

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES OF INTRODUCING WIKIPEDIA IN NIGERIA CLASSROOM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Existing problems and challenges

Educational Institutions in Nigeria do not use Wikipedia as an OER. In some instances, lecturers and teachers clearly direct students not to use or refer to Wikipedia in their research. This situation persists even when many institutions do not have subscription-based e-library nor do they have up to date resources in their libraries.

Project goal

This research seeks to achieve the following:

1. Determine why educational institutions in Nigeria do not use Wikipedia as an OER and why some institutions clearly direct students not to use Wikipedia for purpose of research.
2. Determine whether lecturers and students have a good knowledge of Wikipedia and the quality of content available in different Wikipedia projects
3. Find out whether there are government or University policies, circulars, pronouncements etc that directs or discourages the use of Wikipedia in educational institutions. We will focus on policies of the following bodies:
 1. Federal Ministry of Education responsible for general education policies in Nigeria
 2. National University Commission that issues operating licenses and make policies for universities in Nigeria
 3. National Board for Technical Education which set standards, accredit programmes and supervise Technical and vocational education in Nigeria
 4. National Commission for Colleges of Education which set standards and supervise colleges of educations in Nigeria
 5. The governing council and other relevant academic bodies in the chosen universities.

4. Find out whether the availability and improving content of Nigerian local languages in Wikipedia including Igbo Wikipedia, Hausa Wikipedia and Yoruba Wikipedia will improve the acceptance of Wikipedia in Nigerian educational system.
5. Find out how any existing challenges to using Wikipedia in Nigerian educational system could be addressed.
6. Develop a manual on how to overcome challenges of introducing Wikipedia in Nigeria classroom.

We have reached out to the Estonia research group as was advised by the research co-chair. We both agreed that the areas of the two research differ. Their research is to find out how Wikipedia is being used by students from grade 9 to 18 on the bases that these school actually use Wikipedia in their schools. Our research, on the other hand, is to find out why educational institutions, using universities as a case study, do not use Wikipedia in Nigeria. So, to a large extent, our two works will be complimentary and will not duplicate.

We have also considered the other 3 research works that was pointed out to us and each of them worked on areas different from the area of our research. The first research was on characterizing the online learning landscape: what and how people learn online. That study did comparison of formal and informal online learning experience in order to find out/understand which subjects' people are seeking intensive study. The second work was on successful online socialization: lessons from the Wikipedia education programme. It discussed the challenges of attracting and retaining new comers for Wikipedia, the need for special training etc. The third study was on Wikipedia as an OER: the learning with Wikipedia project. They focused on creating and expanding encyclopaedia articles on various subject specific topics. All above stated studies quite different from our area of work. However, they all compliment in the bigger picture of Wikipedia as an education tool.

We also note the call by the Regional Committee that we work with the Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom programme. Our Project Coordinator has always worked and shared knowledge with education programmes of Wikipedia. The

Project Coordinator and Mr. Obi Ezeilo participated in the Education Greenhouse programme in 2020. The Project Coordinator is also participating in

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Reading Wikipedia in the classroom training for teachers led by Melissa Guadalupe and will be taking advantage and sharing knowledge with them on this project.

Method to be adopted

1. The research will adopt a hybrid approach namely focused group discussion and survey. The focused group discussion will be used to obtain relevant information to fulfil project goal 3 above. We will also use this method to seek information from some heads of faculties, heads of departments and some senior lecturers for all project goals.
2. The focused group discussion will be carried out by the Focused Group Committee made up of Mr Obi Ezeilo who is a director and a copyright lawyer in the service of Federal Government of Nigeria and Mr Collins Nweke who is an administrator, a Deputy Director in the service of Federal Government of Nigeria and member of the Institute. Both of them are based in Abuja. This team will visit these agencies and hold discussion with their leadership. Where a key individual in these agencies that we require to interview works outside Abuja, then the team will travel to the relevant location to interview the person. They will also travel to the cities where the 3 universities are located and hold discussion with the leadership of these universities. They will liaise with the member of the Project Team in each university. They will also seek and obtain copy of any official circular, policy or directive that directly or indirectly affect the use of Wikipedia in the classroom.
3. The Focused Group Committee will submit their finding to the Project Team through its secretariat which is the Institute. The Project Team will submit the findings of this Committee to the Report and Manual Writing Committee for action.
4. The survey will be directed at the following target audience:
 - a. Students in the 3 target universities
 - b. Lectures in the 3 target universities
 - c. Trade Unions and associations that directly or indirectly influence

