LIBRARY OUTREACH METHOD FOR USER GROUPS

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Since March 19, 2009 – Ten years of work

INTRODUCTION

- Nowadays, digital and offline libraries involve many important high-scale resources (such as books, scholarly journals, newspapers and encyclopedias) that can be used to support the information involved in Wikipedia.

- The Wikimedia and Library User Group members have been aware about this matter and created many initiatives (1Ref1Lib and The Wikipedia Library) to let librarians involved in Wikimedia movement.

HOWEVER

- These initiatives have limitations:
  - In many developing countries, librarians lack computing skills and cannot significantly participate in these interesting initiatives
  - These initiatives are not used to support WikiProjects and user groups.
  - There are many topics that can be only supported by offline references.
- That is why we decided to develop a library outreach method that can be used to support user group-led specific-purpose projects.
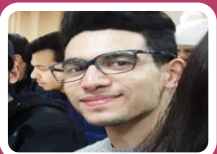
TEAM

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TIMELINE

- Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2017: Literature review of over 200 Library outreach-related research papers from 22 journals particularly:
  - The Reference Librarian
  - Reference Services Review
  - College and Undergraduate Libraries
  - Reference and User Services Quarterly
  - Journal of the Medical Library Association
  - Health Information and Libraries Journal
- Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2017: Assessing regular library outreach methods proposed by Wikimedia and Libraries User Group and by GLAM-Wiki (MedinaPedia Tunis)
- Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2017: Trials of application of alternative library outreach methods on Wikimedia projects (WikiLingua Maghreb, TunSci)

TIMELINE

- Aug. 2017 – Dec. 2017: Developing a library outreach method adapted to Wikimedia user groups

- Dec. 2017 – Mar. 2019: Applying the adapted method to MedinaPedia Sfax, a project aiming to ameliorate the coverage of the Medina of Sfax in Wikipedia

METHOD

User Group

| Creates a topical project (e.g. a project about the cultural heritage of a city) | Assigns contributors to the topical project | Contacts libraries likely to involve offline references about the concerned topic |

Local libraries

Provide offline references related to the concerned topic to the user group

User Group

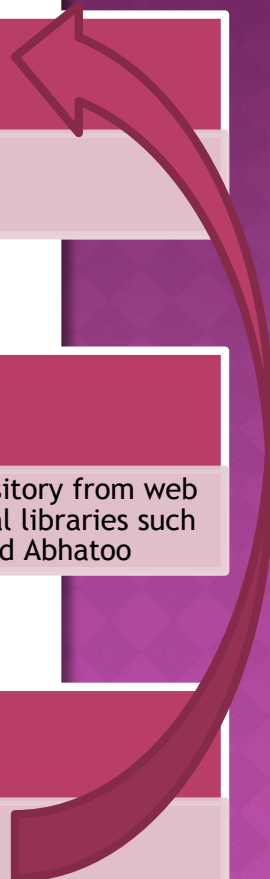| Digitizes offline references | Assigns parts of the digitized references to corresponding entities | Involve all the obtained collections in a private Google Drive repository | Enrich the repository from web pages and digital libraries such as Cairn and Abhatoo |

Professors Emeriti

| Validation of the repository | Identification of missing resources |

RESULTS:

- In late 2017, we succeeded to apply our method to MedinaPedia Sfax, a project trying to ameliorate the coverage of the Medina of Sfax (the old town of Sfax) in Wikipedia.

- We collaborated with local libraries (Regional Library of Sfax, Regional Library of the National Institute of Heritage, and Libraries of the Medina of Sfax) and created a private repository involving references about all the entities (Buildings, Mosques...) of the Medina of Sfax.

THE GOOGLE DRIVE REPOSITORY

EFFICIENCY PROVEN: JUST AFTER ONE YEAR AND HALF OF WORK

Quality	Articles	Rate
Start-Class or more	25	**34.722%**
Stub	47	65.278%
Overall	72	100%

➡ Although there are limited online data about the Medina of Sfax, this method allowed the creation of over 70 articles and 25 non-stub articles about the Medina of Sfax in the French Wikipedia.

HONOURS

- Inspire IdeaLab Campaign Competition First Place, 2017
- The Wikipedia Library Star Coordinator, September 2017

CONCLUSION

- We succeeded to create an efficient library outreach method for Wikimedia user groups.

- We invite Wikimedia and Libraries User Group and GLAM-Wiki to adopt this pilot project and integrate it to their work in the next years.