ReKisstory Find Section Manual

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What is the Find section?

- Search “fact of items” (see below) of the same pattern and list them
- You specify a pattern: a type of items you look for (persons, films, paintings, treaties etc) and the common features of the items (place, time, relation etc)
- Example: with your pattern, you can ask to list
    - films starring Harrison Ford
    - paintings owned by the city of Amsterdam
    - treaties made in The Hague
    - musicians who lived in New York from 1960 to 1980
- Present the results in Table, Map, and Timeline view, depending on the parameters
- Use it, when you don’t know which items exist (e.g. how many films are there starring Harrison Ford?). If you know what items to check the details (e.g. “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”, or Harrison Ford), use Compare section
- Test with the example query patterns and adjust them to your needs

What are the fact items?

- Data you can search in ReKisstory
- Nearly the same as Wikipedia article entries
- Persons, places, books, films, products, events, buildings, planets, animals, plants, planets, chemical elements, systems, theories, ideas, concepts etc. Something has a name and can be found in Wikipedia
- All items have unique identifier with prefix Q (e.g. Human (Q5), Harrison Ford(Q81328))
- In addition, there are relations which connect fact items. All relations have unique identifiers with prefix P (e.g. residence (P551), member of (P463))
- There are 100 million+ items (source data is called Wikidata), and 11,000+ relations

How does the Find section work?

Find section may be complicated for first-time users, because there are many input boxes (parameters). You specify fact items (Q prefix) and relations (P prefix) to form a query pattern. If you are lost in the Find section, click the Instruction button to see explanations. Two modes can be changed by clicking a tab on top.

- **Simple mode**
    - User specifies a query pattern in the input box (drop-down menu and auto-suggest)
    - Item Type (A) is mandatory: what type of items you would like to list
    - The query pattern can include: Predicate (D), Object (E), Start date (F) and End date (G)
    - Query pattern can be read like a sentence: please list Human (A) whose residence (D) is New York (E)
    - You can filter Item Type (A) by specifying characteristic (B) and characteristic type (C) to avoid too many results, especially if Item Type (A) is Q5 Human
    - Start typing at least 3 characters to see auto-suggestion of items
- **Advanced mode**
    - Simple mode without drop down menu (i.e. all with auto-suggest), plus a possibility to specify how the results will be shown
    - Full input flexibility with auto-suggest, but it requires more experience with source data and ontology (Wikidata) in order to avoid disappointing results (no results, too many results, timeout)
    - More flexibility for Start and End date input. Users can manually type YYYY-MM-DD, rather than time slider
    - “Contextual timeline” will include periods in the timeline such as popes, Japanese eras, head of states, so that the fact items can be displayed in context side by side
    - “Max number of results” can be changed (default 100)
    - “Language” can be changed for data labels in the results

The results contains:

- **Table view**: showing the data about the fact items in a tabular view
- **Map view**: showing spatial dimension of the fact items (geographical coordinates). The same of close locations are grouped together
- **Timeline view**: showing the temporal dimension of the fact items (point in time and duration). If data is available, the lifespan of an item (e.g. birth and death dates) is shown with dotted lines
- **Download section** allows users to download the results of the fact items as well as contextual timeline data
- **Graph view**: showing other relations of the resulting items (in a network visualization) than the relations of the query pattern

Query tips

- **Test first your pattern without Start date and End date**, and see if you get a timeout error. If it happens, narrow down your search with time duration (or point in time). This is because data is sparse. It is hard to guess how many results you get
- You can specify Predicate (D) without specifying Object (E). For example, Item Type (A) is Human (Q5) and Predicate (D) is residence (P551), the query looks for people who lived “anywhere”. It narrows down your search much more than just Item Type is Human (Q5). Similarly, without specifying Start date (F) and End date (G), the same query means people who lived “anywhere” “anywhere”
- Item Type (A), Predicate (D), and Object (E) only work properly in combination. You get no results if you put in the wrong combination (see the point below). Similarly, Item Type (A), characteristic (B) and characteristic type (C) also work in combination
- Pay attention to the scope of relations for Predicate (D)(i.e. which fact items are allowed to be connected). For example, you cannot specify a person like Harrison Ford (Q81328) in Object (E), if you use residence (P551). It must be a place like Paris (Q90)
- Pay attention to the direction of relations for Predicate (D)(i.e. where the fact items should be positioned). You may wrongly specify Type (A) and Object (E) (in the opposite position), because Predicate (D) is semantically not bidirectional. For example, <Gustav Klimt> <student> <Egon Shiele> is correct (i.e. Gustav Klimt is a teacher of Egon Shiele), but <Egon Shiele> <student> <Gustav Klimt> is incorrect. If you misunderstand the direction, you may get unexpected results.

