The Growth and Future of Wikimania

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What is Wikimania?

When we do not know something – we check the article in Wikipedia:

What is Wikimania?

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Wikimania

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Wikimania is an annual international conference for users of the wiki projects operated by the Wikimedia Foundation (such as Wikipedia and other sister projects). Topics of presentations and discussions include Wikimedia Foundation projects, other wikis, open source software, free knowledge and free content, and the different social and technical aspects which relate to these topics.

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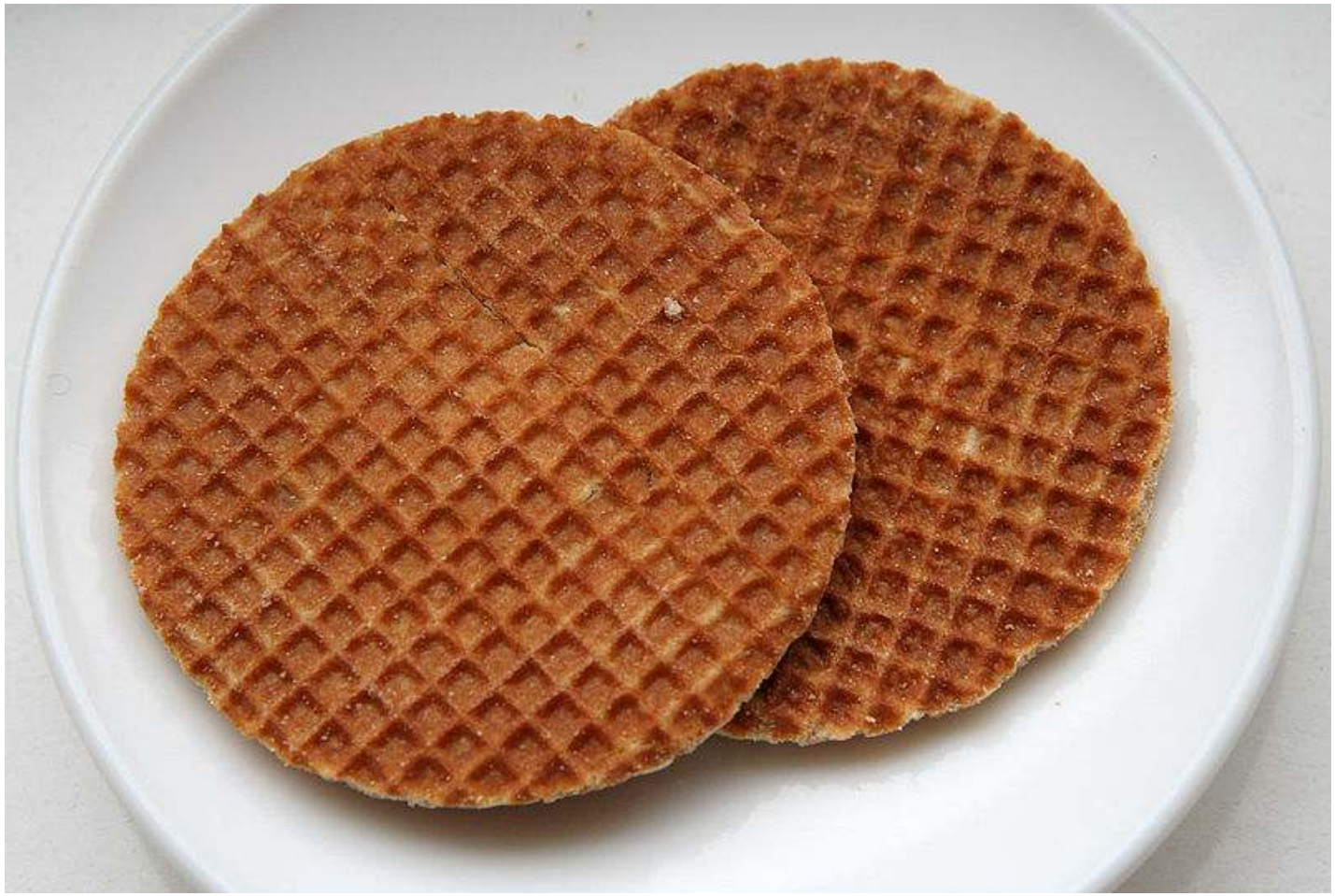
Wikimania

Status	Active
Location	Washington, D.C., USA (20 Haifa, Israel (2011) Gdańsk, Poland (2010)

The article does not say that the official food of Wikimania is –
the Stroopwafel



Jacques Renier

This is Wikimania

- If you did not intend to be here – you are in the wrong place.
- But you are, of course, welcome to stay.

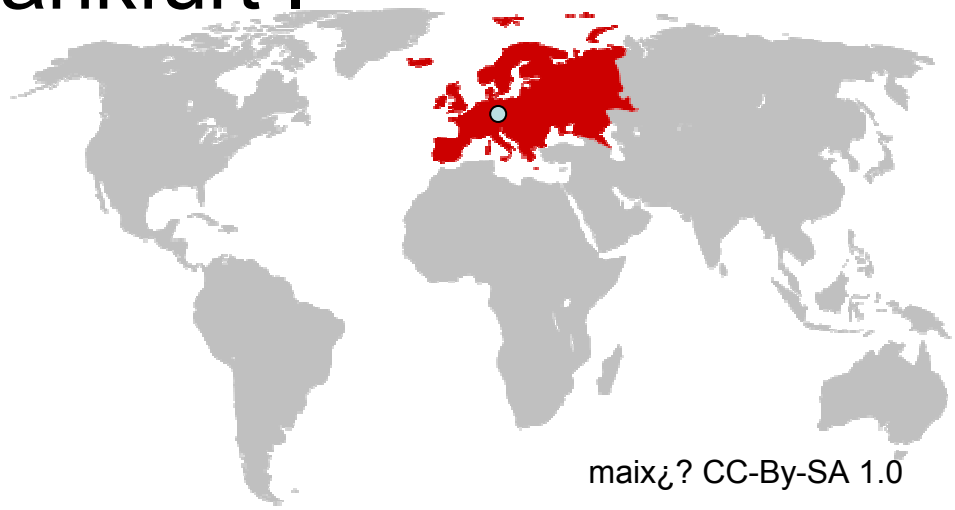
What really is Wikimania?

