

Retracted articles cited in Wikipedia

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Abstract

Last week, the Wikidata and Sister Projects event tooks place. The presentations are recorded, and I strongly encourage you to check the schedule. One presentation I liked (there are more), was the one by Mike Peel with the title “Best practices for reusing Wikidata’s data in the Wikimedia Projects”. At some point he walks us through the {{Cite Q}} template, around 26:07.

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Last week, the [Wikidata and Sister Projects](#) event tooks place. The presentations are recorded, and I strongly encourage you to check the schedule. One presentation I liked (there are more), was the one by [Mike Peel](#) with the title “*Best practices for reusing Wikidata’s data in the Wikimedia Projects*”. At some point he walks us through the [{{Cite Q}}](#) template, [around 26:07](#).

I learned that this template will highlight when an article cited in Wikipedia is actually retracted (withdrawn or replaced). Now, for the past months, I have been using the Crossref API to the [Retraction Watch Database](#) and annotated thousands of articles as retracted, using URLs from the database as reference. I use [this script](#).

So, that means that this work actually has had a massive impact. Perhaps thousands of (English) Wikipedia readers have seen the results from running that script. That is pretty awesome! This is why we do open science.

But it made me also wonder something else. The Retraction Watch Database has over 60 thousand articles and Wikidata only about 22 thousand (at the time of writing). What if Wikipedia has an article not in Wikidata? Well, obviously, it cannot use [{{Cite Q}}](#). But wouldn't we want to have that article in Wikidata? Clearly, the article is notable; at least, in Wikipedia notability-sense. So, I was wondering, of those 40 thousand retracted articles not in Wikidata, how many are cited in English Wikipedia (to start with).

So, I wrote [a first script](#) that lists DOIs in the Retraction Watch Database (via the CrossRef API downloaded list) that are not found in Wikidata. [A second script](#) uses a Scholia (doi: [10.1007/978-3-319-70407-4_36](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-70407-4_36)) SPARQL query develop by Finn Nielsen that [uses wikibase:mwapi](#) to do an efficient DOI search.

The results are fascinating and this is the list of DOIs found:

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Searching 10.1016/j.engfailanal.2021.105457 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filippo_Berto
Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD002291 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antipruritic
Searching 10.1007/s12115-020-00496-1 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Mead
Searching 10.1515/9783110619768 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Eagle_Owl
Searching 10.1016/j.sbi.2022.102426 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deborah_F._Kelly
Searching 10.1371/journal.pone.0240851 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialization_of_China
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Searching 10.1080/00927670309601525 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rouben_Azizian

Searching 10.1080/14693062.2016.1179616 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_K._Sovacool

Searching 10.1038/s41390-022-02127-3 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald_Walach

Searching 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.2659 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald_Walach

Searching 10.1109/CCECE.2007.335 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_scientific_misconduct_incidents

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD001834 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meningococcal_vaccine

Searching 10.1007/s11356-021-16530-6 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamran_Bagheri_Lankarani

Searching 10.1016/j.biortech.2023.129044 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashok_Pandey

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD003614 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trimetazidine>

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... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hall_Technique

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD003747 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venous_thrombosis

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD003711 in Wikipedia...
... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myocarditis>

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD003225 in Wikipedia...
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... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention_of_migraine_attacks

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... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A2_milk
... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autism>
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Autism_therapies

... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casein>
... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casomorphin>
... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Causes_of_autism

... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gluten-free%2C_casein-free_diet
... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gluten-free_diet
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Opioid_excess_theory

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... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Managerial_economics

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... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Deborah_F._Kelly

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... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Canada%27s_Stonehenge

Searching 10.3791/64256 in Wikipedia...

... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Thomas_J._Webster

Searching 10.1016/j.biortech.2022.127565 in Wikipedia...

... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashok_Pandey

Searching 10.1016/j.anbehav.2015.04.001 in Wikipedia...

... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Stegodyphus_dumicola

Searching 10.1016/j.tafmec.2022.103573 in Wikipedia...

... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Filippo_Berto

Searching 10.1155/2022/7002630 in Wikipedia...

... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Dopamine_receptor_D3

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... found in this Wikipedia page: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Filippo_Berto

Searching 10.1016/j.forsciint.2024.112115 in Wikipedia...

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Peter_A._McCullough

Searching 10.1002/14651858.CD002778 in Wikipedia...

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Temporomandibular_joint_dysfunction

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... found in this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filippo_Berto
Searching 10.1016/j.crphar.2022 in Wikipedia...

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Searching 10.1109/AIMSEC.2011.6010222 in Wikipedia...
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Searching 10.1351/PAC-CON-08-12-06 in Wikipedia...
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