BEYOND AFRIPIÉDIA : MALI EXPERIENCE

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Afripédia main objectives:

- Provide **offline access** to Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects
- Train african trainers to **contribute** on Wikimedia projects
- Help to create and sustain **local communities**

4 partners:

- **Kiwix**: offline solutions
- **Wikimédia France**: organization, training, sustain of local communities, Wikimedia experience
- **Institut Français**: network of french cultural centers in the world, diplomacy, facilities
- **Agence universitaire de la francophonie**: french-speaking cooperation, trainers and digital campus in french-speaking Africa
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– **2014 (planned)**: enforcement of the project:
  - autonomization of trainers
  - development of communities
  - Afripedia website and online documentation

– **Autumn 2013 (planned)**: training session in Douala (Cameroon)

– **Summer 2013**: brainstorming about the future of the project

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Provide offline access to Wikimedia projects

Why?

→ Internet access is very expensive in Africa
→ Internet access is poor quality (very slow)
→ People don't have internet access at home
→ Library and documentation are not so rich as in other countries

*Internet penetration worldmap: Africa is under 20% in its largest area*

*(Jeff Ogden (W163), CC-BY-SA, based on ITU datas)*
Provide offline access to Wikimedia projects

How?

→ Using Kiwix software and ZIM files of Wikimedia projects
→ Open offline wifi networks with plug computers in public areas (universities etc)
→ Install Wikimedia projects offline files on intranet, on computers
Bienvenue sur Afripédia

Accédez gratuitement et librement à tout les contenus de Wikipédia et Wikisource sans connexion internet.

CLIEZ !

Tout télécharger pour une consultation ultérieure

Nous contacter - A propos d'Afripédia

Afripédia est un programme de diffusion hors-ligne de l'encyclopédie libre Wikipédia, par l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, l'Institut Français, Wikimédia France et Kiwix.
Afripédia on school computer (Mali)

Afripédia by wifi (Tchad)

Afripédia by intranet access (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo)

← Computer with Wikipedia on the library

Poster for information about Wikipédia access →
Training african trainers to contribute on Wikipedia

Why ?

→ Less than 3 % of wikimedians are from Africa
→ « Francophonie » (french-speaking area) : 250 millions people in Europe, America, Africa, Asia. The largest part of french-speaking people is in Africa (West and Central)
→ To help to reduce the North / South gap

How ?

→ Provide help for new contributors
→ Train trainers in Africa
→ Develop wikimedia workshops in academic world in Africa
→ Help and sustain new communities
People trained are from:

- Senegal
- Mali
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Togo
- Benin
- Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa)
- Burundi
- Niger
- Tchad
- Burkina Faso
- Mauritania
Training sessions

People invited:

- Trainers of francophone digital campus (technical and software trainers, multimedia trainers)
- Librarians from universities
- Trainers of educationnal centers
- Teachers and professors

Sessions program (4 days):

- Learn to install and provide offline access by different ways (wifi, intranet, desktop)
- Learn to contribute on Wikimedia projects:
  - Wikipedia
  - Wikimedia Commons
  - Wiktionary
- Learn to train new contributors and explain Wikimedia projects (for dissemination)
- Free licenses, free content
- Work together, discussions about Wikipedia, about african cultures, oral cultures etc
First results

- 36 trainers trained (18 + 18)
- training sessions organized by people trained in Abidjan and Kinshasa
- 118 new editors
- 1113 edits
- 141 new articles
- 440,000 bytes added
- around 250 pictures on Commons
- around 25 edits on Wiktionary
- Wikipedia offline available in > 15 universities in Africa (servers and Wifi-plugs)
- Dissemination on computers (Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Sensibilization and contacts for GLAM future projects
Success and challenges

What runs

- enthusiasm of people
- alignment with local issues (bad internet access, no Wikimedia community)
- alignment with Wikimedia objectives: access to Wikimedia content, improve the community, reduce the North / South gap
- external communication: a lot of very good press attention in France and Africa
- Work with partners: AUF, IF and Orange Fondation (provide funds to the IF)
- weekly training sessions in Mali, training sessions in Bénin, Niger, Tchad, Congo etc.

What is difficult

- Give more attention to people trained to keep their involvement sustain constantly their actions
- Work with partners: difficulties to have the same calendar
- Personal involvement of part of the trainers: they don't continue their own contributions

What we want to change / experiment

- Develop a platform to provide better support and help
- Better selection of the trainees / trainers (pre-selection)
- Why not a certification?
- Be more efficient without spending too much money (financial partners)
Focus on Mali experience: what is (probably) the good direction?

Mali

- 15 millions people
- One of the most poor country in the world
- War and political instability since 2012
- Bad quality of internet access in all the country (including Bamako, the capital)
- Internet access very expensive (40$ / month)
Good conjunction

Kiwix developer

+ Trainer trained in Abidjan
  very personally involved

+ Active blogger

↓

Good results
Michel Namar, in charge of the French-speaking digital campus in Bamako (university of Bamako)

Never edit Wikipedia before November 2012...

- Trainee at the 1st Afripedia training session in Abidjan
- Install offline access to Wikipedia in 8 faculties (including 2 outside Bamako)
- Trains 81 new users on WPFR / Identified interested persons: 51 (10 girls)
- Kiwix install parties: every tuesday and thursday afternoon
- Afripedia pres/training: Every friday afternoon
- People trained on Fridays: 180+
- Club Afripedia created mid-july: 6 members.
Dissemination

Michel trained

Ibrahim Sory Camara
Librarian and documentalist
University of Ségou

- Install offline Wikipedia on computers: 136 (university and internet cafés in Ségou)
- Trainings: 36 people, including teachers.

With the support of Afripedia project trainers: especially Renaud, living in Bamako and Kiwix developer

Boukary Konaté
Blogger and teacher
Bamako

- Install offline Wikipedia in schools: 13
- Install offline Wikipedia in non-school orgs: 6
- Trainings: 3 sessions, ~30 people
- Install offline Wikipedia on computers: 50+
- +200 photos on Wikimedia Commons (with support of WMCH)
Is there a new community eclosing in Mali?

- People very involved
- Meeting them frequently
- Autonomous on the Wikimedia projects
- Creativity around Afripedia project
- Connected with universities and IT community

=> Focusing a future training session in Mali?
=> Spend more attention to help them to ensure the project and the community
=> Encourage them to continue and expand the Project
=> Provide micro-supports for projects (photo material, Documentation, leaflets)
=> Help for communication (wifi access to offline Wikipedia on the campus, training sessions etc)
Thank you! :-)

And follow @Afripedia