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Rescuing Scholia #3: We did it!

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Abstract

It was not a set up, when I openly wondered if we would be able to rescue Scholia in time. I honestly did not know. Three weeks and some serious hacking by an international team later I was more optimistic. Actually, just before christmas, we started writing a SWAT4HCLS 2026 demonstration abstract. This was accepted and you can read the Scholia 2026: Compliance with SPARQL 1.1 preprint here and here.

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The work actually started long before that, with the *Robustifying Scholia* grant (see doi:10.3897/rio.5.e35820), where we explored alternatives. The Wikidata graph (RDF) split has been long coming, and I can recommend this recent The Signpost article by Lane for a good overview. So, this would not have been possible with the many people who contributed over the years. But this last sprint really made a difference.

The developments of the QLever software in the past year are very important, and the SPARQL endpoint we run now is live updated, just like we knew from the Wikidata Query Service (WDQS). Recent improvement allowed us to replace all the Wikidata and Blazegraph specific aspects of the SPARQL queries, and good discussions let to pragmatic approaches to keep localization features Scholia had for displaying query results from Wikidata.

The work is not completed, however. All queries are SPARQL 1.1 now, but some can still be further optimized, and some still need some fixing. For example, I still spot some QIDs here and there, instead of the localized labels that should be shown instead. Also, we are actively looking in getting everything running again on WMF servers (see this overview issue), so that *scholia.toolforge.org* works again.

For now, however, please use qlever.scholia.wiki.