

Challenges to keep up quality in a small African Language Wikipedia

Experiences from Swahili Wikipedia

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What is quality in a wikipedia?

Q_{uality} =



"The standard of something as measured against other things of a similar kind; the degree of excellence of something."

"an improvement in product quality"

Quality: maybe if our readers enjoy ?

- * If people like to go through our pages and do not say „For heavens sake, why did I click on this wikipedia? Lets get out!“

- * If people find our topics when they look for something on Google or other search machines

- * If we have relevant topics

(which we do not necessarily get if we only work for our individual hobby topica - or try to grow by bots for the numbers „to be bigger“)

If we cooperate well and kindly

- * Quality is when we keep personal contact among editors
- * because that motivates us and helps us to go on, as we are not so many
- * Good understanding helps to accept criticism which is necessary
 - * Quality is to be open for newbies and try to react as kindly as possible when they disregard rules
- * because wikipedias don't survive as one-man-show

Looking for quality in content

- * It helps quality of a Wikipedia to have a general framework of articles
- * at swwiki we worked on the list of „1,000 articles every Wikipedia should have“



- Main page
- Wikimedia News
- Translations
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Babel
- Community
- Wikimedia Resource

Content page

Discussion

Read

Edit

List of articles every Wikipedia should have

This list is limited to 1000 articles, but a much larger list is available at [List of articles every Wikipedia should have/Expanded](#).

Section	Version 1.1	Current Number	Target Number	Vital articles
Biography	216	204	TBD	127
Philosophy	18	12	TBD	20
Religion	21	23	TBD	36
Social sciences	71	77	TBD	149
Language and literature	43	46	TBD	36
Arts and recreation	70	75	TBD	10

Basic topics are helpful to be relevant

- *Of course we like to edit about our personal interests, but let's also do the basic topics
- * for the basics the "1,000 article list" is helpful
- * having these topics helps to better serve our readers
- *It helps to link our pet topics to other knowledge
- *If you love actors - set a link for the city where your favourite actor was born, add a 2-line-stub, link this city to her country - it makes the whole more useful for readers
- * at swwiki some of us work on the extended 10,000-article-list (it looks endless for a small team)

Check the Topviews

Have a look at the articles which are being mostly viewed at your wikipedia. Check and make sure the top article is ok!

Topviews Analysis
Most viewed pages of a project

Date type: Date: Project: Platform:

Rank	Page	Edits	Editors	Pageviews
1.	Shairi	0	0	273
2.	Mwasiliano	0	0	258
3.	Orodha ya mikoa ya Tanzania kwa eneo	0	0	239
4.	Ufahamu wa uwezo wa kushika mimba	0	0	225
5.	Lahaja za Kiswahili	0	0	194

Too bad when everybody searches information about the footballer / actor / politician who died yesterday and you never noticed that your article on him was hacked a year ago!

Have a team check recent changes!

Motivate people to check the Recent Changes (4th line in menu) otherwise you can get flooded by spam + bullshit



Mwanzo

Jumuia

Matukio ya hivi karibuni

Mabadiliko ya karibuni

Ukurasa wa bahati

Msaada

Michango

Vifaa

Atom

Pakia faili

Kurasa maalum

Ukurasa wa kuchapika

Lugha zingine

Recent changes

Ukurasa maalum

Mabadiliko ya karibuni

Orodha ya mabadilisho yaliyofanywa katika Wikipedia siku zilizopita.

Other review tools ▾

Active filters

Human (not bot) ✕

Page edits ✕

Page creations ✕

Logged actions ✕

☰ Filter changes (use menu or search for filter name)

5 Novemba 2021

- (tofauti | hist) . . **Majadiliano:Alan Turing**; 05:43 . . (-19) . . 197.254.25.238
(Majadiliano | zuia) [rejesha]
- (tofauti | hist) . . **Jitu jekundu**; 05:41 . . (+3) . . Riccardo Riccioni
(Majadiliano | michango | zuia) [rejesha]

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The Good, the Bad and the Uninformed

Who is causing chaos, spam, ?

- * there are „bad guys“ who distort and destroy on purpose
- * there are people who try to enter advertisements / commercial links
- * we block them perpetually
- * there are people who just have not understood it (yet?) but could!
- * when we were smaller we took time to reach out to them individually (it costs time)
- * Now we block more often combined with text templates which have friendly language, explain the mistakes and tell the author to contact us first to be deblocked
- * A small wikipedia can afford to be friendlier to rule-breakers than the big ones, but we may have to be stricter in blocking because we don't have enough people for continuous control

Threat or challenge: machine translation

- * I use **Special:ContentTranslation** quite often, it is helpful
- * But if I could I would block all machine translation on swwiki
- * it has caused endless hours of work to correct
- * it has left thousands of bad articles which overwhelmed us
- * on the negative side it has resulted in anything from plain gibberish to very bad Swahili, often changing the meaning of an information
- * from our experience it was a crazy idea by the Foundation to throw this tool into the wikipedias
- * still it may be more helpful than google translate which is used by most
- * we should have an option per wikipedia to enable the tool for individuals which we trust