It's a bit hard to use…

- We know it’s a bit hard in the beginning, just like using spreadsheet software for the first time. It’s because the underlying data and query patterns are complicated
- The more you spend time with it, the easier it becomes. You learn little by little
- ReKisstory is not a normal search engine like Google (resource discovery tool), but an analytical tool:
    - You can specify more parameters than search engine
    - Many resource discovery tools are useful, but you often need to figure out which search results are useful for you. ReKisstory presents you the exact results you search for
    - Do not expect the same response speed as a search engine. ReKisstory searches for your complex query pattern in the 100 million+ data on the fly and compute age etc, which takes time
- You can learn how to fine-tune your query pattern by experience. To use it effectively, you need knowledge about the source data structure (i.e. Wikidata ontology)
- **Use the query pattern examples as a starting point.** You will get the sense of what to fill in which input. Adjust the examples for your needs. The patterns you can define are limited: it should not be too hard to learn
- Please let us know your opinion. We will try to improve ReKisstory over time

Simple mode

List items of the same pattern

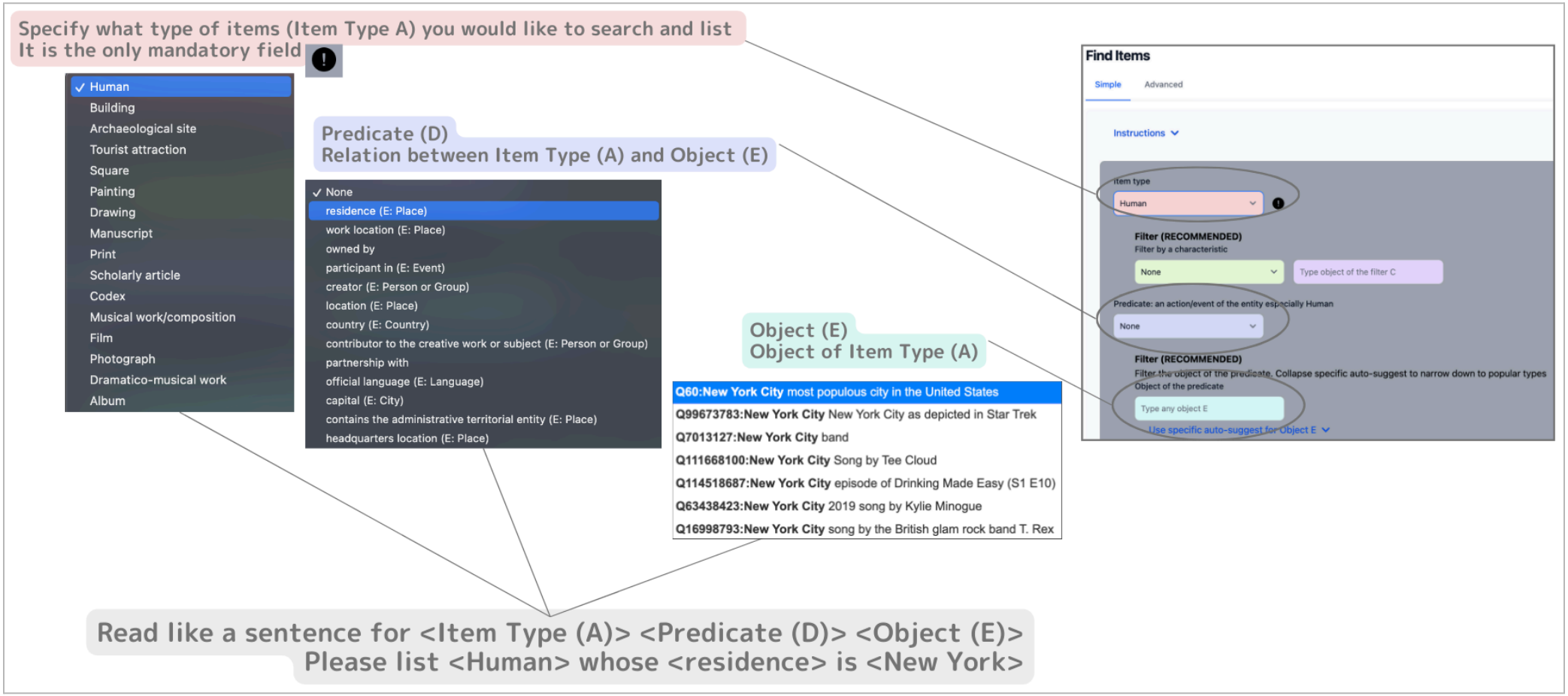
You specify the pattern by input box from A to G. Some input boxes are predefined dropdown menu

Item Type (A) is what type of items you would like to list: Human, Building, Painting etc