policies and activities in the educational system including:

i. Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU)

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ii. Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU)

iii. Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)

iv. National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS)

5. There will be a Project Sub Team for each of the 3 universities. This sub team will conduct the survey in each university. The sub team will be made up of 5 persons comprising of 1 member of the Project Team, 1 staff of the relevant university and 3 Wikimedians. The sub team will retain field assistants and administer the survey in accordance with the rules and directives as approved by the Project Team.
6. In setting up the Project Sub Teams, the Project Team will liaise with members of the 4 Wikimedians User Groups in Nigeria namely Igbo Wikimedians User Group, Hausa Wikimedians User Group, Yoruba Wikimedians User Group and Wikimedia User Group Nigeria. Also, most of the field assistants that will conduct the survey in the 3 universities will be members of these user groups.

Detailed activities to be carried out

Pre-research activities

1. This project will commence with the Project Coordinator and staff of Igbo language and Culture Institute carrying out relevant pre-research activities to prepare to a smooth project execution. Some of what will be done at this stage include:
 - a. Project Brief: The institute will prepare a brief of the project for information and consideration of the Project Team. The brief will detail all the processes during the application for the research grant, details of the grant, targets, functions and actions to be carried out as approved by the grant, expected outcome, timeframe for activities etc. the document will give the project team a full picture of the project. It will also be sent to the sub

project teams so that they are fully informed.

b. Draft working documents: the Project Coordinator and staff of the institute will prepare draft working documents for different aspect of the works to be carried out during the research. Preparing these

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relevant documents will make the work of the Project Team and the Sup Project Teams easier and faster. These documents include speaking notes for the focus group meetings, draft letters to the different agencies for the focused group meetings seeking appointments etc; questioners for the survey; agenda for the Project Team meetings etc. All these documents will be presented to the Project Team for their review, corrections, modifications and possible approval.

c. Provision of support service: The Project Coordinator and staff of the Institute shall provide all other support service that may assist the Project Team in the execution of their project. These will include sourcing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, contact persons etc in the target organisations for the focused group meetings; preliminary reach out to some of these organisations if necessary to assist in having a fruitful focused group meetings; sourcing and providing books, materials and links etc that may be necessary for the Project Team to review documents and take decisions; preliminary reach out to the trade unions and Wikimedia User Groups to assure that they have information in good time and enhance their support etc.

d. Secretarial and protocol services: the Institute will provide secretarial and protocol services for the Project Team and all the Project Sub Teams. Staff of the Institute will arrange and hire venues for meetings, provide secretariat services for the meetings, writing materials, photocopies etc. They will also arrange flight tickets for team members who are coming from outside the city, reserve hotel accommodation, provide transportation etc. They will also coordinate movement of documents and information between the sub teams at the different universities and the Project team. Generally, they will carry out every support service that may be

necessary for successful execution of the project.

