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Photo: Participants of Wiki Loves Africa at the University of Ilorin, TimmyLegend, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

Wikipedia & Africa: Why contributing to Wikipedia matters

AfricaKnows!

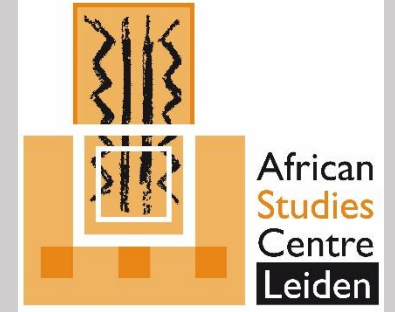
2 and 3 December 2020

Jos Damen & Ursula Oberst

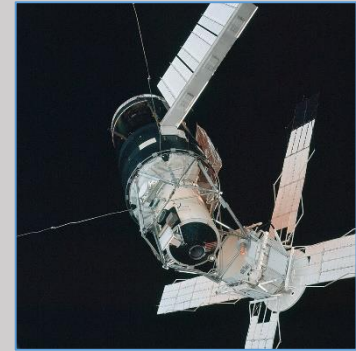
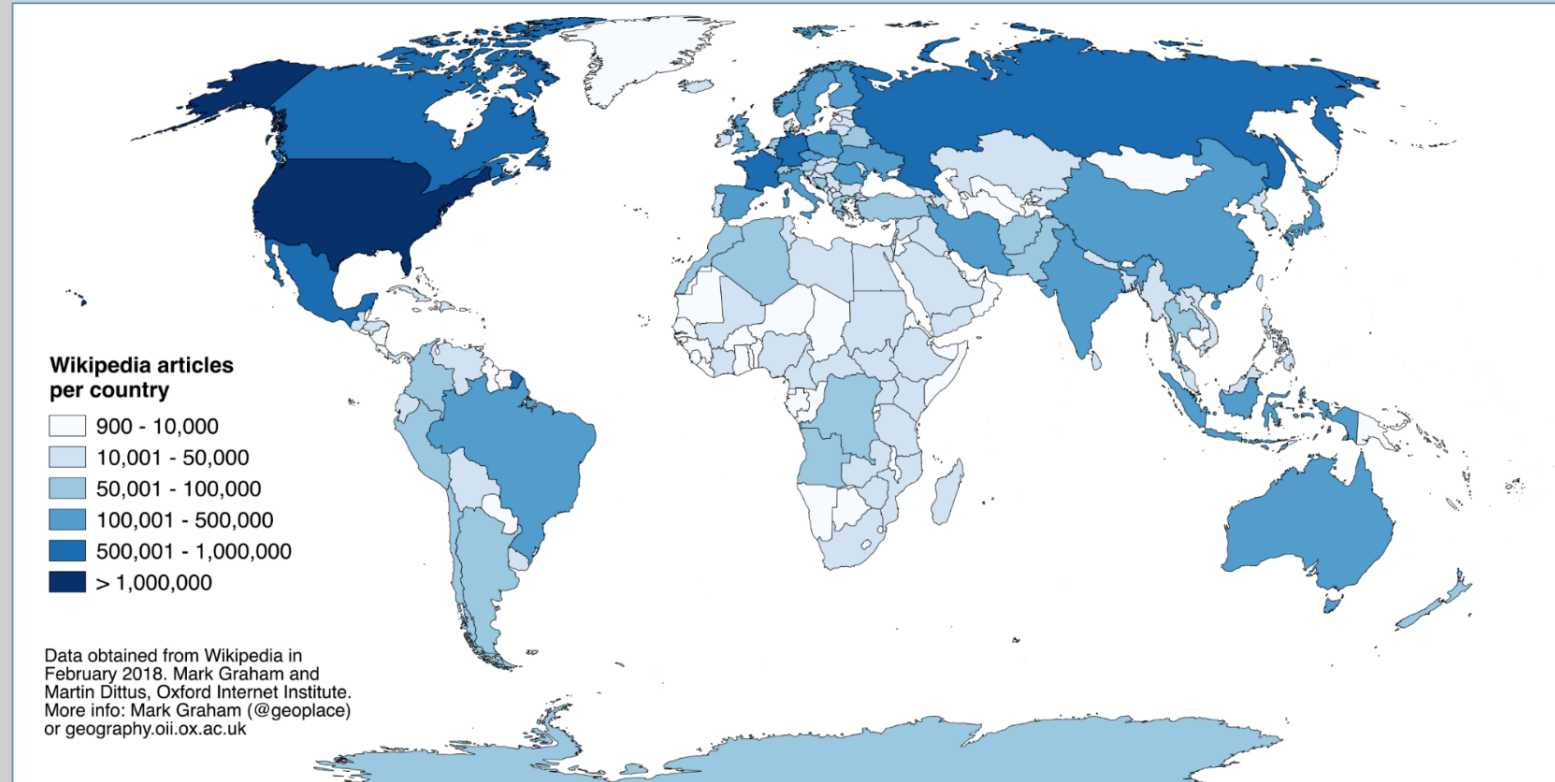


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How is Africa represented in Wikipedia ?