Predicate (D) is a relation between Item Type (A) and Object (E): residence, work location, owned by etc

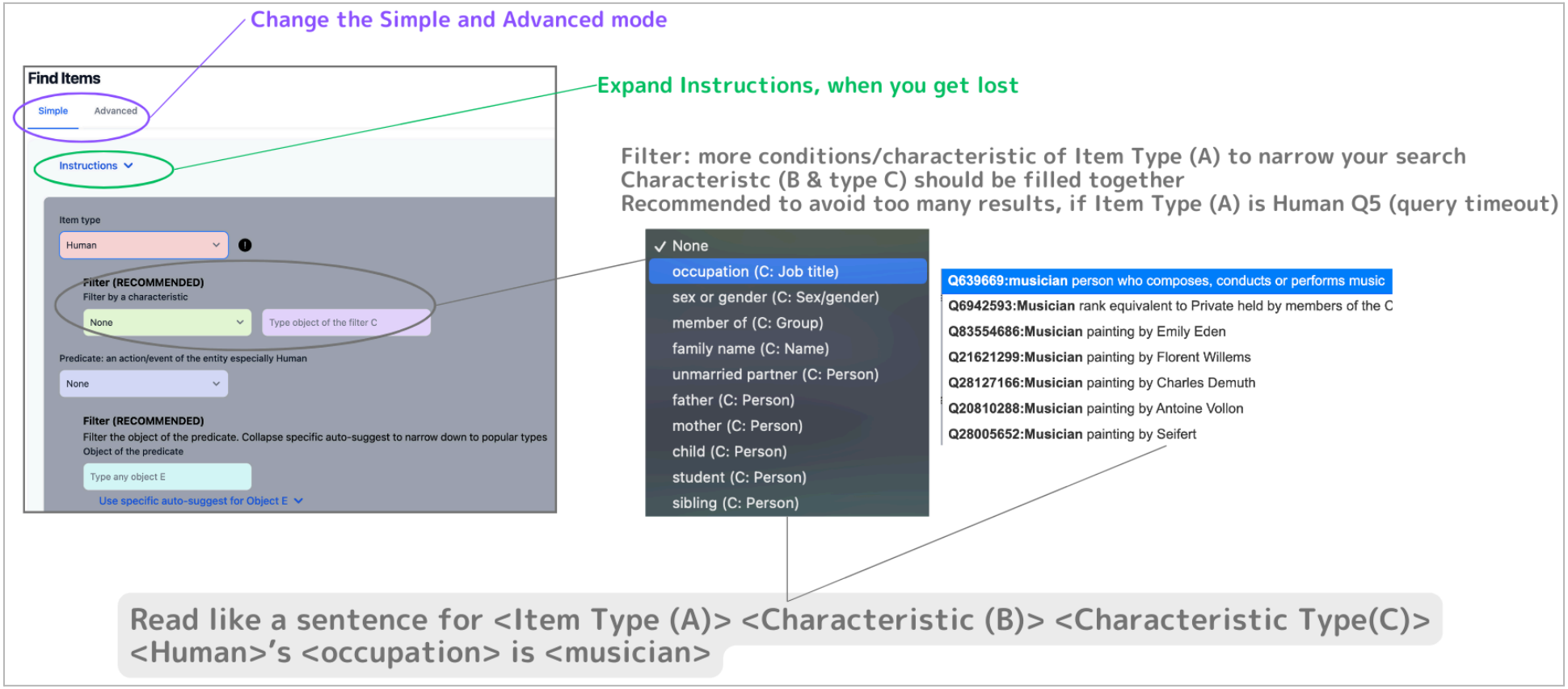
Object (E) is an object of Item Type (A): New York, Indonesia, Apple Inc etc

You read your query pattern like a sentence (example in the screenshot below): Please list <Human> whose <residence> is <New York>