- Let’s look at the past, in order to understand the future:

Frankfurt am Main - 2005

WIKIMANIA 2005 4 - 8 August Frankfurt, Germany
The First International Wikimedia Conference

- 4 August 2005 to 8 August 2005
- The initial city selection reduced a field of over a dozen potential cities to a few, finally selecting Frankfurt .



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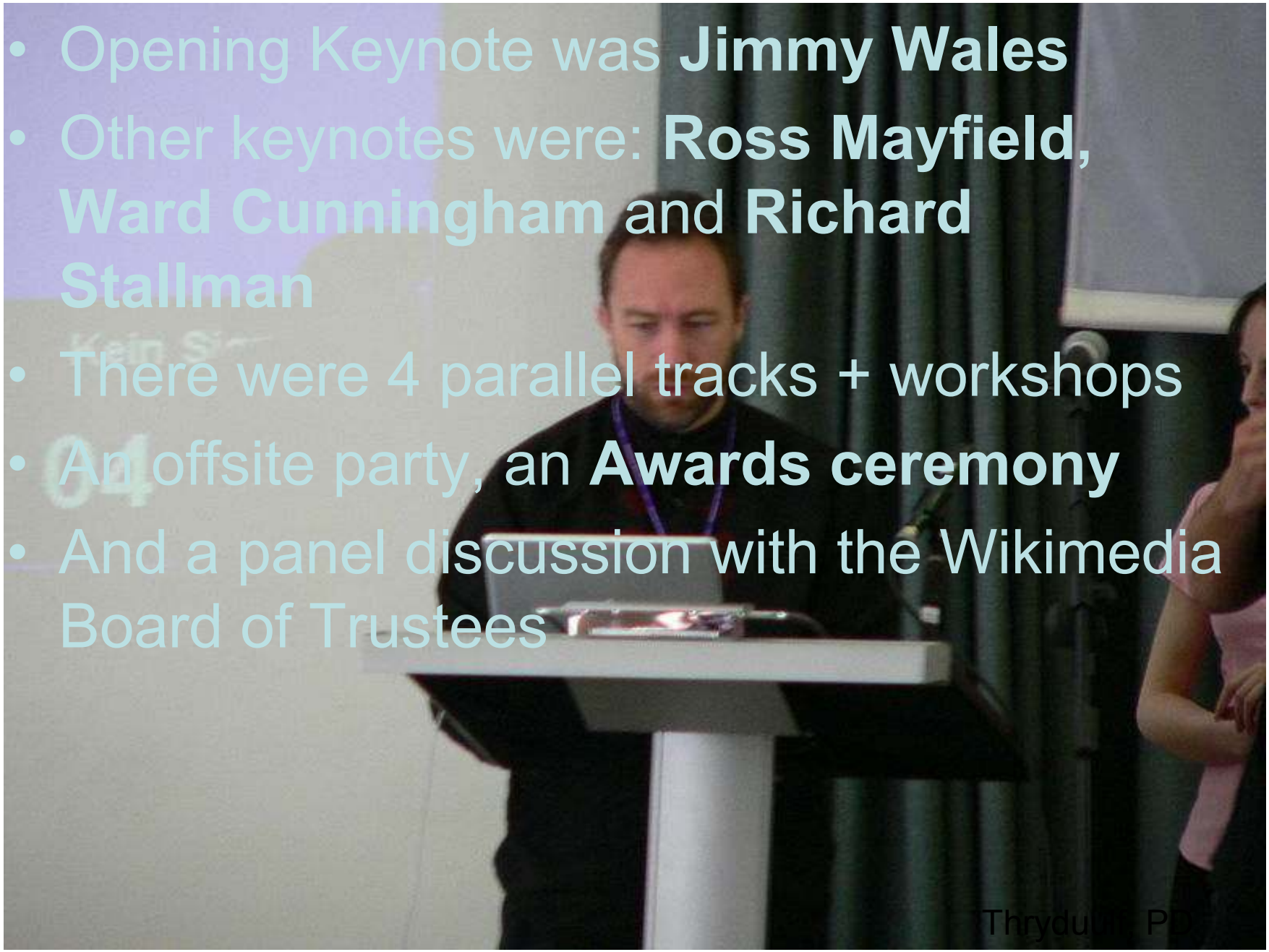
- The location for Wikimania 2005 was decided on 31 October 2004 from the following candidates (at the final stage of the bidding): Dublin, Frankfurt and Rotterdam.

Elya, CC-BY-SA-3.0



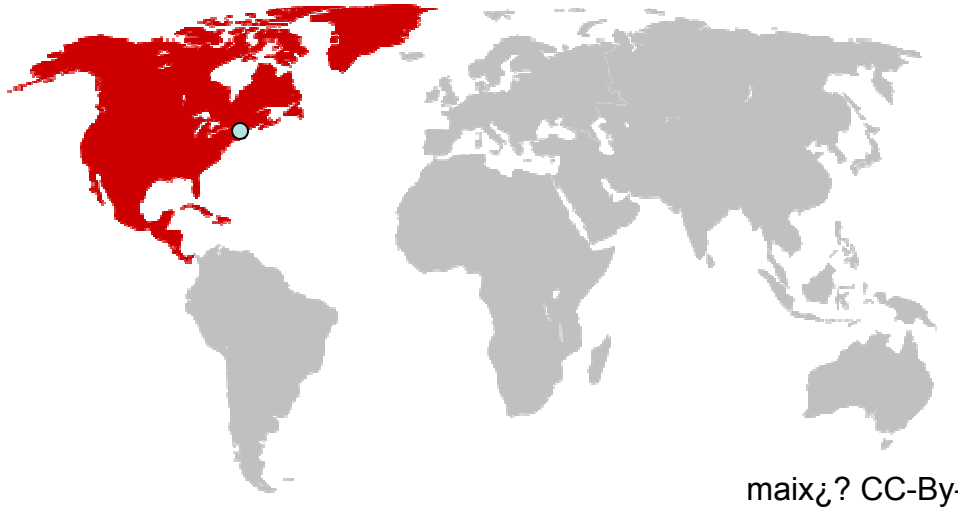
- Opening Keynote was **Jimmy Wales**
- Other keynotes were: **Ross Mayfield, Ward Cunningham** and **Richard Stallman**
- There were 4 parallel tracks + workshops
- An offsite party, an **Awards ceremony**
- And a panel discussion with the Wikimedia Board of Trustees

Cambridge, Massachusetts - 2006

WIKIMANIA 2006
The International Wikimedia Conference

August 4 - 6
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

- 4 August 2006 to 6 August 2006.



