Performing Arts and Wikipedia

(A brief overview of Performing Arts coverage on Indic Wikipedia)

By

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NOTE

- All information contained herein has been checked for its accuracy at the time of preparation. However, the Wikipedia’s ever welcoming approach to contributors means that newer pages can be created, edited, merged, or, in some cases, deleted in the shortest possible time.
- All images in this presentation are from Wikimedia Commons/ screenshots of Wikipedia pages.
- A few slides of this presentation contain Unicode characters.
Outline of the Presentation

• Definition of Performing Arts
• Some of the Key Performing Arts
• Classification of English Wikipedia Pages on Performing Arts
• Classification of Performing Arts in India on the English Wikipedia
• Category: Performing Arts in India on Indic Wikipedia
• Comparison of the Contents of the main category “Arts” on the English Wikipedia and the Indic Wikipedia.
• Difficulty in Assessing Performing Arts on Indic Wikipedia
• Some Observations on the Performing Arts Coverage on Indic Wikipedia
• What needs to be done
  – Maintenance and editing
  – Some suggested strategies
• Personal Interest in Arts Pages on Wikipedia / Wikimedia Commons
Definition of Performing Arts

- Performing arts are art forms in which artists use their body or voice to convey artistic expression—as opposed to visual arts, in which artists use paint/canvas or various materials to create physical art objects.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Performing_arts
SOME OF THE KEY PERFORMING ARTS

* Acrobatics
* Busking
* Comedy
* Dance
* Juggling
* Magic
* Singing
* Marching arts (such as marching bands)
* Music
* Opera
* Storytelling
* Acting
* Film & Theatre

CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH WIKIPEDIA PAGES ON PERFORMING ARTS
CATEGORIES: PERFORMING ARTS IN INDIA ON ENGLISH WIKIPEDIA
Source: compiled from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Performing_arts_in_India
As per the interwiki links provided by Wikidata, no Indic Wikipedia has a separate category devoted to “Performing Arts”.

As an exception to this, Urdu Wikipedia has a corresponding category which should actually be renamed as "acting" is just part and not the whole of performing arts.

This category has 6 subcategories and 6 pages in the main category.
DIFFICULTY IN ASSESSING PERFORMING ARTS PAGES ON INDIC WIKIPEDIA

• Although a separate category for “Performing Arts” is not available, some pages/ categories pertaining to this area available in Indian languages under a wide category “Arts”, for example, Hindi Wikipedia has the following pages/ categories:
  – निष्पादन कलाएँ (Page on Performing Arts)
  – श्रेणी:नृत्य (Category:Dance)
  – श्रेणी:संगीत (Category: Music)
A COMPARISON OF CONTENTS OF THE MAIN CATEGORY: ARTS IN ENGLISH & INDIC LANGUAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>“Arts” Subcategories</th>
<th>Pages in the main category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 English</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hindi</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Assamese</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bengali</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Gujarati</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>6 Kannada</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>7 Nepali</td>
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<td>8 Telugu</td>
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<td>9 Malayalam</td>
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<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Marathi</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Urdu</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Inter-Wiki linkage provided by Wikidata
• English Wikipedia is far more comprehensive in its coverage of both national and international performing arts than any Indic Wikipedia.

• Indic Wikipedia articles are still in their formative stage even in the context of Indian performing arts. E.g.: compare the article on “Kathak” on English Wikipedia and “कथक” on Hindi Wikipedia …Contd.
Specific regional performing art is prominently showcased in the state language Wikipedia but not necessarily in other language Wikipedia. E.g: Article on “Garba” finds a place on Gujarati Wikipedia and in just three other languages – Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

Often article translations take place easily from English to an Indian language or vice-versa but not between Indian languages. …Contd
• Absence of subcategories such as "Performing Arts" on many Indic Wikipedias as well as "Arts" itself in some Indic Wikipedias indicate the need for more editing and concentrated effort in this area.

The central goal of the category system is to provide navigational links to all Wikipedia pages in a hierarchy of categories which readers, knowing essential—defining—characteristics of a topic, can browse and quickly find sets of pages on topics that are defined by those characteristics.

Source:
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE
1-MAINTENANCE & EDITING

• Proper categorization of pages on each language Wikipedia.
• Updating Inter-Wiki linking on Wikidata.
• Listing topics where articles are needed.
• Recruiting individuals of special interest (e.g. performing art teachers, students, artistes, enthusiasts, etc)
• Encouraging the general editors.
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

2-SOME SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

• Initiating discussion on the respective village pump of the respective language Wikipedia.
• Eliciting the support of the dedicated sysops and senior editors.
• Reaching out to users of special interest often identifiable by user checkboxes/ descriptions on userpages/ contribution history

...Contd
• Editathon or Edit-a-thon
• Wikipedia meetups
• Scanathon
• Social media (Facebook, Meetup, etc)
• Access to Highbeam, Questia and other information sources to supplement the efforts of dedicated contributors.
PERSONAL INTEREST IN ARTS PAGES

- Created an article on Shamshad Hussain (Visual artist/painter) on English, Hindi and Urdu Wikipedia.
- Edited some articles related to art and famous personalities in this area.
- Uploaded autographs of many performing artistes as well as visual artists such as on Wikimedia Commons such as:
  - Lata Mangeshkar, Indian singer.
  - Amitabh Bachchan, Bollywood actor
  - Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Telugu actor
  - Bipasha Basu, Bollywood actress
  - Naushad, Musician
  - Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Hindustani vocalist
  - Allauddin Khan, Bengali Sarod player and multi-instrumentalist, composer
  - Amjad Ali Khan (an Indian classical musician who plays the Sarod)
  - M F Hussain (Visual artist/painter) and many more:

...Crushable reports (not quite) news that Wikipedia has started including celebrities’ autographs in articles about them. In a related event, User:Hindustanilanguage uploaded ~300 autographs on Wikimedia Commons in mid-August.

Source: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikizine/EN2011-TE1
Thank you