Research activities

Project Team

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1. The Project Team will lead the research project. The team will hold 3 physical meetings in Rock view Hotel Abuja, Nigeria and 2 or more online meetings as follows:
2. First physical meeting: This first physical meeting of the team will also serve as the inaugural meeting. In this meeting they will:
 - a. Review the brief of the project as prepared by the Project Coordinator and the Institute and subject to any modification approve it. It is also expected that they direct that the approved brief be sent to the Project Sub Teams for guidance.
 - b. Review the timeline for the project and determine the work schedule to meet up with the time.
 - c. Review the Sub Committees and make modifications and recommendations if necessary
 - d. Reconfirm the work schedule for each member
 - e. Review the draft questionnaires and make corrections
 - f. Appoint members of the Project Sub Team for each university g. Direct the modalities for administering the questionnaires by the Sub Project Teams working in the universities
 - h. Direct the production of the questionnaires and distribution to the Project Sub teams
 - i. Review the target institution for the focused group meetings j. Review the speaking notes proposed for the focused group meetings
 - k. Direct on modalities for the focused group meetings
 - l. Consider and determine every other issue that may arise and that will facilitate a successful execution of the project
3. Second physical meeting: this meeting will be held in Abuja, Nigeria and will:
 - a. Be held after the Project Sub Teams have carried out the survey in the universities and returned the raw data and their reports to the

Project Team.

- b. Be held after the focused group meetings have been held and the report of the meetings submitted to the Project Team.
- c. Review the reports of the different survey carried out.

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- d. Ensure that the data collected and the manner it was collected and preserved is sufficient and meets the target required for the research to progress to the next stage.
 - e. If there is any error or challenge that arose during the research advice on how such error should be corrected.
 - f. Advice on any necessary thing to be done at this stage to assure the integrity of the research.
 - g. Where the research thus far has been well conducted, direct that the raw data collected should be sent to the Report and Manual Writing Committee.
 - h. Set up the Stakeholders Conference Planning Committee
 - i. Approve modalities for the Conference Planning Committee and the expectations of the conference
4. Third physical meeting: this meeting will be held in Abuja, Nigeria and will:
- a. Review the report of the Report and Manual Writing Committee
 - b. Subject to any recommendation or corrections approve the release of the Manual and Report
 - c. Review the draft proposal for dissemination of the report and manual
 - d. Review and approve the draft proposal of the Stakeholders Conference Planning Committee
 - e. Ensure that the relevant stakeholders will be invited and participate in the conference.
 - f. Issue all necessary directives to ensure a successful stakeholders conference
 - g. Assign functions and responsibilities to members of the Protect Team, facilitators in the research and other stakeholders towards the stakeholders' conference
 - h. Review the entire project and issue directives in general or specific

nature to ensure a successful completion of the research.

5. Online meetings: the Project Team will hold a minimum of 2 online meetings as follows:

a. There will be an online meeting that will be held within the first 3 days of commencement of the survey. This meeting will be attended by members of the Project team, Sub Project Teams in

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each of the universities and the field assistants. This meeting is to enable the Project Team have a first-hand information on the experiences that the field officers are having in conducting the survey. The experiences from the different universities to be shared by the field assistants will also held each other in conducting the survey. The suggestions and directives from the Project Team will stabilize the survey and correct any error in good time.

b. There will be an online meeting when the Report and Manual Writing Committee is developing the documents. The meeting will hold sometime when they are about half way into the report and manual writing. This meeting will be attended by all the members of the Project team and members of the Committee. if it becomes necessary, they may also invite any other relevant person to attend. The meeting is to review the work of the Committee and provide suggestions as situation demands.

c. There will be other online meetings during this project as the circumstance demands. There may be another online meeting between the Project team and all research assistants before the conclusion of the research if the situation demands. This will enable the Project team effectively drive the process. There could also be more than one online meeting between the Project team and the Report and Manual Writing Committee. While the research is going on, members of the Project Team may have need to meet online and may also meet with the leads of the different sub-committees to harmonise the project.