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Wikimania 2006 took place from August 6 to 8, 2006, at Harvard Law School's Berkman Center for Internet & Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States. It had about 400 –500 attendees.

- Three other teams submitted hosting bids: London, Milan, Boston, and Toronto; only Toronto and Boston were passed to the second round of consideration.
- There were 4 tracks + 1 discussion tracks + 1 workshop track

Gus Freedman, CC-BY-SA-2.5

Speakers included Jimmy Wales, Lawrence Lessig, Brewster Kahle,Yochai Benkler, Mitch Kapor, Ward Cunningham, and David Weinberger.

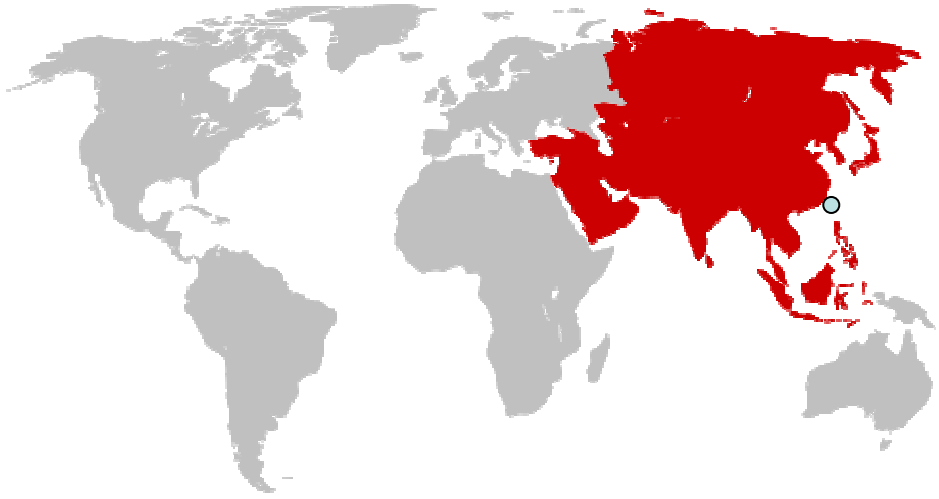
Raul654, CC-BY-SA-2.5

Taipei, ROC (Taiwan)- 2007

WIKIMANIA 2007
The International Wikimedia Conference

August 3 - 5
Taipei, Taiwan

- 3 – 5 August



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- It won against the shortlist of : London, Alexandria ,and Turin
- Hong Kong, Singapore ,Istanbul ,and Orlando failed to make the shortlist.

The conference has attracted about 440 attendees, a little more than half from Taiwan.

It also held the First wikichicks lunch

Everlong, CC-BY-SA-3.0

- Kat Walsh took this “Moment of alarm” at Jimmy’s opening speech.

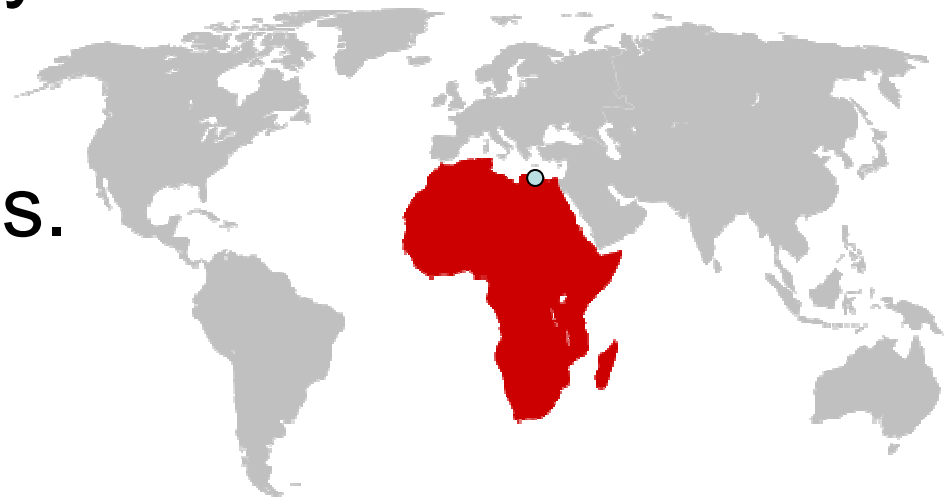
  Quote: “Perhaps he's realized that all the devs are here and no one is at home keeping an eye on the site?”

Kat Walsh, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Alexandria - 2008

WIKIMANIA 2008

- 17 July to 19 July
- 650 attendees from 45 countries.



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- Alexandria was the location of the ancient Library of Alexandria and the venue was the modern library – the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Three proposed cities were in the running at the end, the other two being Atlanta and Cape Town . Proposals for Karlsruhe , London and Toronto were also submitted, but later withdrew.

TheEgyptian,
CC-BY-SA-3.0

- There was a controversy about the conference, and even a call to boycott Wikimania 2008 because of Egypt's alleged censorship and imprisoning of bloggers during Mubarak's era

- There were also concerns regarding the treatments of homosexual attendees due to the fact homosexuality is illegal in Egypt.

Cary Bass, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Buenos Aires, Argentina- 2009

- 26 – 28 August

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It had 559 attendees.

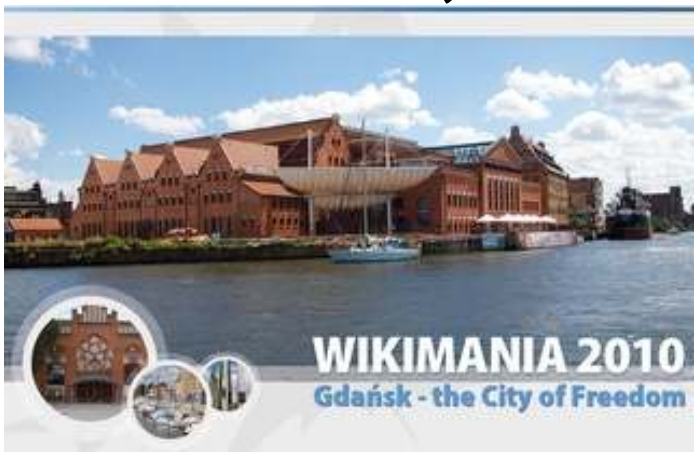
And tango party for the closing.

