex or gender-male), unlike 72 recorded members. • Barbara Liskov - female • Frances E. Allen - female • NOT(country of citizenship-United States of America), unlike 55 recorded members. • Tony Hoare - United Kingdom • Niklaus Wirth - Switzerland •		

Figure 1: Screenshot of the web interface, searching for demographics and outliers of communities under Computing.

These groups can be defined using one or more demographic factor, e.g., ethnicity, gender. Our data can be considered a resource to answer questions such as: is group X under-represented in community/domain Y? or what is the difference in representation of group X between different domains? A more specific example is shown in Figure 2. We show the fraction of *female* award recipients (in Wikidata assigned gender-female) in STEM⁹ and in political offices holders in different continents. These numbers can support needed initiatives for more representation of certain groups, e.g., programs such as Women in Tech. In this example, we used Wiki-topics to specify spatial and topical dimensions, e.g., STEM. Physics for Physics awards and an intersection of Regions. Europe and History_and_Society.Politics_and_government for political offices in certain geographical regions.

Beyond the topics tool, our dataset is not isolated in terms of what we know about communities of interest and their members. Each subject or group can be linked to its Wikidata profile or Wikipedia article, allowing for more customized analyses. For instance, in award winning or holding public offices, statements are normally associated with temporal data in Wikidata, allowing the user of this dataset to explore progress across time. For instance, the charts in Figure 2 can be re-plotted to include time windows, i.e., female award recipients in Physics [1960-1990], Physics [1991-present] and so on.

Exploring Cultural Differences in Governing. Our data can be used in political science research such as understanding governing in different parts of the world. One angle is

to understand what kind of professions dominate public offices, e.g., presidents, mayors, governors, ministers, ... We compute these as communities of interest created using the property position held¹⁰. We retain communities of interest under *Politics_and_Government*, and assign each to its equivalent geographical area, e.g., *Central America* (see Table 4). Note that we drop the profession at rank 1, since it is *politician* for *all* the areas, and that holding a certain office automatically turn one into a politician. This data can give better understanding of certain cultures or in case of democracies, how do people vote. *Lawyer* is a recurring profession in Americas, especially in *North America* with quarter of public office holders with occupation-lawyer.

Edit Recommendations for Collaborative Encyclopedias

The Web-scale collaborative knowledge base Wikidata contains more than 100 million items (or subjects) which have received almost 2 billion edits since its inception. Editors often need to prioritize their efforts, so useful tools to guide them can improve data quality and completeness, e.g., the Recoin plugin (Balaraman, Razniewski, and Nutt 2018) helps focus the editing on missing properties of subjects. Our approach and dataset can be used to improve this service by not only proposing relevant missing properties but also proposing a full statement about that property. As mentioned, we consider the PCA prior to inferring the negativity of a certain demographic factor. In that step, one cannot assert absent information but can offer a *calculated guess* of what that might be, leaving it for human curators to confirm

⁹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:AfC_sorting/STEM

¹⁰https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Property:P39



Figure 2: Female award recipients in STEM (left) and female political office holders in different continents (right).

Area	Top professions
Central Africa	diplomat (0.27), economist (0.04), civil servant (0.01), philosopher (0.01), minister (0.01)
Eastern Africa	diplomat (0.09), judge (0.03), lawyer (0.03), military personnel (0.03), economist (0.02)
Northern Africa	diplomat (0.12), ruler (0.12), lawyer (0.03), military personnel (0.01), imam (0.01)
Southern Africa	judge (0.28), lawyer (0.11), civil servant (0.01), businessperson (0.01)
Western Africa	diplomat (0.17), lawyer (0.03), military personnel (0.03), economist (0.01), judge (0.01)
Central America	lawyer (0.07), diplomat (0.07), writer (0.02), economist (0.01), military personnel (0.01)
North America	lawyer (0.25), diplomat (0.06), judge (0.03), military personnel (0.01), businessperson (0.01)
South America	lawyer (0.17), diplomat (0.05), military personnel (0.02), journalist (0.01), historian (0.01)
East Asia	monarch (0.09), diplomat (0.07), lawyer (0.06), judge (0.06), prosecutor (0.01)
South Asia	diplomat (0.05), lawyer (0.03), economist (0.02), civil servant (0.02), judge (0.01)
Southeast Asia	sovereign (0.09), judge (0.08), lawyer (0.07), military personnel (0.03), diplomat (0.02)
West Asia	diplomat (0.12), sovereign (0.08), military personnel (0.05), physician (0.02), poet (0.01)
Eastern Europe	diplomat (0.12), economist (0.04), lawyer (0.02), monarch (0.02), university teacher (0.01)
Northern Europe	judge (0.08), diplomat (0.04), monarch (0.02), lawyer (0.02), journalist (0.01)
Southern Europe	diplomat (0.07), lawyer (0.04), military personnel (0.02), jurist (0.01), monarch (0.01)
Western Europe	lawyer (0.13), judge (0.06), diplomat (0.03), military personnel (0.02), suffragist (0.02), teacher (0.01)
Oceania	awyer (0.08), diplomat (0.04), judge (0.01), pastoralist (0.01), solicitor (0.01), farmer (0.01)

Table 4: Top professions in political offices in different parts of the world.

or deny. For example, *Maja Vuković* is a member of winners of *IBM fellowship*. For the property occupation in Wikidata, she has zero values ¹¹ and Recoin lists occupation as the top missing property. Given the demographic data we have about professions of this community she is member of, we propose *computer scientist, mathematician,* and *engineer* as top 3 candidates. This can especially contribute to the completeness of information about long tail entities. Moreover, for subjects who are members of multiple Communities of Interest, one can merge similar demographic factors across communities and average confidence scores.

Entity Summarization

Web search results of queries about public figures can be improved by including salient and sometimes surprising facts. It increases user engagement (Tsurel et al. 2017) to augment question answering and entity summarization results with *did you know-like* statements. This is where our second dataset, i.e., the subject-centric, shines. A user can use the autocompletion field in our web interface to query statements about subject of their choice. These are often surprising or unexpected statements. Examples:

- Did you know that unlike 96% of Oscar for Best Director winners, Bong Joon-ho does not speak English, but Korean? ¹²
- Did you know that unlike 88% of winners of the *Presidential Medal of Freedom*, Stephen Hawking is a non-American, but *British*, winner?

¹¹https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q111536437

¹²In fact he was accompanied by a translator to deliver his acceptance speech.

• Did you know that unlike 91% of recipients of *Liebig Medal* (established by Association of German Chemists), recipient *Max Planck* was not a chemist but a physicist?

Ethical & FAIR Considerations

In this work, datasets released are based on public information and tools provided by Wikimedia projects. We do not use any personal information. Every dataset record, i.e., JSON object, include all equivalent labels and IDs of properties and items retrieved from Wikidata (December 2022 version). Users can refer to these IDs for more details and definitions.

Conclusion

In this work, we generate demographics from Wiki-based sources by exploiting information about communities of interest. We release two datasets and publish a web interface for friendly browsing. Finally, we show three purposes for the data, namely as a resource for social sciences problems, edit recommender for collaborative knowledge bases, and salient fact generator for a better search experience.

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