



**4TH UNITED NATIONS OPEN SCIENCE
& OPEN SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE**

TOKYO, JAPAN | 16-18 OCTOBER 2025

Engaging Communities Through Open Science and Wikimedia

Afek Ben Chahed

Librarian, Diocesan Library of Tunis

Wikimedian

Wikimedia

What we do in Wikimedia is actually very close to what open science is all about:

- We share knowledge,
- We verify it,
- We translate it,
- And we make sure it's free and accessible to everyone, everywhere.

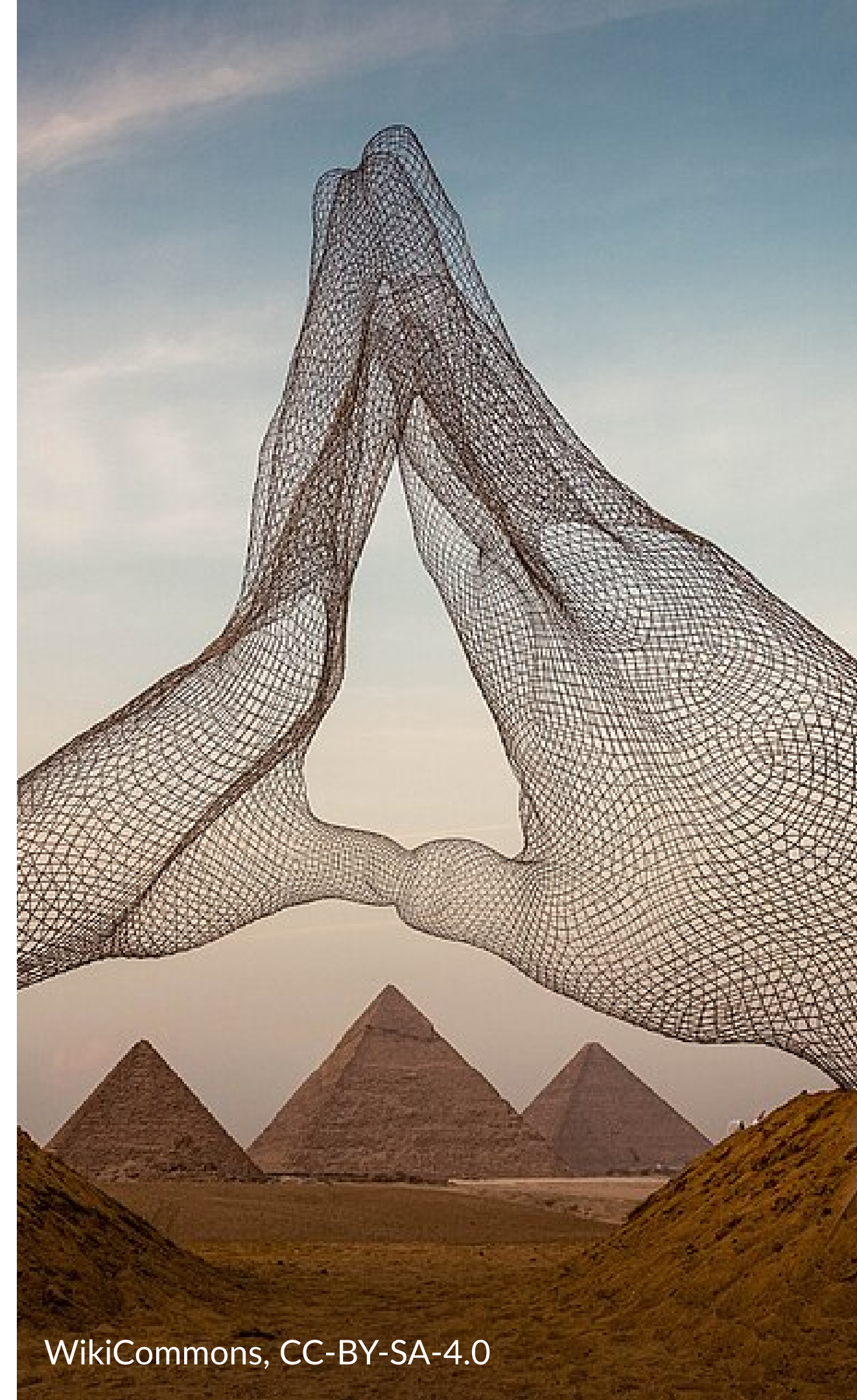
In other words, we make knowledge a public good — something everyone can use, learn from, and build upon.



WikiCommons, PD shape

Wikimedia & Open Science

- Wikimedia is a global network of projects: Wikipedia, Wikidata, Wikimedia Commons, Wikisource, Wikiquote...
- Built by volunteers, guided by one principle: knowledge should be free, open, and accessible to everyone.
- Our work is inherently open science in practice:
 - Making research visible and understandable
 - Connecting scientific knowledge to communities
 - Removing barriers to participation and engagement
- This is why Wikimedia naturally aligns with science communication and public engagement: it invites everyone to contribute and use knowledge freely.



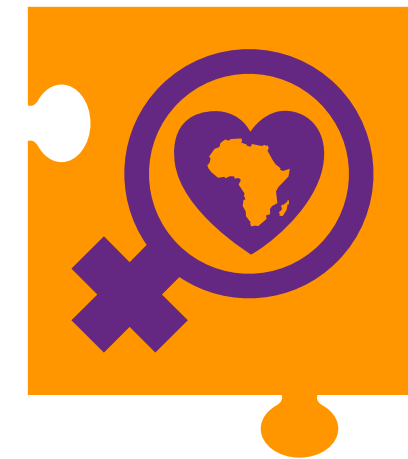
Wikimedia demonstrates that open science is more than data — it's participation, inclusion, and communication.

WikiChallenge and Wiki Loves Women show this in practice:

- Communities and schools share and communicate knowledge
- Women and youth contribute freely and confidently
- Barriers are removed, trust is built, and engagement increases



Wiki In
Africa



Wiki
Loves
Women



Wiki
Challenge
Écoles d'Afrique

Wiki Loves Women

- Trains women to edit, publish, and communicate knowledge.
- Collects quotes, stories, and biographies of women leaders, scientists, and changemakers.
- Focuses on inclusion and visibility, directly supporting public engagement.
- Each edit empowers participants to communicate scientific and cultural knowledge.
- Shows how inclusive participation strengthens science communication and opens barriers for underrepresented groups.



WikiCommons, CC-Zero



WikiCommons, CC-Zero

WikiChallenge African Schools

- Students research and publish local knowledge — from rivers and crops to school innovations.
- Students become creators, not just consumers, of science.
- Hands-on engagement teaches research, verification, and communication skills.
- **Aligns with Science Communication & Public Engagement:**
 - Educational and participation barriers are removed
 - Communities see themselves represented in scientific knowledge
 - Students actively contribute knowledge to the global public



WikiChallenge African Schools

- 7 Editions of WikiChallenge (2017-2025)
- 14 participating countries (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Ivory Coast, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco, and Sierra Leone)
- 1216 participating establishments
- 792 texts proposed by children and published on Vikidia
- 4098 photos, drawings and videos published
- 112 winning schools, for the direct benefit of the hundreds of students and staff of the schools
- Skills acquired by all participating students
- The WikiChallenge was recipiendary of the Open Education Awards for Excellence in the Open Pedagogy category.



Thank you!

