

Wikidata exploration for Social Science

Deadly death metal or rap yourself to death

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Extended abstract

In this presentation we are going to show the possibilities and limitations of Wikidata [<http://www.wikidata.org>] – “Wikipedia for data”, or in other words, a sister service of Wikipedia providing tags and collaborative, shareable knowledgebase. Wikidata is, or at least aims to be, the ultimate source of structured data scraped from the biggest Internet encyclopedia. In this way, Wikidata allows for easy exploration of various topics, that may answer academic hypotheses in a data-driven way [Vrandečić & Krötzsch 2014].

As an exemplary project based on data generated with the use of one of Wikidata tools: Wikidata Query Service, we will present a study inspired by the research of longevity of life of jazz musicians [Kinra & Okasha 1999]. The research compared the average duration of life of musicians playing on different instruments. The results have shown that woodwind instrument players (especially saxophonists) lived the shortest, which may be caused by the overstrain of their respiratory and cerebrovascular systems. We have taken a step further in this area of studies and – with the use of Wikidata – besides presenting a replication of the research, are presenting a study of life duration among musicians from different music genres.

Preliminary results show (Fig. 1) that death metal and hip-hop musicians live the shortest, which has many causes, and will be discussed by us during the presentation.

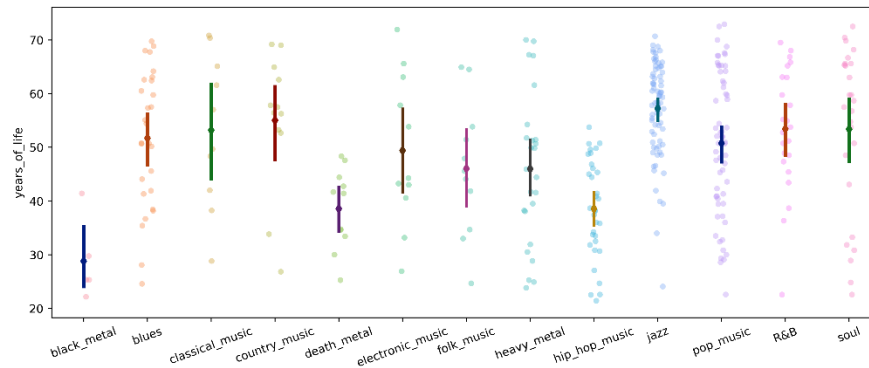


Figure 1. The duration of life (in years) in different music genres. Each dot represents one person, the thick vertical lines represent the mean and confidence intervals for each group.

Our study is meant to show the capabilities of Wikidata, and we hope it will provide a foundation for future quantitative social projects based on data.

References

- Kinra, S., & Okasha, M. (1999). Unsafe sax: cohort study of the impact of too much sax on the mortality of famous jazz musicians. *BMJ*, *319*(7225), 1612–1613.
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