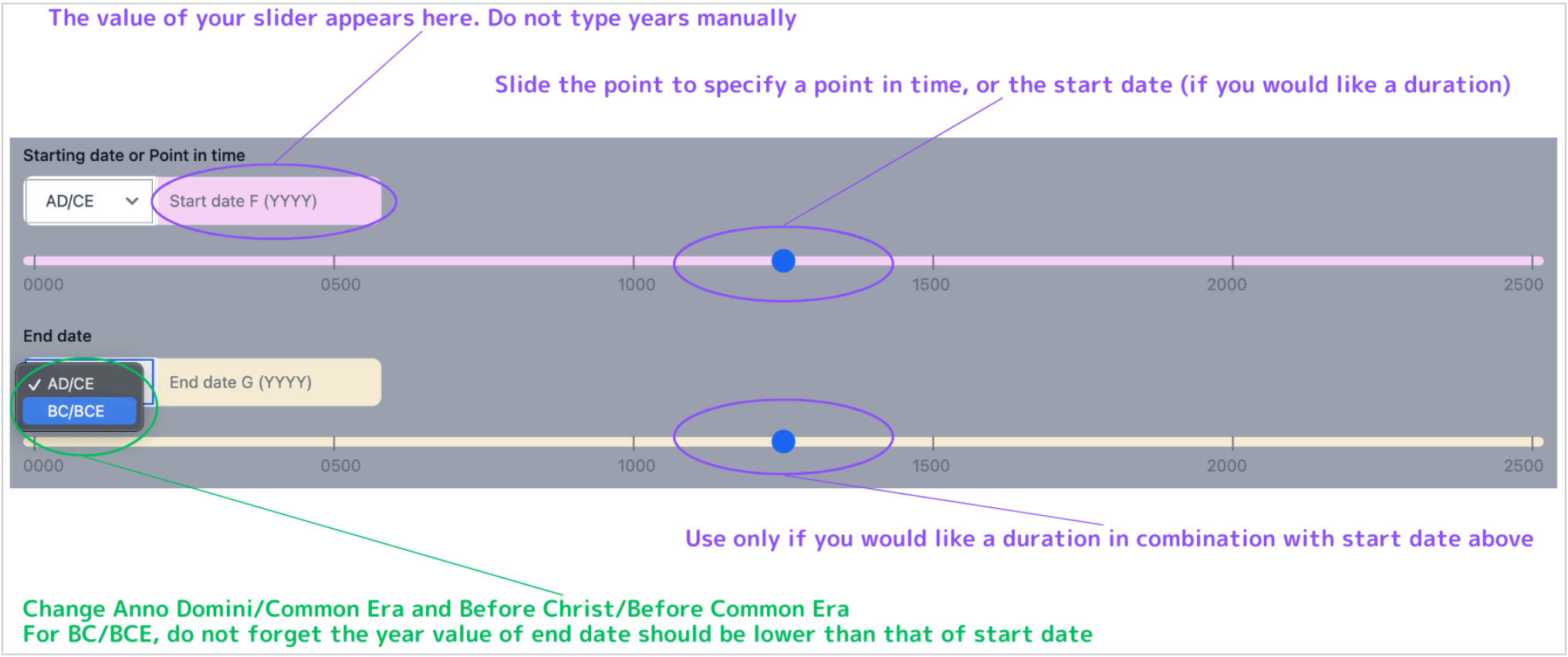
Characteristic (B) is a relation between Item Type (A) and Object (C): occupation, sex/gender, member of etc
Characteristic type (C) is the object of Item Type (A): musician, female, J.F Kennedy etc
It is recommended to specify B & C to avoid too many results (especially if Item Type (A) is Human Q5)

You read your query pattern like a sentence (example in the screenshot below): <Human> whose <occupation> is <musician>
Together with the pattern above (<Human> whose <residence> is <New York>),
you will search <Human> whose <occupation> is <musician> and <residence> is <New York>