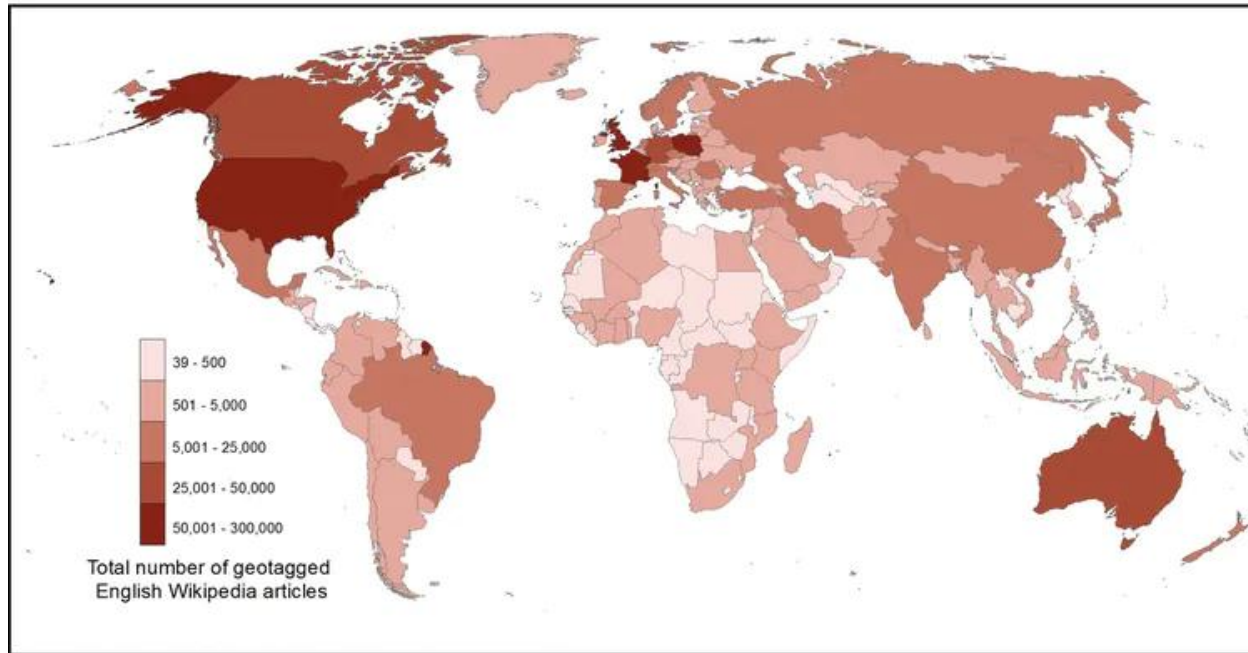
Protect or not protect?

- * At Swwiki we restrict article creation by anonymous users
- * our few admins could not control the amount of bad quality articles and edits stemming from faulty language by local anonymous users writing slang
- * article creation by anonymous foreigners who did a lot of edits without knowing the language.
- * edits by local anonymous users who do not know, understand or care about formats and rules for relevant content.
- * as small wikipedia we struggled several times to guarantee even weekly control checks on recent edits.
- * at swwiki we had to fight for 3 years to get acceptance of "disable article page creation by anonymous/IP editors" but now have it
- * now every new page is started by a registered user which helps us to communicate with them and guide them
- * we use manual semi-protection often

Chance and challenge: edit campaigns

- * Swwiki-community has grown since we have a user group in Dar es Salaam
- * User group gets new members with topical editathons following WMF-recommendations
- * These edit-campaigns are attractive but bring also high turnover of dropouts
- * The balance sheet has been positive on the side of added content
- * But left number of bad quality content largely because the campaign style attracts use of machine translation
- * WMF planners should think of some specific approach for smaller communities

Challenge: African content



Number of geotagged articles in the English Wikipedia by country. Graham, M., Hogan, B., Straumann, R. K., and Medhat, A. 2014. Uneven Geographies of User-Generated Information: Patterns of Increasing Informational Poverty. Annals of the Association of

- * Many people in the world do not know much about Africa - including people in Africa
- * There is relatively little information about Africa published = available, compared to other parts
- * The map shows geo-information, the problem is the same in other fields
- * Lets make the knowledge map of Africa darker!

Opinion: Let's rather edit than keeping too many people busy with organisation stuff, charters etc

Challenge: Sources

- * We should insist on use of reliable sources in order to keep our content healthy
- * spam & hidden commercials have to be kept out - insisting on sources helps
- * but for many places, people and histories there are no „acceptable“ and checked sources in Africa
- * at swwiki we have opened localities for unsourced additions
- * we did stubs for all 3,000 communes of Tanzania, based on census reports (as only readily available source)
- * added template inviting to add information
- * so far we have accepted additional informations in these stubs without demanding evidence as long as it does not sound too strange (infos about schools, landmarks, local history)

Closing questions

- * How do you build your communities and encourage new editors?
- * How can we get support and advice in Wikimedia technicalities without getting lost in the jungle of Meta and stewards?
 - * *(in swwiki we have no idea who choose some strange words for our menus - a former peace corps voluteer in 2003? - How to adapt infoboxes?? - Format stuff when using enwiki material)*
- * is there a chance in Africa at this time to get some older editors on board who will be more steady in editing?
- * How is your experience with computer translations?