

# Unlocking more forms of free knowledge with Wikispore

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[bit.ly/wikispore-ceem2020](https://bit.ly/wikispore-ceem2020)

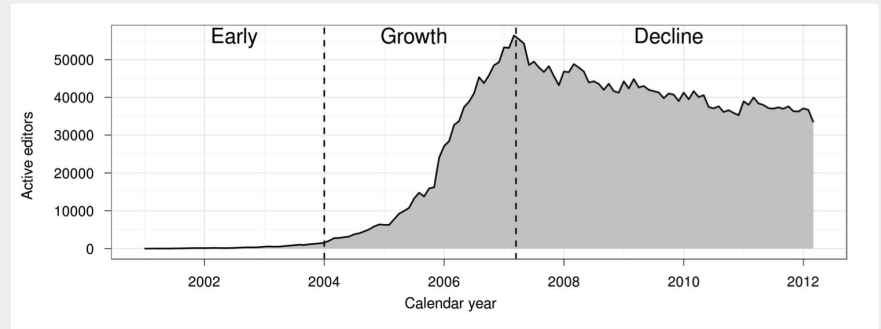
- What is Wikispore?
- Why are we doing it?
- How does it work?
- Where are we now?
- How can you help?

# What is Wikispore?

- [Wikispore](#) is a wiki, and [proposed new sister project](#), to develop test wikis to fill out the rest of the reference shelf with new genres of free knowledge.
- Unlike Wikimedia Incubator, which is about repeating proven patterns in new languages, it focuses on experimentation and diversification in new formats.
- Eventually, it should function similarly to the Community Wishlist Survey in that the proposals with the widest support would be selected each year for interim development, and we would try to grow them into full sister projects.

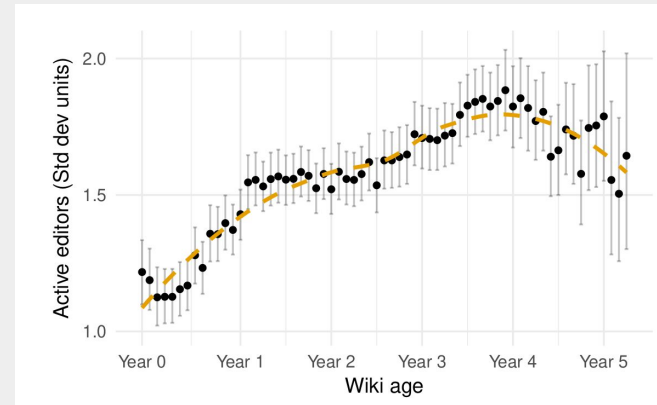
# Why are we doing it?

Growth and innovation slows down as projects get older.



