

# **Wikipedia article creation**

Aaron Halfaker

and

Steven Walling, Matthew Flaschen, Jodi  
Schneider and Subham Soni

# **/who halfak**

- Aaron Halfaker

# /who halfak

- Aaron Halfaker
- R&D team & Growth\*

\* rejiggering the Wikipedias

# /who halfak

- Aaron Halfaker
- R&D team & Growth\*
  
- Wiki Research → Inform Design

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# /who halfak

- Aaron Halfaker
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#wikimedia-research

#wikimedia-growth

\* rejiggering the Wikipedias

# Outline

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1. Background: Article creation workflow

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2. Results: Newcomer article creation



# Outline

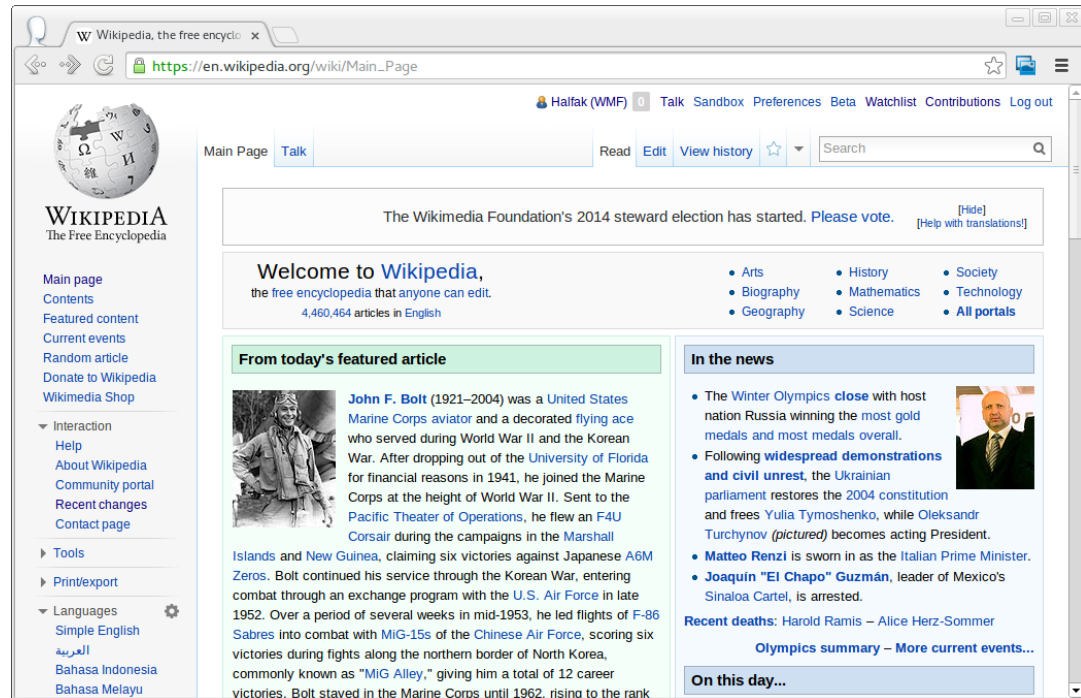
1. Background: Article creation workflow
2. Results: Newcomer article creation
3. Implications: Science → Design

# **Part 1. Background**

# How to create an article

# How to create an article

## 1. Go to Wikipedia



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia main page in a browser window. The address bar displays "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\_Page". The page features the Wikipedia logo, navigation links, and a search bar. The main content area includes a welcome message, a featured article about John F. Bolt, and a news section.

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Halfak (WMF) Talk Sandbox Preferences Beta Watchlist Contributions Log out

Main Page Talk Read Edit View history Search

The Wikimedia Foundation's 2014 steward election has started. Please vote. [Hide] [Help with translations!]

Welcome to **Wikipedia**,  
the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.  
4,460,464 articles in English

- Arts
- History
- Society
- Biography
- Mathematics
- Technology
- Geography
- Science
- All portals

**From today's featured article**

**John F. Bolt** (1921–2004) was a **United States Marine Corps aviator** and a decorated flying ace who served during World War II and the Korean War. After dropping out of the University of Florida for financial reasons in 1941, he joined the Marine Corps at the height of World War II. Sent to the Pacific Theater of Operations, he flew an F4U Corsair during the campaigns in the Marshall Islands and New Guinea, claiming six victories against Japanese A6M Zeros. Bolt continued his service through the Korean War, entering combat through an exchange program with the U.S. Air Force in late 1952. Over a period of several weeks in mid-1953, he led flights of F-86 Sabres into combat with MiG-15s of the Chinese Air Force, scoring six victories during fights along the northern border of North Korea, commonly known as "MiG Alley," giving him a total of 12 career victories. Bolt stayed in the Marine Corps until 1962, rising to the rank

**In the news**

- The Winter Olympics close with host nation Russia winning the most gold medals and most medals overall.
- Following widespread demonstrations and civil unrest, the Ukrainian parliament restores the 2004 constitution and frees Yulia Tymoshenko, while Oleksandr Turchynov (pictured) becomes acting President.
- Matteo Renzi is sworn in as the Italian Prime Minister.
- Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, leader of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel, is arrested.