Photos: Wikimedia
Commons

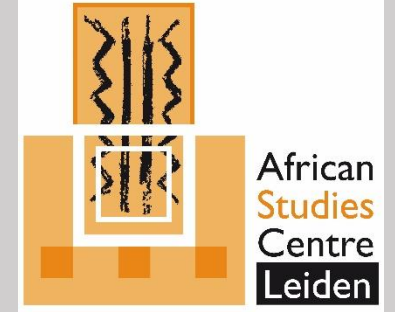


Source: [The Uneven Geography of Wikipedia](#).
Oxford Internet Institute, 2018.



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Why do we contribute to Wikipedia?



Boys returning from their initiation in the Poro, Panguma (Sierra Leone), 1936.
Wikimedia Commons, Collection Hofstra, African Studies Centre, Leiden

- To increase the coverage of Africa in Wikipedia
- To broaden public outreach and visibility



on en.wikipedia.org

Showing the the top 100 pages only. Download this table.

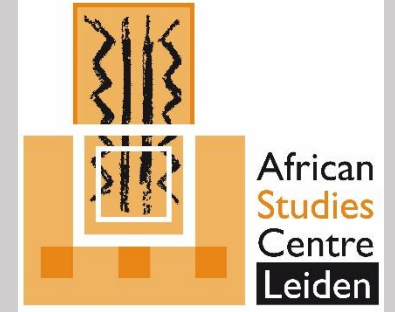
Page	Views	Files
Cat	257,674	ASC Leiden - van de Bruinhorst Collection - Somaliland 2019 - 4480 - Two young red cats (one male) and one black cat, Hargeisa.webm
AK-47	146,254	ASC Leiden - Coutinho Collection - G 24 - Life in Ziguinchor, Senegal - Carrying weapons to Hermangono, Guinea-Bissau - 1973.tif
Idi Amin	117,384	ASC Leiden - F. van der Kraaij Collection - 08 - 081 - The inauguration of William Richard Tolbert, 19th President of Liberia. Tolbert and Idi Amin - Ashmun street, Monrovia, Liberia, 1976.tif
Coffee	98,966	ASC Leiden - Rietveld Collection - East Africa 1975 - 05 - 026 - Female farm workers in the field harvesting coffee - Zambia or Zimbabwe.jpg
Circumcision	95,967	ASC Leiden - W.E.A. van Beek Collection - Dogon markets 39 - Eleven boys in white clothing with bonnets at Tireli market, just after circumcision, Mali 1990.jpg

Screenshot Page views Oct. 2020



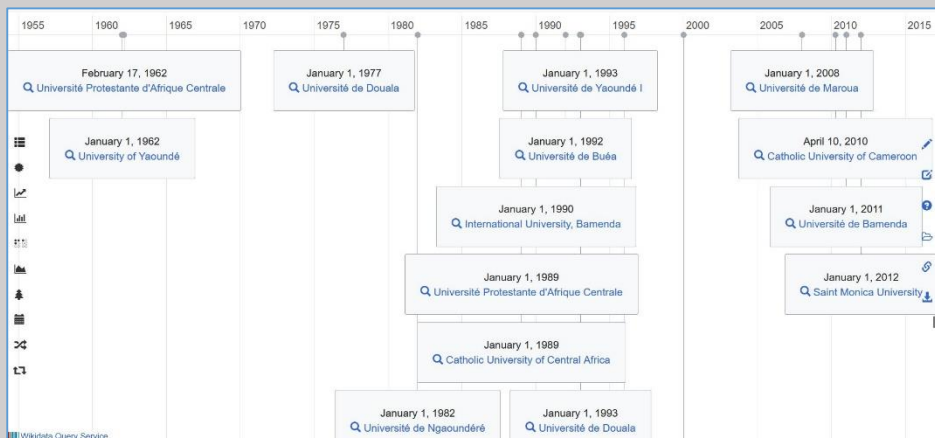
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Why do we contribute to Wikidata ?



To make use of Wikidata's strength:
Its capability to

- answer complex questions
- present the research results visually
- connect other databases and collections of information (Linked Data)