Wikimania2009 Mat, CC-BY-SA-2.0

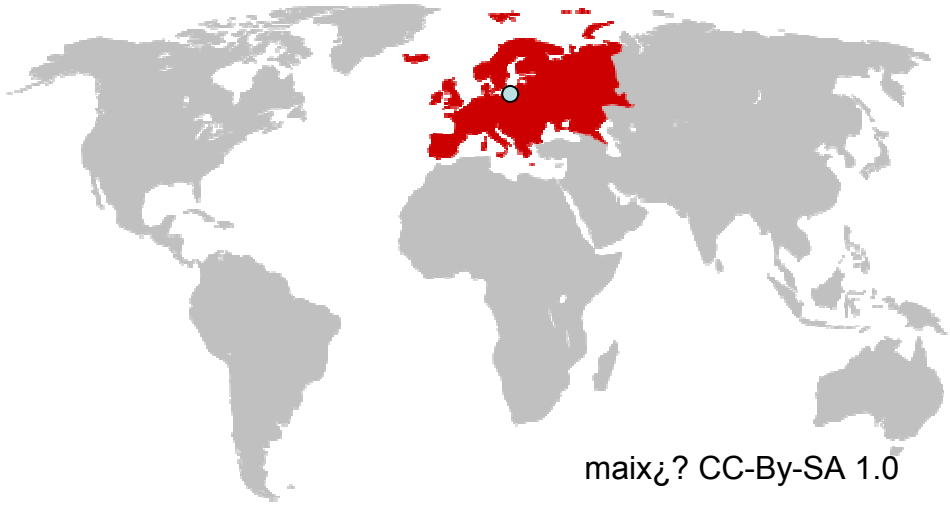
- Final selection was made between Buenos Aires, Toronto, Brisbane and Karlsruhe, with the final selection coming down to Buenos Aires and Toronto.

Nicolas Goldberg, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Gdansk, Poland - 2010



- 9 – 11 July at the Polish Baltic Philharmonic.



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- The starting day on July 9 overlapped with the end of the WikiSym academic conference.

  Bids for Amsterdam and Oxford lost by a small margin.

To correspond with the venue – it held an opening concert on the opening day of the conference by the philharmonic orchestra, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the death of the most important contemporary Polish composer Władysław Szpilman.

Ralf Roletschek, CC-BY-SA-3.0

The attendees also saw the premiere of the film Truth in Numbers – a documentary about Wikipedia.

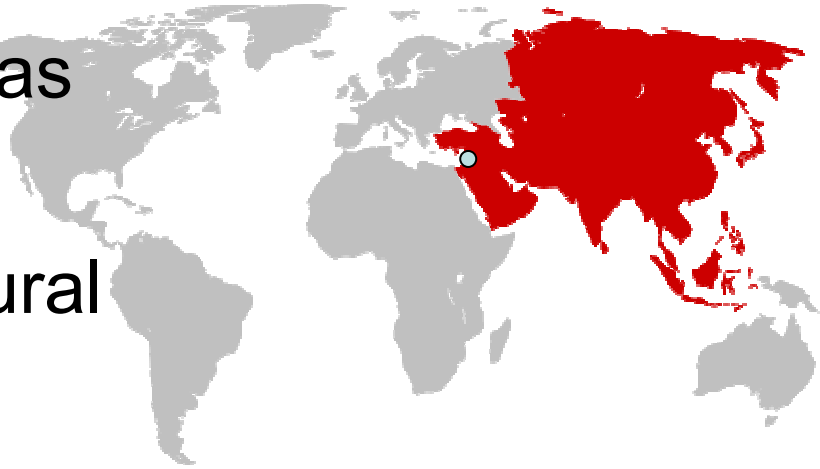
Ralf Roletschek, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Haifa, Israel - 2011

WIKIMANIA 2011
Haifa, Israel

- 4 -7 August

  The conference venue was the Haifa Auditorium and adjoining Beit Hecht cultural center on Mount Carmel.



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Keynote speakers at the conference included Yochai Benkler ,a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and Joseph M. Reagle Jr .of MIT ,author of "Good Faith Collaboration: The Culture of Wikipedia”

Wikimedia Israel,
CC-BY-SA-3.0

- The conference featured 125 sessions in five simultaneous tracks and was attended by 726 Wikimedians from 56 different countries including some that have no diplomatic relations with Israel.
- It also had the first huge Wikimania sign.

SpeedyGonsales, CC-BY-SA-3.0

And the first street signs

Marcus Cyron,

CC-BY-SA-3.0

The first postal stamps:

Here we see the Wikichicks lunch

Wikimedia Israel,
CC-BY-SA-3.0

The early comers party:

Wikimedia Israel,
CC-BY-SA-3.0

The opening day party:

Martina Nolte, CC-BY-SA-3.0

After the conference, participants were offered a free tour of Haifa ,Jerusalem ,Nazareth or Akko .

Deror Avi, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Góngora, CC-BY-SA-3.0

And on the last day of the conference, after some beach time:

Chmee2, CC-BY-SA-3.0

A beach party took place

Aaron Muszalski

CC-by-SA-3.0

Wikimedia Israel,
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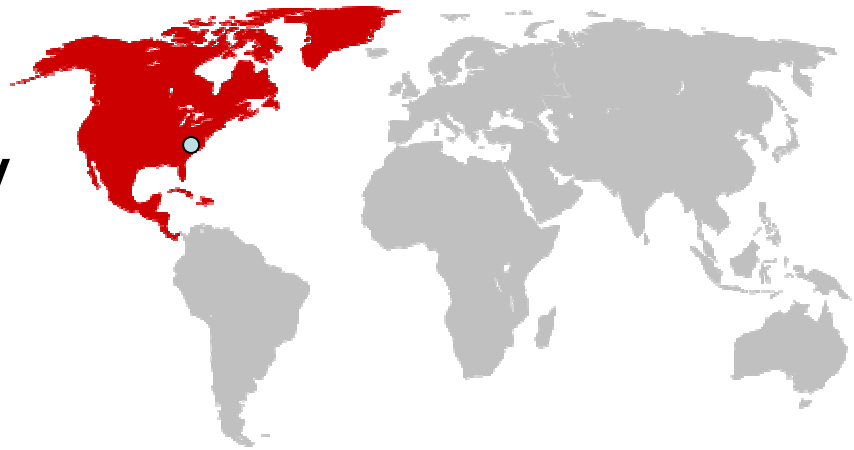
Washington D.C. - 2012

WIKIMANIA 2012 D.C.
The International Wikimedia Conference

- 12 – 15 July

at the George Washington University



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» **July 6–9:** Wikimania Takes Manhattan
» **July 10–11:** Hackathon & Chapters' Meeting
» **July 12–14:** Main Conference
» **July 15:** Unconference

There were over 1,400 attendees from 87 countries. In addition, the U.S. Department of State ,in conjunction with Wikimania 2012, hosted a conference labeled *Tech@State:Wiki.Gov* which focused on "Collaborative knowledge and the use of wikis in the public sector ."