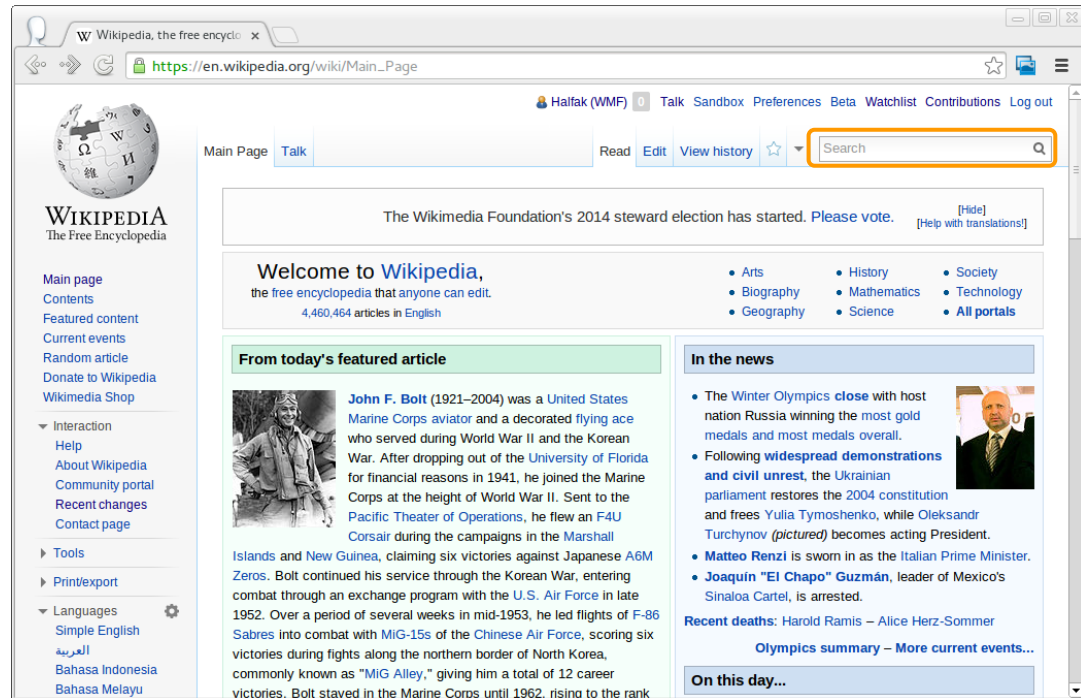
**Recent deaths:** Harold Ramis – Alice Herz-Sommer