Project Sub Team

1. There will be a Project Sub Team in each of the 3 universities where the

survey will take place. The Project Sub Team will be made up of 5 persons headed by a member of the Project Team. Other members of this team will include a staff of the university and a member of the Wikipedia user group. The Project Sub Team for Nile University of Nigeria Abuja will be headed by Mrs Oby Ezeilo; the team for University of Lagos will be headed by Mr. Chigozie Nnabuihe while the team in Nnamdi Azikiwe University will be headed by Professor Nkechinyere Nwokoye. This team will:

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- a. Receive the questionnaires as produced and sent by the Project team
 - b. Recruit and train field officers that will be used to conduct the survey
 - c. Ensure that most of the field officers are Wikimedians
 - d. Supervise the survey to be carried out in each university
 - e. After the survey, forward data collected and a report of the survey to the Institute office in Abuja which serves as the secretariat for the Project team
2. The Project Sub Team shall hold the following meetings:
- a. The first meeting of the Project Sub Team in each of the university will hold as soon as the questionnaires despatched by the Project team has been received by the Project Sub Team. This meeting will appoint the field assistants in addition to any of the field assistants that has earlier been appointed by the Project team. The meeting will also determine how the survey will be carried out subject to the general direction of the Project Team. They will map out the area to be covered during the survey and share the work to be done by each field assistant. It is expected that some members of the Project Sub Team will also work as field assistants during the survey.
 - b. The second meeting of the Project Sub Team will be a training of the field assistants. All the field assistants will attend and be trained by the Project Sub Team. During the training, the job of each field assistant will be specified. Also, to be discussed is how the work will be carried out, the timeline, the target number of survey etc. This training will take place not earlier than 3 days before the

commencement of the survey.

- c. The third meeting of the Project Sub Team will take place after the survey. They will use this meeting to collate the data and review the entire exercise. If there was any error or if the targeted number of participants was not reached, they could use this meeting to find a solution to the challenge. If the situation demands, they could demand for more survey to be carried out either generally or in specific target audience. When they are confident that the target

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has been met, they will write their report and forward the data and their report to the Project Team.

- d. The Project Sub Team could hold any additional meeting as the situation demands whether physically or online for a successful execution of their assignment.

Focus Group Committee

1. The Focus Group Committee is made up of 2 persons, Mr. Obi Ezeilo and Mr. Collins Nweke. Their work will commence immediately after the first meeting of the Project Team where their working modalities would have been approved. They will reach out to the target organisation as stated in paragraph 2C above and seek an appointment for a meeting with relevant officers in the organisation. This reach-out will involve writing letters, emails, phone calls, personal visits etc. We will need to design a letterhead for the research project which will be used to write to such letters to any organisation we are working with. The letterhead will indicate that the research is being conducted by Wikimedia in collaboration with the Institute and will be used solely for the project. When the appointments are firmed up, the Committee will hold the meetings with the relevant officers and ask the relevant questions as approved by the Project Team but generally seek to extract the relevant information.
2. The officers needed to be interviewed in the various agencies will vary and will also depend on the information they gather as the research progresses. They will particularly seek to find out whether there are

government or institutional policies or directives that disallow or discourage the use of Wikipedia in the classroom. Where such policies exist, how can these policies be reversed. Even where such policies do not exist, what can be done to encourage the use of Wikipedia as an OER. At the Federal Ministry of Education, the Committee will amongst other officers seek to interview the Director Tertiary Education, Director Basic and Secondary Education and Director Administration. At the National University Commission, the Committee will seek to see the Executive Secretary, the Director Academic Planning Department, the Director Inspection and Monitoring Department and any other relevant officer. At the National Board for Technical Education, the Committee will seek to

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see the Executive Secretary, the Director Academic Planning, Research, Statistic and ICT Department, the Director Polytechnic Programmes Department, the Director Monotechnic Programmes Department and any other office that becomes necessary. At the National Commission for Colleges of Education, the Committee will seek to interview the Executive Secretary, Director Academic Programmes Department, Director Educational Support Services Department and any other department or unit that becomes necessary. At the different universities the Committee will seek to interview the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, some Dean of faculties and any other officers as may become necessary.