Helpameout, CC-BY-SA-3.0

The first cocktail party with formal dress required of all Wikipedians, took place at a wonderful setting – the Library of Congress

Ziko van Dijk, CC-BY-SA-3.0

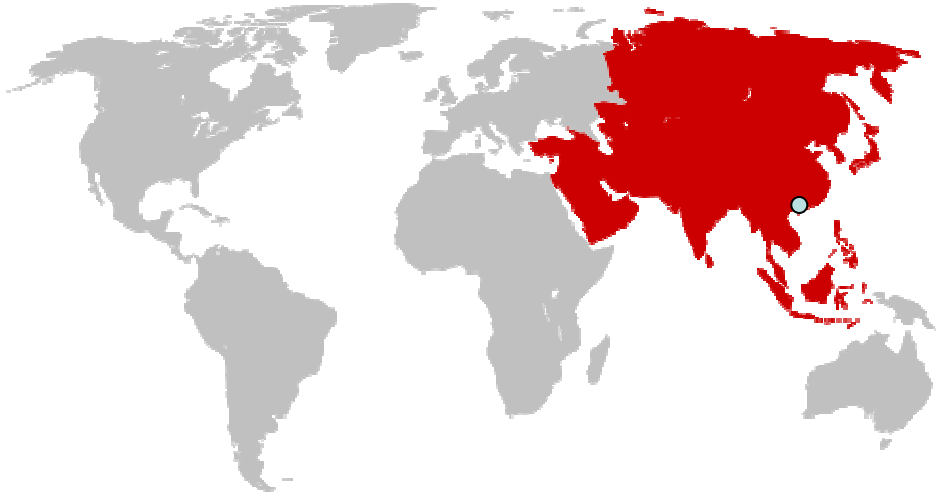
What an amazing view

Awersowy, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Awersowy, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Hong Kong - 2013

- 7 - 11 August



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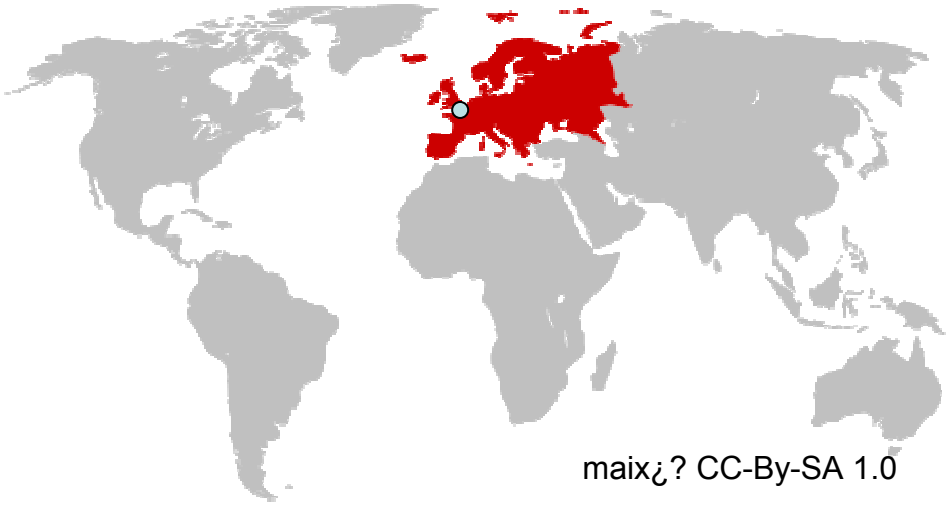
London, UK - 2014

WIKIMANIA LONDON 2014

- 8 – 10 August.



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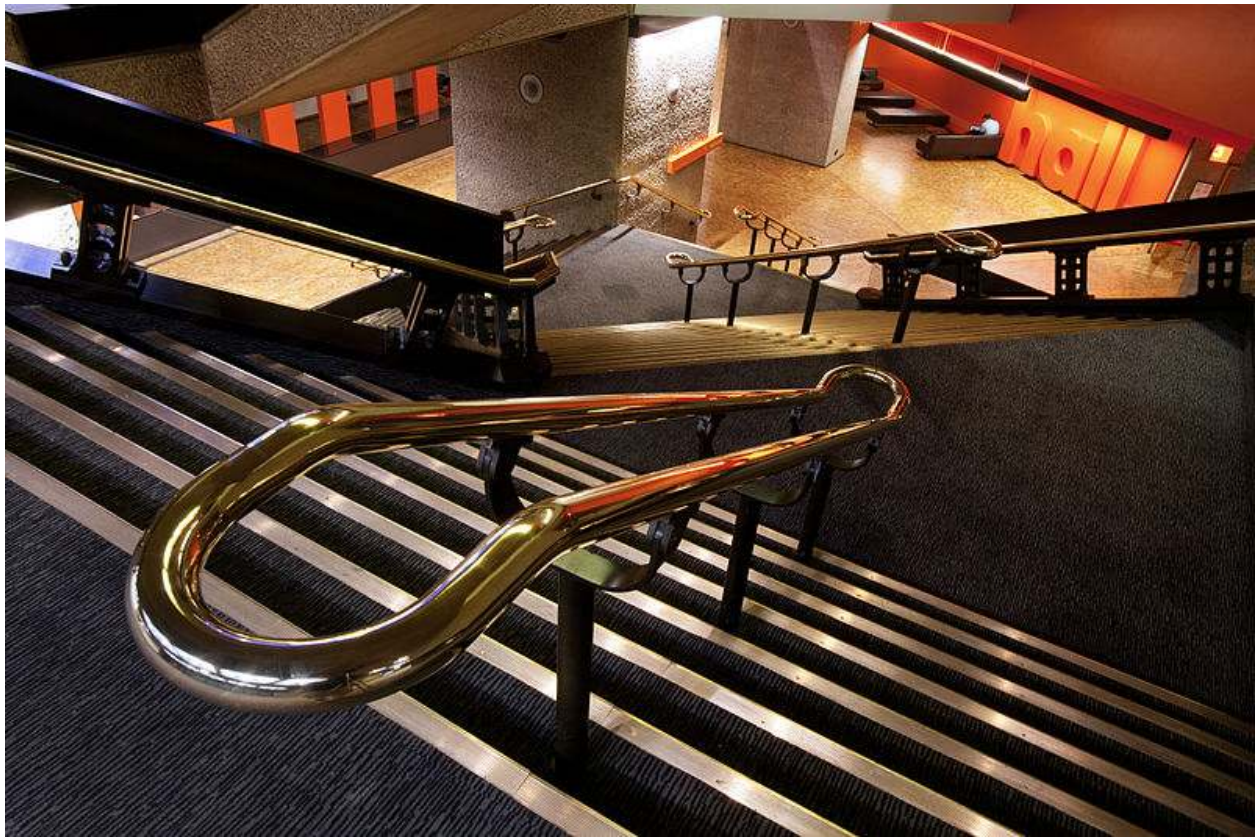
For Wikimania 2014, London was chosen in May 2013 as the host city,with the only other bid coming from Arusha in Tanzania.