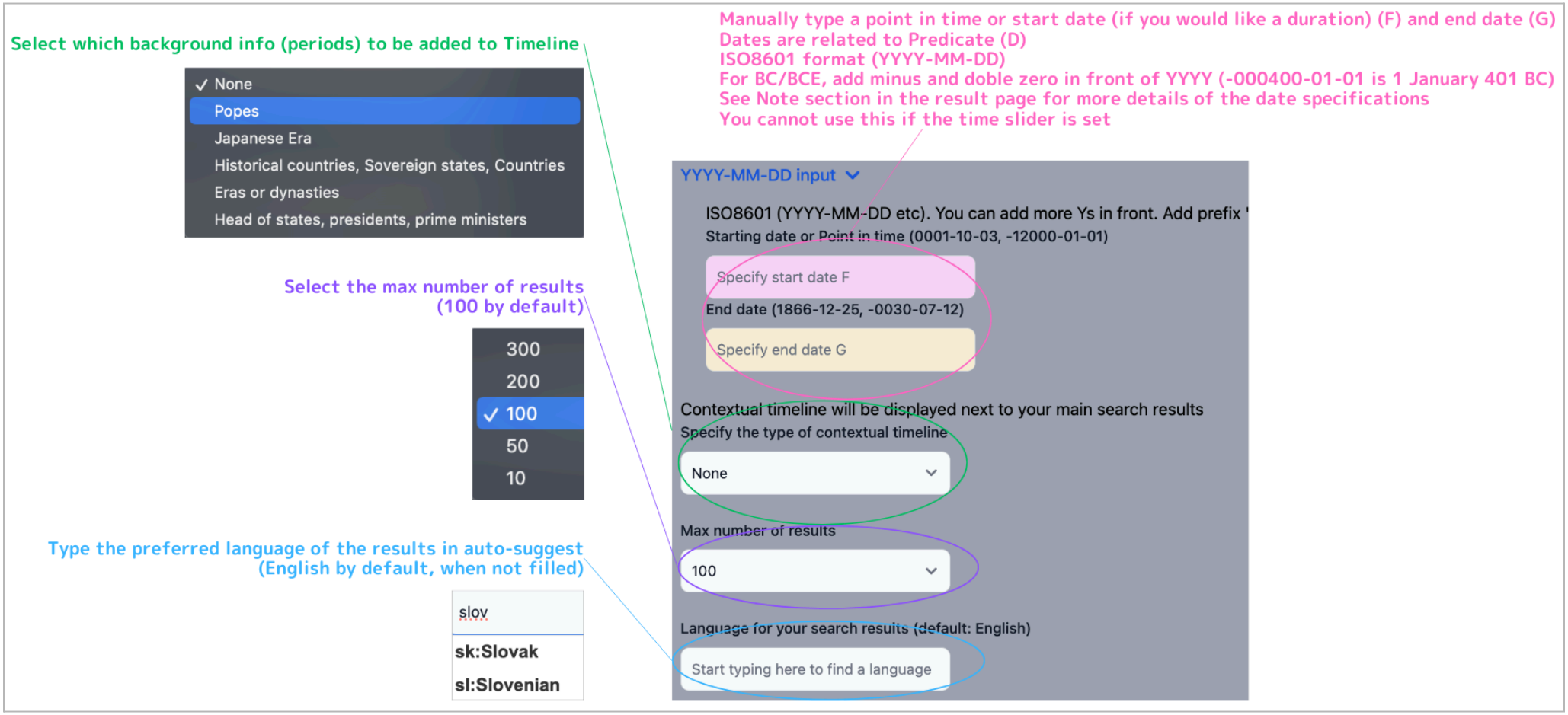
Q: What is the difference between characteristic B and predicate D? (and corresponding characteristic type C & Object E)

A: Not intuitive, but, generally speaking, while B has a more persistent relationship with C, D has a more temporal relationship (for an event) with E. In advanced mode, you can also put B in D input



Advanced mode

More flexible than Simple mode with full options, but need more knowledge with the Wikidata ontology.
There are no predefined drop down menus. Everything should be filled by auto-suggest
You have a possibility to specify the time manually with YYYY-MM-DD input. Other options include the background information in timeline, and max number of results, and language of the result display



Results

Number of total results and the query time in seconds

Fine-tune your query by these stats: 60 seconds is considered long

Total Results: 5818 (Max 100 shown)

12.741 seconds

Entities of painting whose is , being/having collection Rijksmuseum during None - None (years months)

Many results: consider narrowing your conditons to avoid query time-out (Specify dates F & G; Use narrower concept of Object E; Add Filter B & C). You may want to check examples of paintings and if they have time info

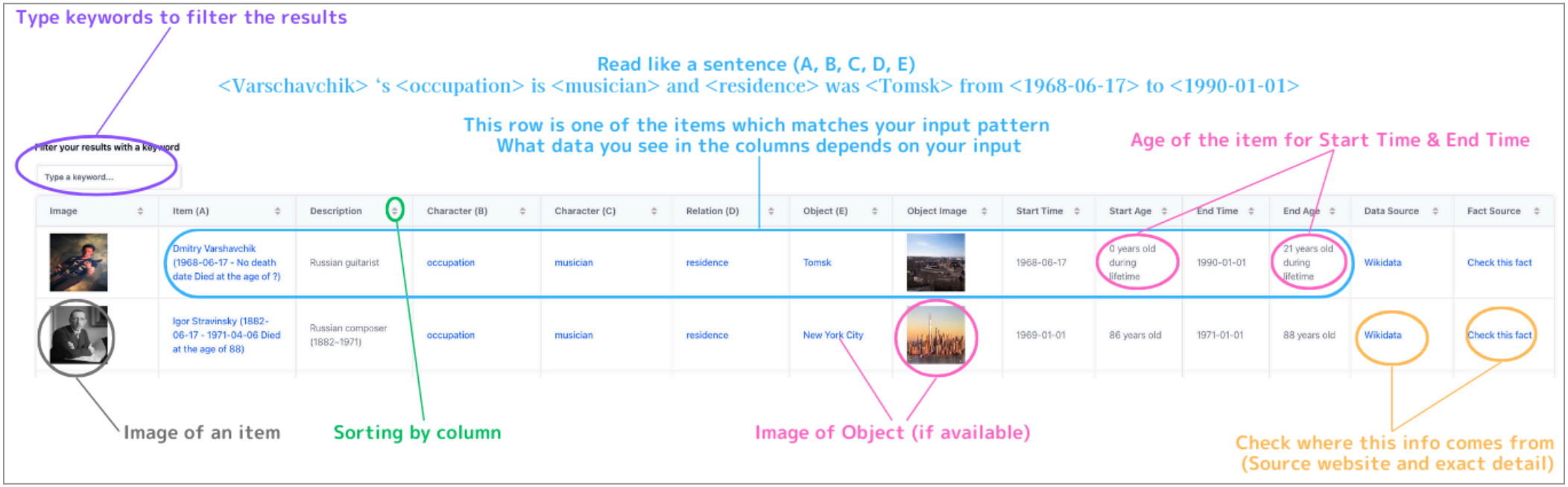
If table, timeline, and map presentation look strange, check the fact in the table too. They may be due to the irregularities of the source data (e.g. multiple-dates for one event, age mis-calculation may occur especially when there are multiple dates or data absence). Sometimes Wikidata has discrepancy between the raw date (RDF) and displayed label (HTML) If there are bugs in ReKisstory, contact and help us to improve!