3. At the end of these interviews, the Committee will put together all the data collected and write a report stating all relevant information collected which will be sent to the Project Team through its secretariat.
4. The head office of the government organisations stated above are located in Abuja. However, they have offices across the country. It is possible that the relevant officer that need to be interviewed in any particular organisation may not be based in Abuja. In that case the Committee will go to the location of the officer and see him.
5. The Nile University is based in Abuja. Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka is based in Anambra state Nigeria while University of Lagos is based in Lagos Nigeria. The Committee will therefore travel to these states to conduct this interview. In conducting interviews at the universities, they will liaise with the member of the Project Team in the said university.

Survey

1. The survey will be conducted in the 3 universities namely Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka in Anambra State (UNIZIK), University of Lagos in Lagos State (UNILAG) and Nile University in Abuja (NILE). Anambra State, where UNIZIK situates, is located in Eastern Nigeria and the dominant tribe there is Igbo that speaks Igbo Language. Most UNIZIK students and lecturers are therefore of this tribe and language. They are also dominantly Christians. Lagos State where UNILAG situates, is located at Western Nigeria which is the ancestral home of the Yoruba people in Nigeria. Most students and lecturers in UNILAG are from the Yoruba tribe and speak Yoruba language. They are a mixture of Christians and Muslims. Abuja where NILE university

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situates is located in Northern Nigeria which is dominated by the Hausa people that speaks Hausa language. Most students in the university are from Northern Nigeria, speaks Hausa and are Muslims. Furthermore, while UNIZIK and UNILAG are public universities, NILE is a private university. These universities were therefore chosen to widen the diversity of opinion. We note one of the comments from the Wikipedia community which suggested that we widen the survey to cover up to 6 universities. Although Nigeria has about 170 universities, a population of over 200 million with about 250 languages, we thought that the diversity of these 3 universities will make the research sufficiently representative of the Nigerian situation. We can comfortably extend this research to more universities but that will increase the cost of the research and may not be necessary.

2. The survey will commence at each university at the same time. It will commence within 3 days after the training of field assistants that will be conducted by the Project Sub Team. It is expected that some members of each Project Sub Team will also work as field assistants to carry out the survey.
3. There will be 9 field assistants in each university. They will work for 6 consecutive days and each assistant is expected to handle 15 questionnaires a day. Each university will therefore generate 810 questionnaires and the 3 universities will generate a total of 2430

questionnaires. However, a total of 2600 questionnaires will be produced to give margin for error. There will be 3 types of questionnaires each targeting students, lecturers and trade union officials as stated in paragraph 4 of the topic 'method to be adopted'. Out of the 810 questionnaires to be administered in every university, 30 will be administered to lecturers and 5 will administered to each of the 5 unions earlier stated. The rest of the questionnaires will be administered to students.

4. After the survey the Project Sub Team will collate the data generated and forward same with their report to the Project Team through their secretariat.

Report and Manual Writing Committee

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1. This committee will start work after the second meeting of the Project Team. The Committee will be headed by Professor Nkechinyere Nwokoye. Other members of the Committee are Mrs Obiageli Ezeilo and Miss Edith Nwobu. This Committee will be supported by members of the Institute led by Mr. Collins Nweke. To develop this manual and report, there will be a retreat where these documents will be written. The retreat will hold in Rock view hotel Abuja and will last for 7 days. The 3 members of the Committee will lodge in the hotel during this period.
2. The Report will show the outcome of the research, the steps taken in the research, data collected and analysed etc. It will detail the existing and perceived challenges to using Wikipedia in the classroom as indicated by the research. The Manual will propose steps to be taken by different stakeholders to overcome the challenges as found in the research and introduce Wikipedia in Nigerian classroom.
3. When the report and manual has been approved by the Project Team, 1000 copies of each of these documents will be produced.