- The conference will be held from 8–10 August 2014 at the Barbican Centre.



Jorge Roya, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Jknight1603, CC-BY-SA-3.0-

– We have yet to see who will be the keynote speaker…

Carfax2
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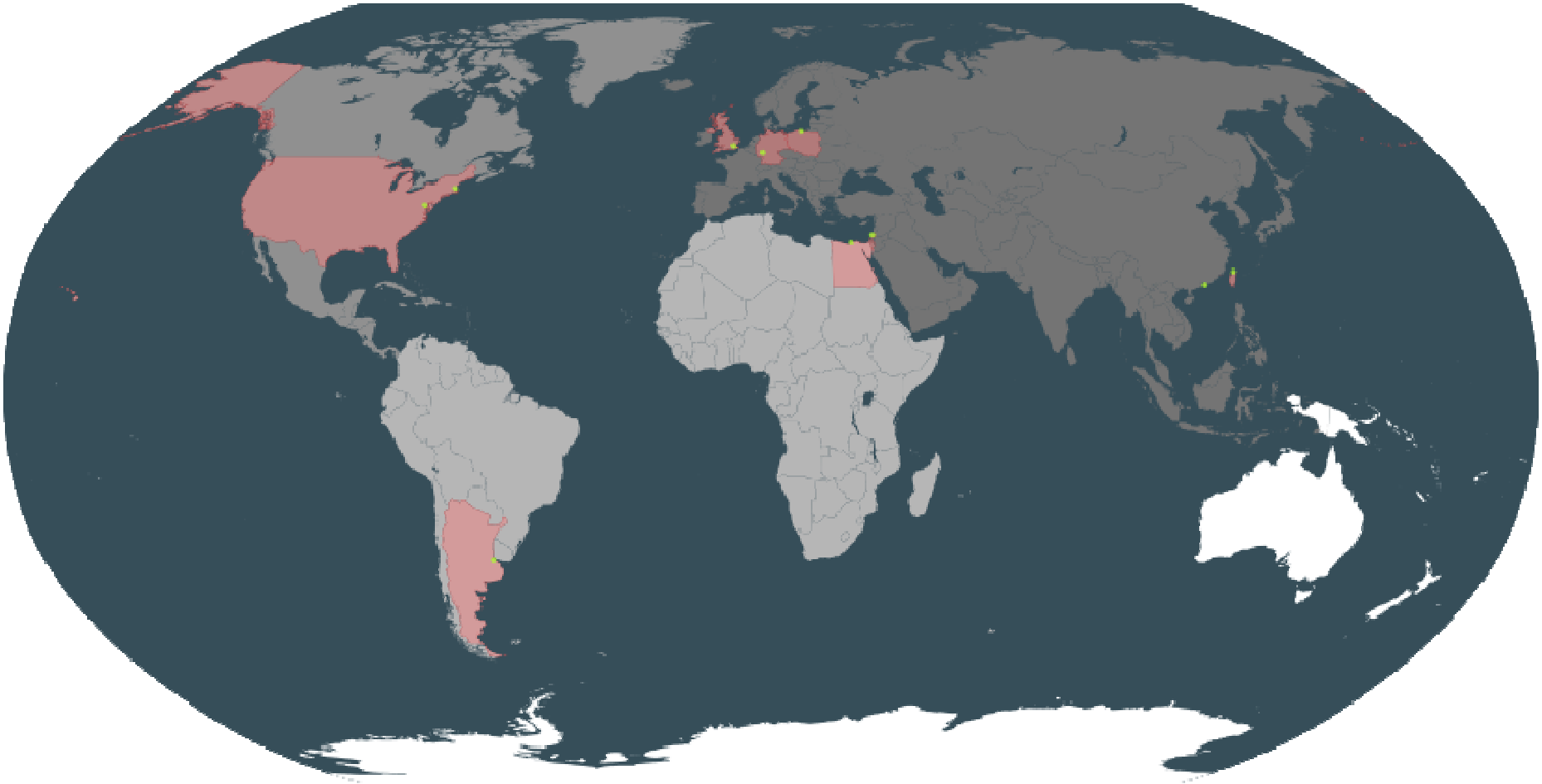
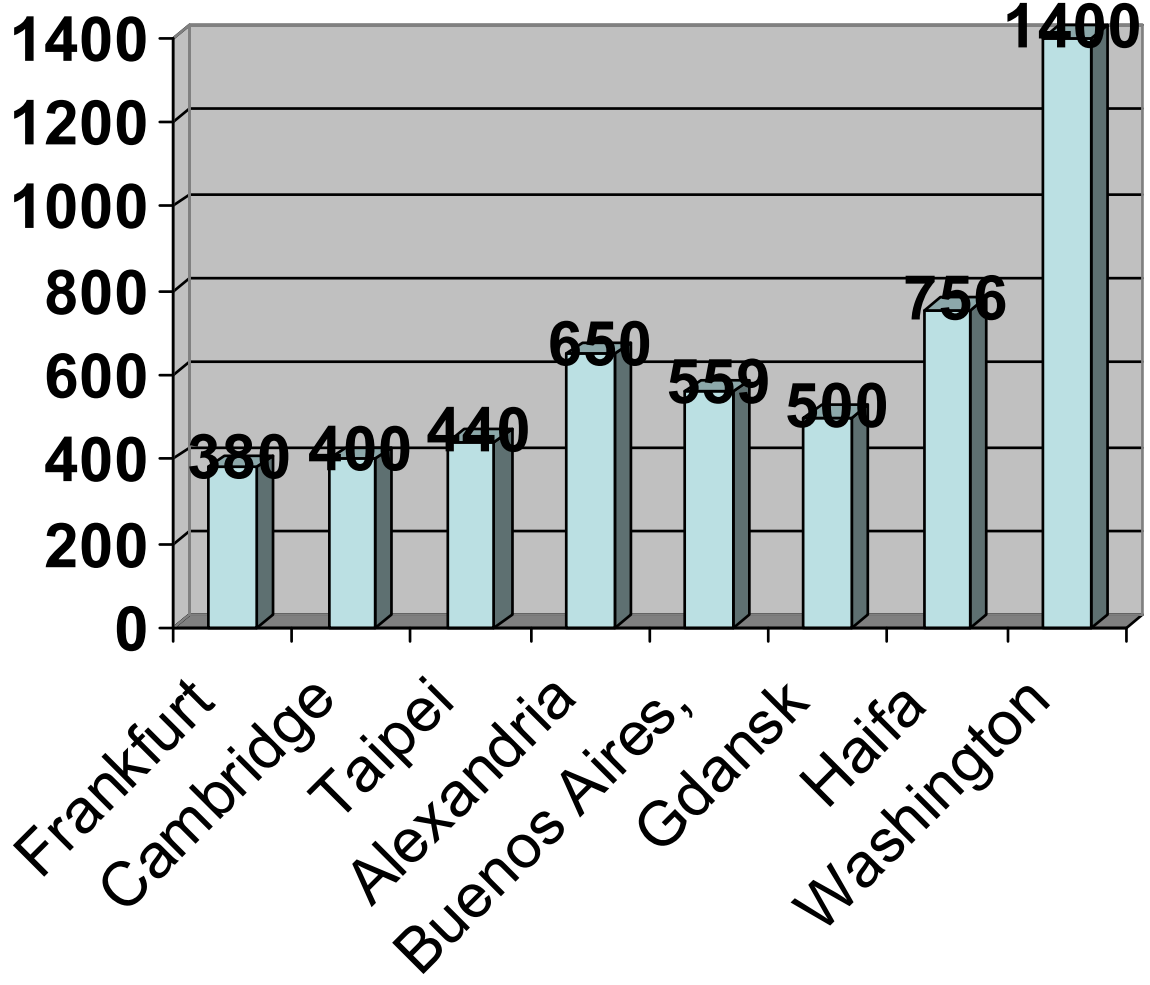
Global distribution