Table View

The list of results in Table. Each row shows an item matching your input pattern

By default, it is sorted by Start Time column in this order: no dates, from early to late dates

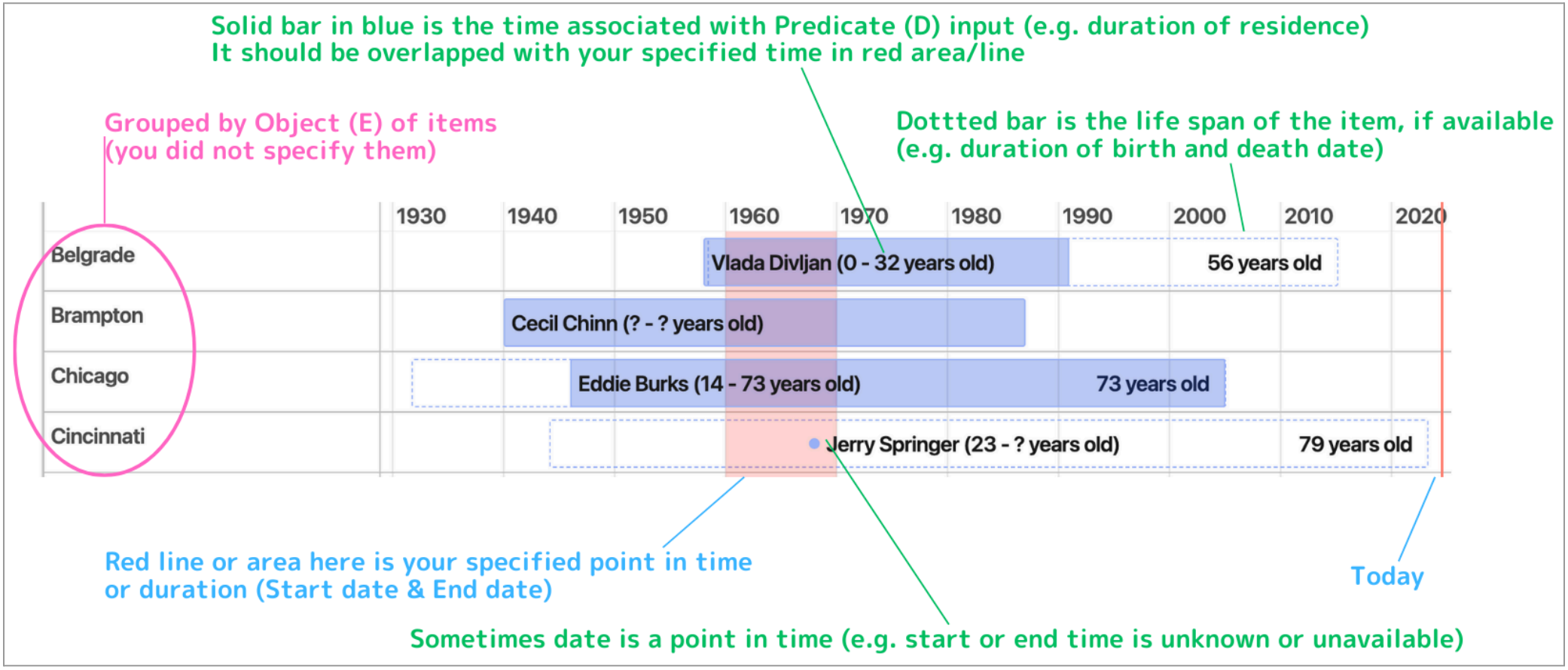
Example below is when a user looks for <Human> (A) whose <occupation> (B) is <musician> (C) and Object (E) of <residence> (D) is not specified, but time of residence is specified as 1960 (F) and 1970 (G). The results are the list of musicians with different locations of residence.