<https://www.wikidata.org>



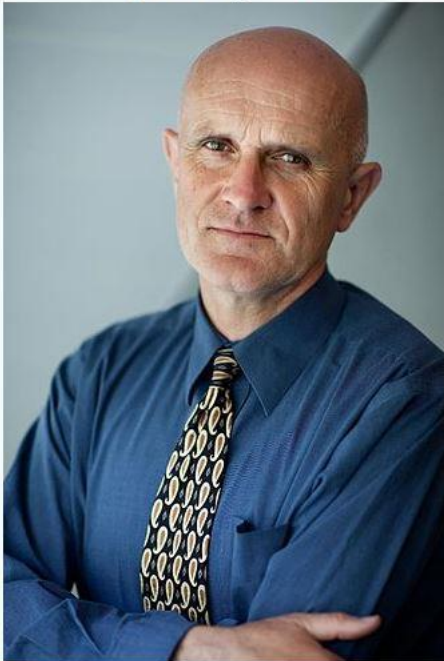


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استیون الیس



۱۳ ژوئن ۱۹۵۳

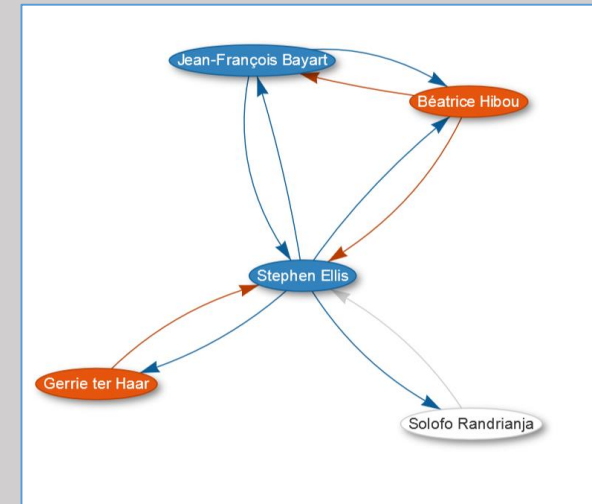
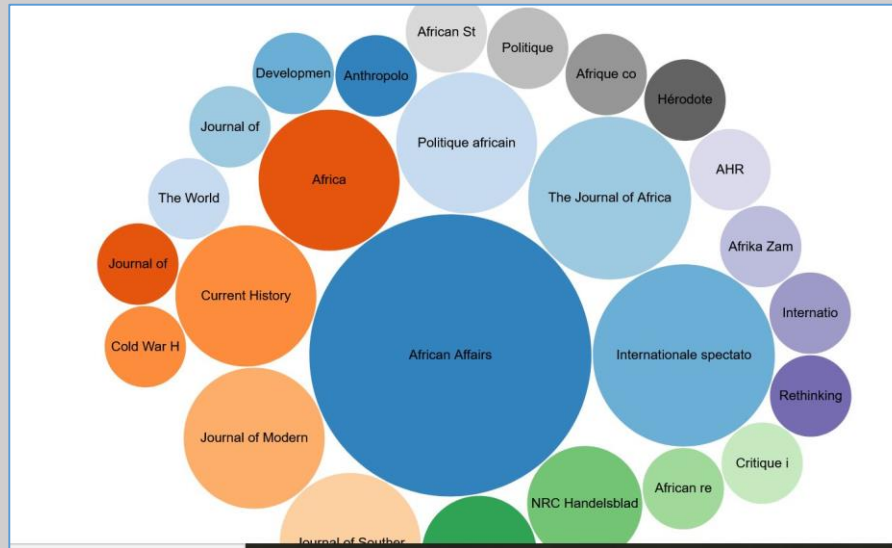
ناتینگهام

۲۹ ژوئیه ۲۰۱۵

آمستردام

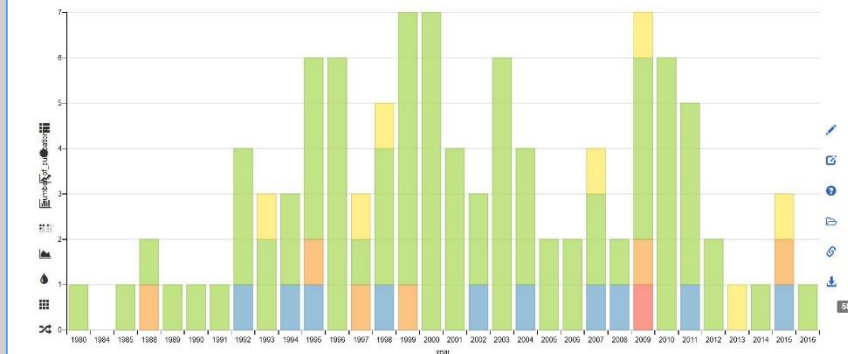
زاده

درگذشت



<https://scholia.toolforge.org>

Number of publications per year





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Six ways academics can contribute to Wikipedia



Kenneth Onwuka Dike University
Library, Ibadan, 1960. Wikimedia
Commons, ASCL Koopman Collection.

1. Check three Africa-related Wikipedia entries. Correct mistakes or add a source.
2. Write an article about an important subject still missing in Wikipedia.
3. Give your students an assignment including writing a draft Wikipedia article.
4. Check the Wikipedia article of your favourite African university or institute.
5. Check https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Africa-related_lists and see what's missing.
6. Donate the Africa photographs from you or your institute to Wikimedia Commons.



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- Many Wikipedia articles miss references. Send us one or more references that could improve an article.
- Send us a photograph (taken by you) that could enrich a Wikipedia article.
- Inform us if you would like to follow a workshop in order to learn how to edit Wikipedia and its sister projects.



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Let's make Wikipedia more inclusive!



Ursula Oberst & Jos Damen
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