## [The Rise and Decline of an Open Collaboration System](#)

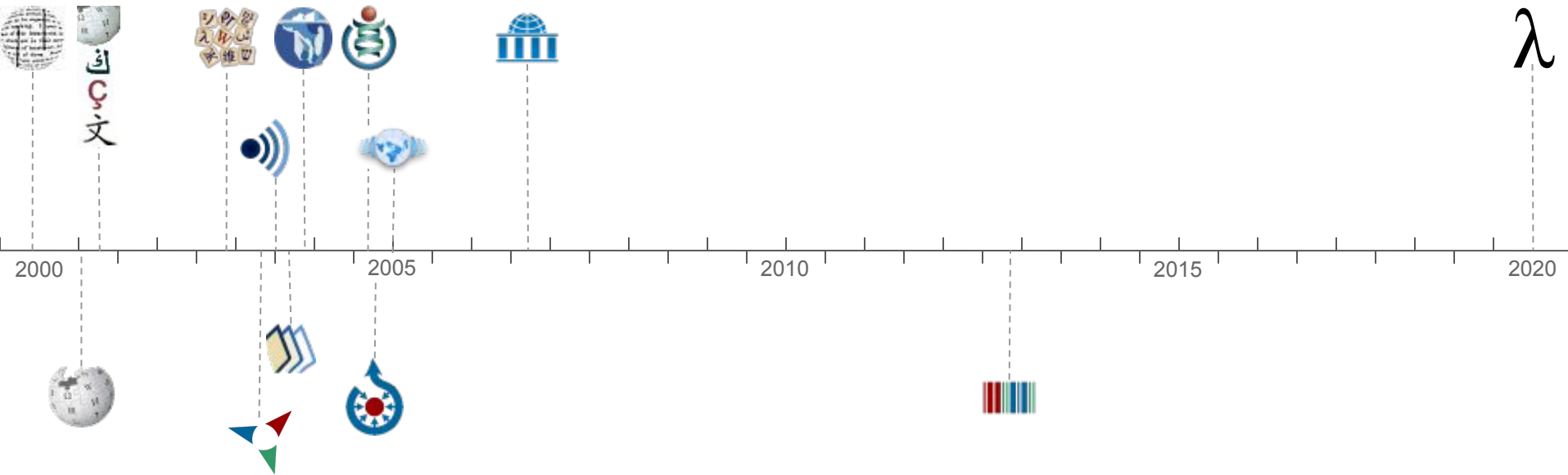
Aaron Halfaker et al., 2013



## [Revisiting "The Rise and Decline" in a Population of Peer Production Projects](#)

Benjamin Mako Hill et al., 2018

Project type innovation has slowed down.



# We haven't made much progress in freeing all types of knowledge

## 2005: Jimmy's 10 Challenges

- 1) Free the encyclopedia
- 2) Free the dictionary
- 3) Free the curriculum
- 4) Free the music
- 5) Free the art
- 6) Free the file formats
- 7) Free the maps
- 8) Free the product IDs
- 9) Free the TV listings
- 10) Free the communities



Jimmy Wales: [Ten Things That Will Be Free](#)  
(Wikimania 2005)

## New projects I'd love to see

- Wikidata Commons
- Designs of useful physical objects (from furniture to computer hardware)
- Organizational processes / practices
- Collaboratively created video documentaries
- How-to (even though WikiHow is awesome)

Many great ideas at

[http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Proposals\\_for\\_new\\_projects](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Proposals_for_new_projects)

Erik Möller: [Beyond the Encyclopedia](#)  
(Wikimania 2010)

# 2018-20 Movement Strategy: Innovate in Free Knowledge

[m:Proposals for new projects](#)  
is a dead end.

Project	Request date	Status
<a href="#">CWikipedia</a> (comments)	21-Jun-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikiamaniac</a> (comments)	19-Jun-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikisongs II</a> (comments)	25-Mar-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikirights</a> (comments)	17-Mar-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikihost</a> (comments)	28-Feb-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikieducation</a> (comments)	31-Jan-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikilanguage</a> (comments)	28-Jan-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wiki Countries</a> (comments)	20-Jan-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikigift</a> (comments)	13-Jan-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">NonFreeWiki (2)</a> (comments)	03-Jan-2018	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikimuseum</a> (comments)	08-Dec-2017	Under discussion
<a href="#">WikiProject</a> (comments)	29-Nov-2017	Under discussion
<a href="#">WikiCook</a> (comments)	13-Nov-2017	Under discussion
<a href="#">WikiAbridge</a> (comments)	13-Dec-2006	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikicorpus</a> (comments)	29-May-2006	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikiepic</a> (comments)	10-Feb-2006	Under discussion
<a href="#">Wikilocal</a> (comments)	24-Jul-2005	Under discussion



# How does it work?

- Hosted on Wikimedia Cloud, to make the setup transparent and easy to replicate
- Relies on central identities (Wikimedia login); we avoid storing private data as much as possible
- Once Wikidata federation becomes possible, we'll use that to connect articles to the official projects
- The experimental projects are separate namespaces on the same wiki (for now)

# Where are we now?

- 14 experimental projects (spores) proposed, 9 have content
- About a hundred spore pages, with 19 editors working on them
- In total, 27 active users made ~300 edits last month
- Major user experience elements like visual editing have been replicated, a lot of smaller things are missing

Demo

# How can you help?

- Support the [sister project proposal](#)
- Write articles for one of the [spores](#)
- Propose your own spore
- Sign up for [WING](#), our usergroup-in-the-making
- Help with some of the [technical tasks](#)
- Join the [mailing list](#) and Wikimedia Chat meetings

# Thank you!

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