Stakeholders Conference

1. A stakeholders conference will be held to announce the report of the research. The conference will be held at the LadiKwali Hall, Sheraton Hotel Abuja. During the conference:

- a. There will be a presentation on why the research was conducted and the processes which lead to Wikimedia sponsoring the research b. There will also be a presentation on how the research was carried out and the outcome
 - c. The Manual and Report will be unveiled
 - d. The Manual will be reviewed. Participants and educational institutions will be urged to commence the use of Wikipedia in the classroom
2. Key policy makers, opinion moulders and stakeholders will be invited to make statements supporting the need for Wikipedia to be used in the classroom. Key government agencies and educational institutions will also be invited to react to the outcome of the research. All the government organisations and universities that participated in the research will be invited in the conference. Also, to be invited are members of the National

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Assembly; other relevant government institutions especially those that regulate secondary schools like Universal Basic Education Commission; the different state education school boards; National Education Research and Development Council; authorities of different secondary schools; civil society organisations in the education sector; the leadership and members of the four Wikimedia user groups in Nigeria and the media. Also, all the people who participated in the research will be invited.

3. The number of persons expected in the conference is 150 persons. We will pay for the traveling expenses and accommodation for the following persons to participate in the conference:
- a. Members of the Project Team who are not resident in Abuja. b. Two representatives for each of the 4 Wikimedia user groups who are not resident in Abuja

Dissemination

1. The stakeholders conference will conclude with a major press briefing at the venue of the conference. Those that will brief the press include the Project Team and leaders of the 4 Wikimedian user groups in Nigeria. Subsequently we will:
- a. Write to all the universities forward the Report and Manual b. Write

to all relevant Federal Government and State Government Ministry of Education and education agencies forwarding the Report and Manual.

- c. Write and forward the Report and Manual to all the Unions in the universities that we worked with during the research and other association that we found relevant.
- d. Write and forward the Report and Manual to relevant civil society organisation.
- e. Sponsor future articles in 4 Newspapers about the research and the need for Wikipedia to be used in Nigerian classroom.
- f. Retain 3 social media influencers to sustain the outcome of the research in the social media
- g. Work with the 4 Wikimedian user groups in Nigeria to ensure that the soft copy of the Manual and the Report is published in their different handles

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- h. Upload videos and pictures of the stakeholder conference in wiki commons
- i. Share the Report and Manual with Wikimedian user groups in Africa
- j. Share the Report and Manual with participants of train the trainers, reading Wikipedia in the classroom programme of Wikipedia and the Education team
- k. Share the Report and Manual using the different Wikimedia mailing lists

Timeline for project execution

S/N	Activity	Time to be completed
1	Pre-research activities including preparing the briefs and working documents, secretariat and protocol arrangements etc	11 -24 July 2022
2	1 st Project Team Meeting to hold at Rock view hotel Abuja	25-26 July 2022
3	Production and distribution of questionnaires to Project Sub Teams	14 August

	in each university	
4	Focus Group Engagement	30 September 2022
5	1 st meeting of Project Sub Team in each university	20 August 2022
6	2 nd meeting of Project Sub Team	2 September 2022
7	Survey	5-10 September 2022
8	1 st online meeting between the Project Team and all the field assistants	7 September 2022
9	3 rd meeting of Project Sub Team	13 September 2022
10	Return of questionnaires to Project Team Secretariat	23 September 2022
11	2 nd physical meeting of the Project Team	6-7 October 2022
12	Report and Manual Writing Committee retreat	24 – 30 October 2022
13	2 nd online meeting of the Project Team	27 October 2022
14	3 rd Physical meeting of the Project Team	14-15 November 2022

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15	Reproduction of the Report and Manual	10 December 2022
16	Stakeholders Conference	26 January 2023
17	Dissemination	26 January to 13 February 2023

Impact/Expected outcome

Following the presentation and dissemination of the Report and Manual, it is

expected that educational institutions in Nigeria will begin to allow and encourage students to use Wikipedia as the most reliable and accessible OER. Students will also be more inclined to use Wikipedia in their class work.