Waldir, CC-BY-SA-3.0

Attendance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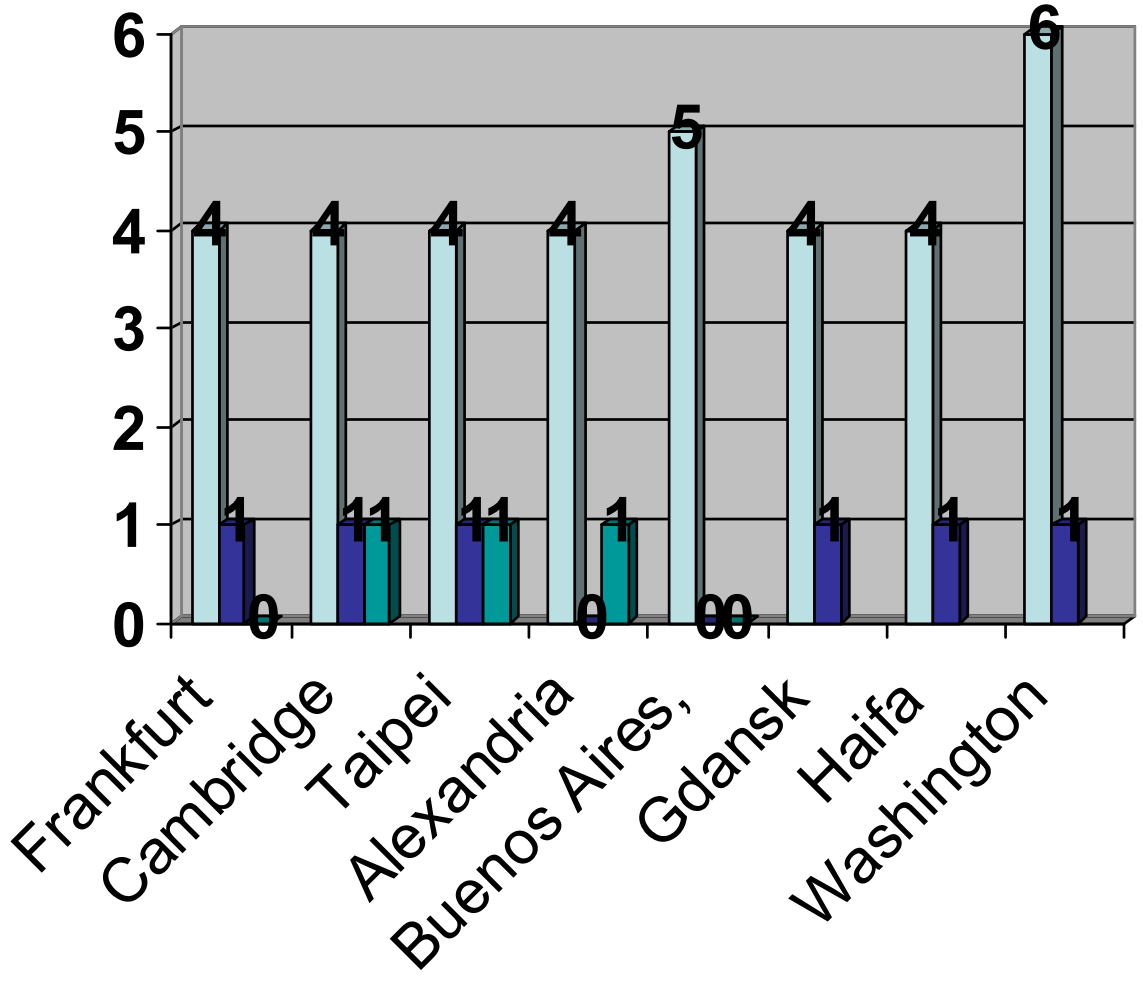
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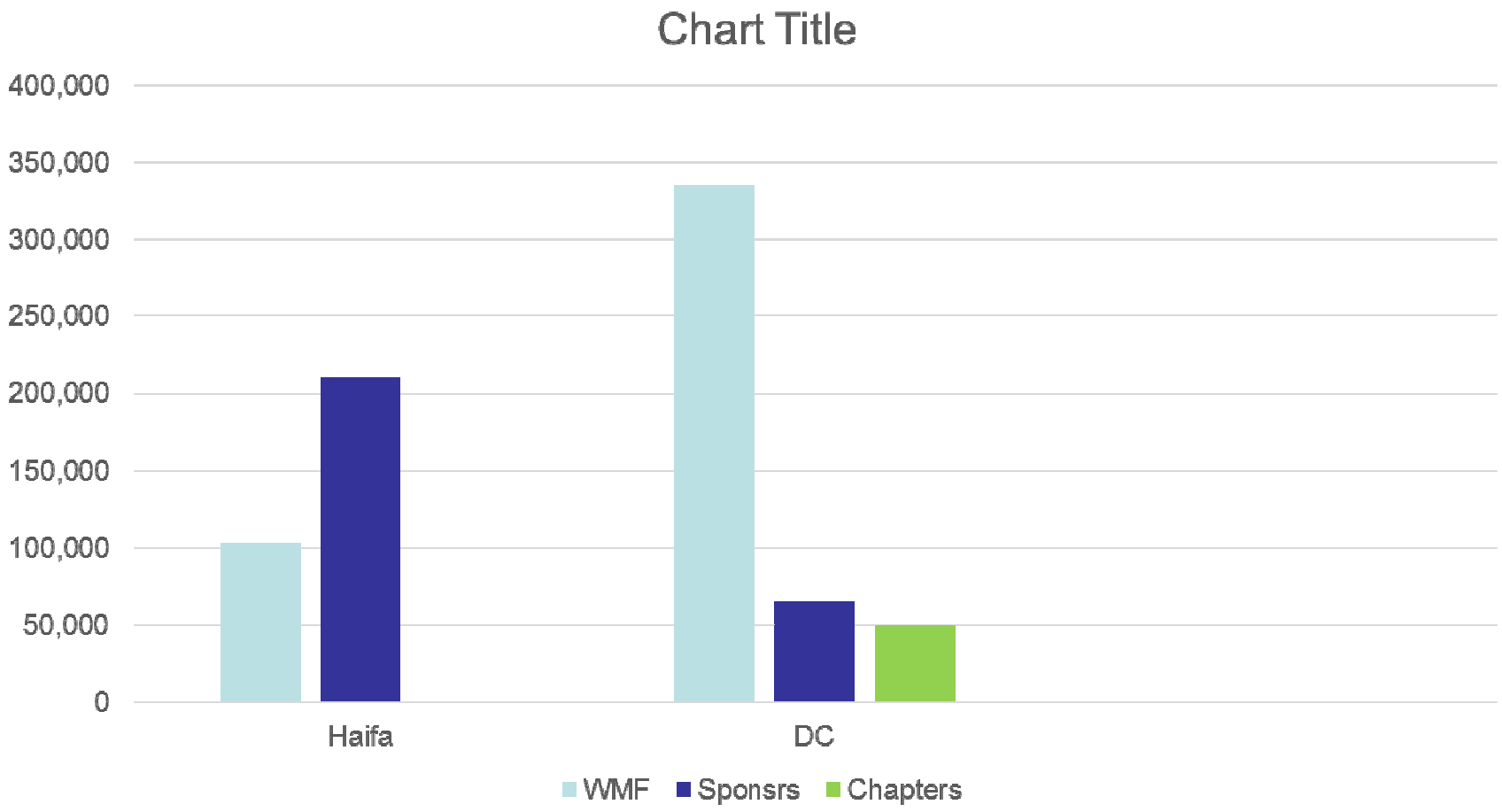
Cost (in US $)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Haifa
DC
WMF
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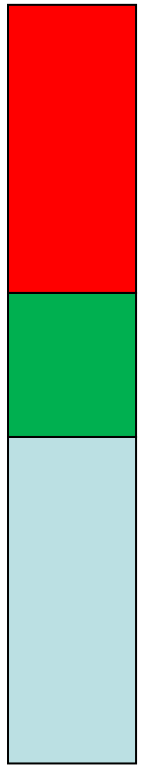
Chapters

WMF Budget for WM

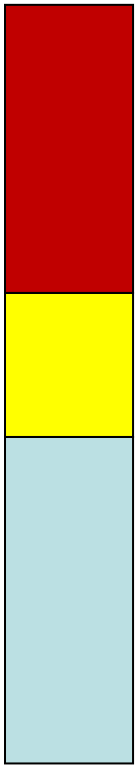


Scholarships

Cost of bringing WMF personal

Direct sponsorship

Conference Budget



Local sponsors and in-kind donations

Other chapter's sponsorship

WMF Sponsorship

Questions we shall attempt to answer?

- Should the conference be limited in size, or scaled down?
- Should the conference become more academic in nature?
- Should the conference become more professional or remain complete volunteer based?
- Should the event remain modestly budgeted or allow a more expensive events (as funds may be obtained by sponsorships)
- Should the event be hosted by the smaller chapters to allow their growth and development, or by the bigger and well funded chapters who are more experienced in such events?
- Should the event be located in central areas, allowing attendance of more current Wikimedians to attend, or at more remote areas, allowing more future Wikimedians to attend and enabling growth of communities in such areas?
- Can the event be produced solely by chapters? Or can/should a non-chapter group of volunteers produce it?
- How should the location of the conference be chosen?