

Norwegian artist names

Authority list of artists in Norwegian art collections

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How do you best transform a paper-based publication into a living online resource? This is the theme of an ongoing project at The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Norway, supported by Arts Council Norway. The goal of the project is to create, publish and maintain an authority list of Norwegian artists, architects, designers and craftsmen. The list will in part be based on our Norwegian artists lexicon (published 1982-86) and subsequently digitised in 2013 (<https://nkl.snl.no/>). With the help of other public collections in Norway, we aim to make the new resource as complete as possible, and available in both human- and machine-readable formats. By doing this we hope to ease the digitisation process and contribute to better data quality in Norwegian online collections.

Although the original paper publication contains biographical texts as well as lists of exhibitions, education, travels, publications and more, the data in the new authority list will be constrained to a set of core biographical data. It will however carry references to online biographical resources such as Norsk kunstnerleksikon, Wikipedia, Wikidata, ULAN, VIAF and more, which will be of great use to online publications that wish to link to or pull in data from such resources.

In our paper we will discuss the process of defining the scope and setting constraints for the list, how to enrich and reconcile existing data, as well as strategies to ensure other institutions contribute both as content publishers and end users.