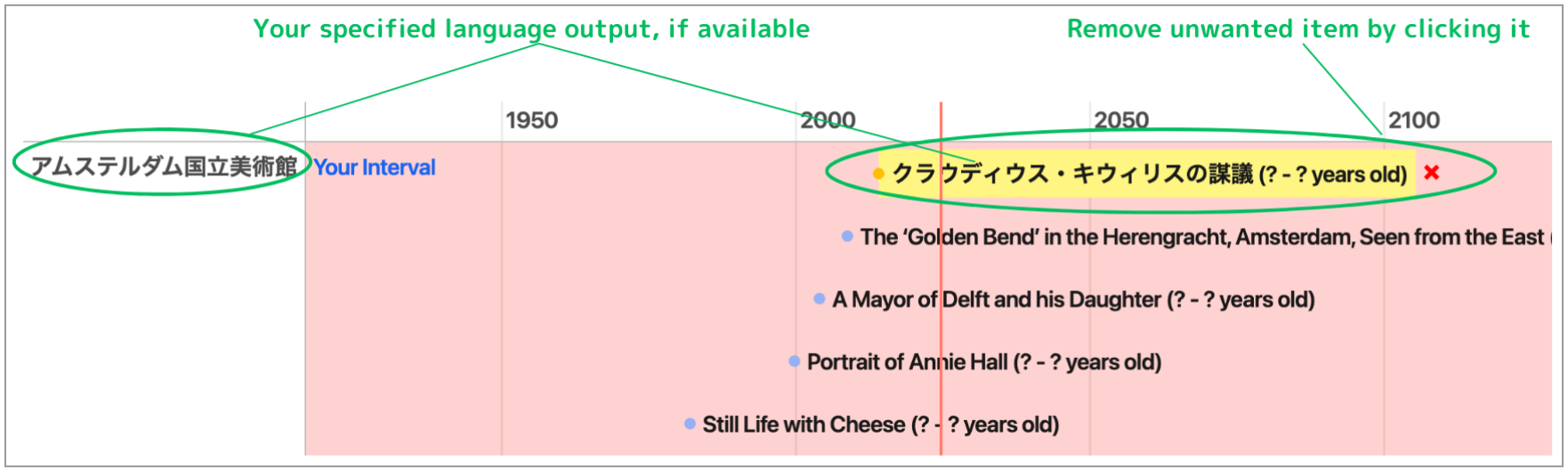


Timeline view

The temporal data about the fact items (lifetime events) are plotted in the timeline

It is grouped by Object (E) in the left column. You can zoom in and out with the mouse wheel. Calculated age of the item is also included. Links on the plot are clickable to jump to the provenance information. By clicking an item on the timeline, you can also remove it to clean the timeline.

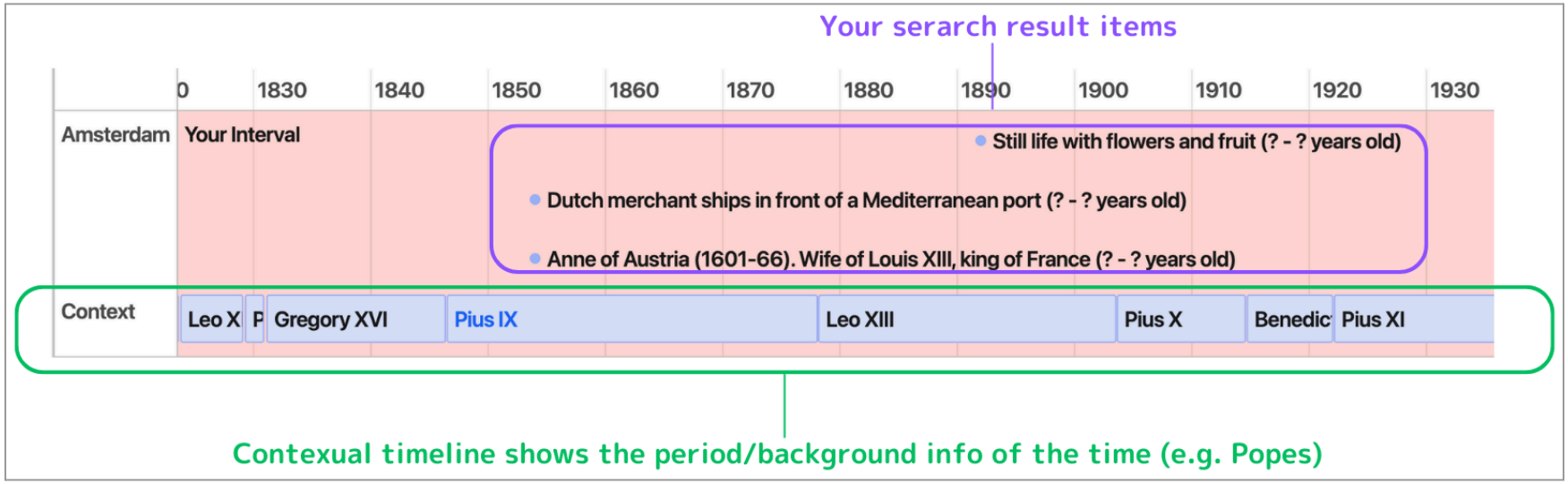




Q: What does the "Contextual Timeline" selection in the Advanced mode do?

