IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL AFRICAN CONTENT

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OVERVIEW

LOCAL CONTENT

- Content related to a specific place, region, ethnical group, etc.

- It can be about local traditions, language, politics, social life, biographies, etc. related to a specific territory.

- In Wikimedia projects, local content can be archived in different ways:
  - Wikipedia: Either in the local language (if written) or any other language.
  - Commons: Audio, video and pictures of different events and occasions.
  - Wikidata: Great to archive information on people, monuments, places, etc.

CURRENT STATUS – AFRICAN CONTENT

Interest

- Low interest – Except from enthousiats, militants or researchers.
  - Post-colonial situation – adoration/complex towards the west
  - Limited perspectives of career – work in the local context.

Social situation

- Priorities in life

Africa is not ruling the world (yet?)

- Editors outside of the continent will not write about it.

CURRENT STATUS – AFRICAN CONTENT

- Kabyle Wikipedia – 4275 articles

- 10 Most popular articles during October 2019
  - Only 2/10 are related to Kabyle/Berber context

Rank	Page	Edits	Editors	Pageviews
1.	Taglizit	2	2	1 231
2.	Ṭelyan	0	0	1 227
3.	Ajjed	0	0	753
4.	Wikipedia	0	0	609
5.	Iwunak Yeddukklen n Temrikt	1	1	505
6.	Tansa IP	0	0	428
7.	Larebɛa n At Yiraten	1	1	414
8.	Amezgun	0	0	407
9.	Talatint	1	1	379
10.	Wiki	0	0	365

CURRENT STATUS – AFRICAN CONTENT

- Igbo Wikipedia – 1430 articles
- 10 Most popular articles during October 2019
  - Only 2/10 are related to Igbo/Nigerian context

Rank	Page	Edits	Editors	Pageviews
1.	Wikipidia	0	0	1 549
2.	A	0	0	1 352
3.	Naijiria	0	0	1 339
4.	Asụsụ Inglish	0	0	1 275
5.	Xxx video	?	?	1 246
6.	Italy	0	0	1 234
7.	Wikipidia:Ụ̀gbàmmiri	0	0	893
8.	Ìta ṅke mmụ̀zụ̀ Texas A&M	0	0	820
9.	XVideos	0	0	759
10.	Arise O Compatriots, Nigeria's Call Obey	0	0	585

CURRENT STATUS – AFRICAN CONTENT

- Yoruba Wikipedia – 31952 articles
- 10 Most popular articles during October 2019
  - Only 4/10 are related to Yoruba/Nigerian context

Rank	Page	Edits	Editors	Pageviews
1.	Èdè Yorùbá	2	1	2 040
2.	ISO 8601	0	0	1 739
3.	Itálíà	0	0	1 224
4.	Fáwẹ̀lì Yorùbá	0	0	1 103
5.	Èdè Gẹ̀ẹ́sì	0	0	940
6.	ISBN	0	0	744
7.	Ẹ̀sìn	0	0	735
8.	Àṣà Yorùbá	0	0	723
9.	Nàìjíríà	0	0	661
10.	ISO 4217	0	0	553

WHY DO WE HAVE FEW ARTICLES IN OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES?

And why are even these (few) articles in our languages not about us?

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PARTICULARITIES OF AFRICA

Many official languages in Africa do not originate from the continent

- And yet they are the ones with most produced content in Africa!
- University studies are mostly in French/English and students tend to write in these languages.
- These languages have already their local/cultural contexts.

Some languages are spoken over different areas/countries

- Political/social tensions created between competing parts.

PARTICULARITIES OF AFRICA

Many "threatened" African languages are not written

How can they be documented and saved?

Sourcing issues

Model made by the west (based on written sources).

Lack of resources to find/create sources.

Accesibility issue

To devices

To Internet

To Education

SUGGESTIONS

- Create your own sources
  - Partnership with Media
  - Example of **WikiClubRFI**
  - Launched in 2019 with the support of Wikimedia France

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SUGGESTIONS

- Sustain already existing initiatives in your countries
  - Wiki Loves Monuments – Wiki Loves Earth – Festival documentation.

- Learn more about grants and how to ask for them.

- Involve more volunteers in your region.

SUGGESTIONS

- Identify your "champion" editors
  - University departments
    - Local Languages departments
    - African Studies departements (Worldwide)
  - Partner with local cultural associations – Ministry of culture.

- They already have motivation and knowledge.
  - They need only to know how to edit Wikipedia

  -> Teach them!

REFERENCES – READ MORE

- [Wikipedia Cultural Diversity Observatory (WCDO)](#)

- [Tool to analyze Top views in different Wikipedias](#)

- [WikiClubRFI](#) (in French)

Thank You !

ⵜⴰⵏⵎⵎⵉⵔⵜ !

شكرا

Merci !

QUESTIONS?

Webale !   Ngiyabonga !   Asante !   Me Daa Si !

Nagode !   Imena !   E Se !