Tips and tricks to take the reader behind the secret curtain of Wikipedia

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STRUCTURE
IF WIKIPEDIA WERE ON PAPER

- Wikipedia Structure in Paper
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2emwDvpbNQI
FORENSICS
Sometimes known as the “discussion page,” this is the location for editors to talk about the article.

Duality: every page is two pages.

Metapage

Permanently attached

Talk to other editors
Egyptian Revolution

- What would be some of the major talk today around the Egyptian Revolution article?
# THE TALK PAGE - RATINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Featured Article</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Article</td>
<td>Mid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RATINGS – EXAMPLES

- Egyptian Revolution
  - What score would you guess?
  - What percentage are stubs?
    - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Version_1.0_Editorial_Team/Assessment#Quality_scale
The entire revision history for a page is always stored on Wikipedia. That also includes talk pages.
• Egyptian Revolution 2011
  • How soon after the first protest did the first draft come?
The user page itself is the public face that the user chooses to show.

The attached talk page of a user page acts as the message system.

Private messaging is impossible by design.
User Pages - Examples

• User: The Egyptian Liberal
  • What was s/he discussing?
Categorization system.
Any article, or category can be a member of any number of categories.

- **Folksonomy**
- Uncontrolled vocabulary
- Not hierarchical
TAXONOMIES- EXAMPLES

• Categories
  • How do Categories compare to Dewey or Library of Congress Subject Headings?
Part of Wikipedia’s special structure is that links are bidirectional. We take links forwards all the time. Why not backwards?

- All pages
- Counting tool
- New browsing mode
WHAT LINKS HERE- EXAMPLES

• Pages
  • What do you think links to Nikita Khrushchev?
  • http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev

• Templates
  • Infoboxes are a type of template. They are the boxes at the right with structured data
  • What about “infobox book”
PAGE VIEWS

Simple page view counter displayed over time.

All pages
All languages
Up to 90 days prior
PAGE VIEWS - EXAMPLES

• Pages
  • Ernest Borgnine just died? How many page views did his article receive?
  • http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Borgnine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An Encyclopedia</th>
<th>Neutral Point of View</th>
<th>Free Content</th>
<th>Civility</th>
<th>No Firm Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The zeroeth law of Wikipedia

“The problem with Wikipedia is that it only works in practice. In theory, it can never work.” ~Anon
Questions?