A: Background info of the time (periods) will be shown at the bottom of the Timeline

It may be handy to check the period as a context of your search results, e.g. when you search paintings, popes are shown



Download

You can download the search results and the contextual timeline (see above) as CSV file

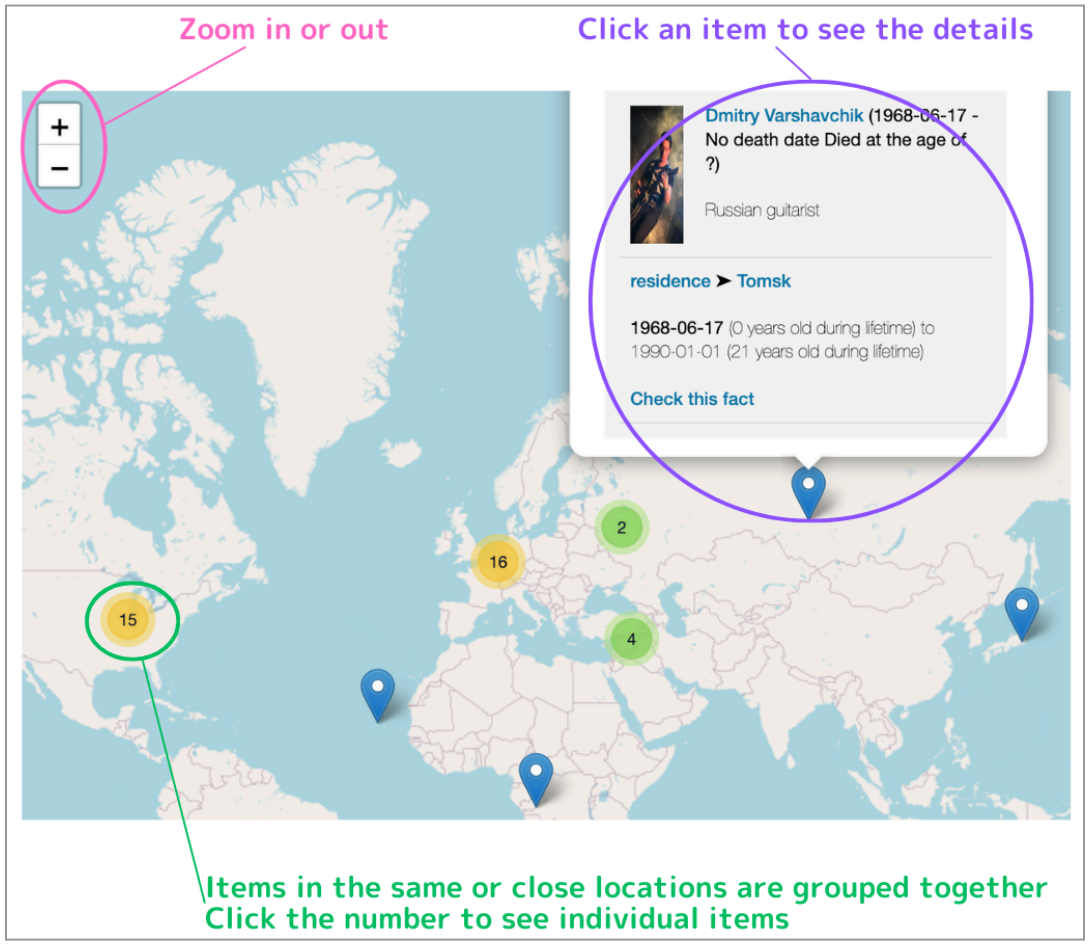
Download data in CSV | Download context data in CSV

Map view

If spatial coordinates are available, the items are plotted on the map

Zoom in and out with a mouse wheel or button at the top left corner

Just click a pin to see more information. Many hyperlinks in the popup window are clickable



Graph View

Find other (direct) relations between the items of the result, if they exist

Your search results are the items having the common features/pattern you specify (e.g. persons who lived in Rome),
but they may be related to each other in other ways.
For example, some of them may be relatives, friends, students, or influenced by each other. Graph View will show such relationships