**Olympics summary – More current events...**

**On this day...**

# How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist



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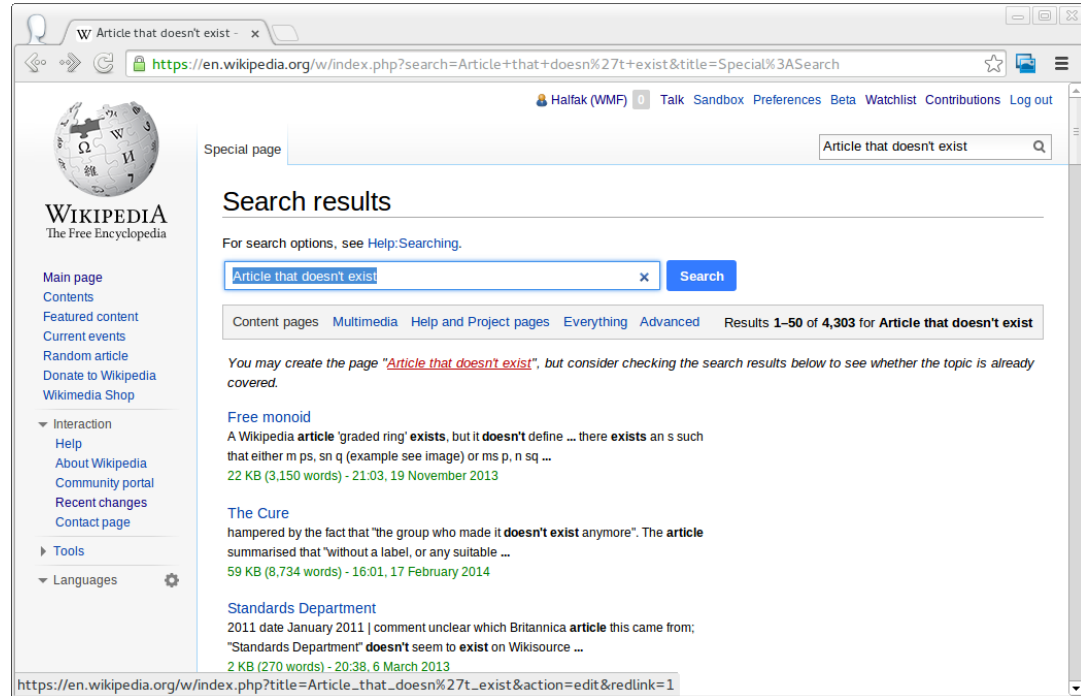
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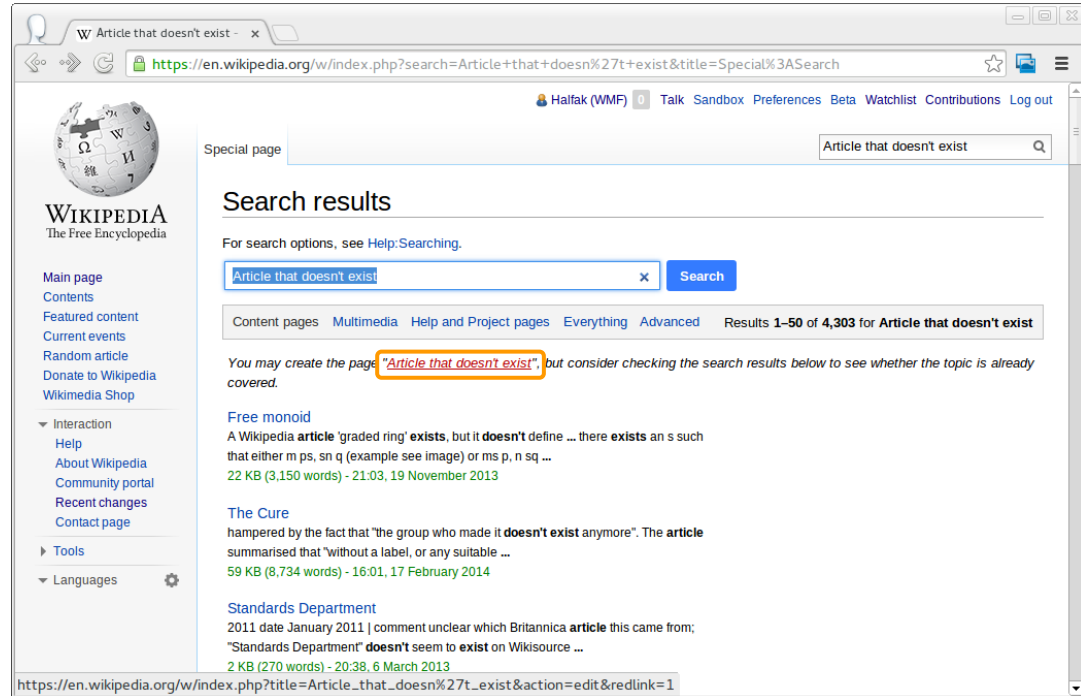
# How to create an article

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# How to create an article

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2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?search=Article+that+doesn%27t+exist&title=Special%3ASearch>. The page displays the Wikipedia logo and navigation links on the left. The main content area shows search results for "Article that doesn't exist". A search box contains the text "Article that doesn't exist" and a "Search" button. Below the search box, it says "For search options, see [Help:Searching](#)." The search results show "Results 1–50 of 4,303 for Article that doesn't exist". A message states: "You may create the page **'Article that doesn't exist'**, but consider checking the search results below to see whether the topic is already covered." The first result is "Free monoid", with a summary: "A Wikipedia **article** 'graded ring' **exists**, but it **doesn't** define ... there **exists** an s such that either m ps, sn q (example see image) or ms p, n sq ... 22 KB (3,150 words) - 21:03, 19 November 2013". The second result is "The Cure", with a summary: "hampered by the fact that 'the group who made it **doesn't exist** anymore'. The **article** summarised that 'without a label, or any suitable ... 59 KB (8,734 words) - 16:01, 17 February 2014". The third result is "Standards Department", with a summary: "2011 date January 2011 | comment unclear which Britannica **article** this came from: 'Standards Department' **doesn't** seem to **exist** on Wikisource ... 2 KB (270 words) - 20:38, 6 March 2013". The browser's address bar at the bottom shows the URL [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Article\\_that\\_doesn%27t\\_exist&action=edit&redlink=1](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Article_that_doesn%27t_exist&action=edit&redlink=1).

# How to create an article

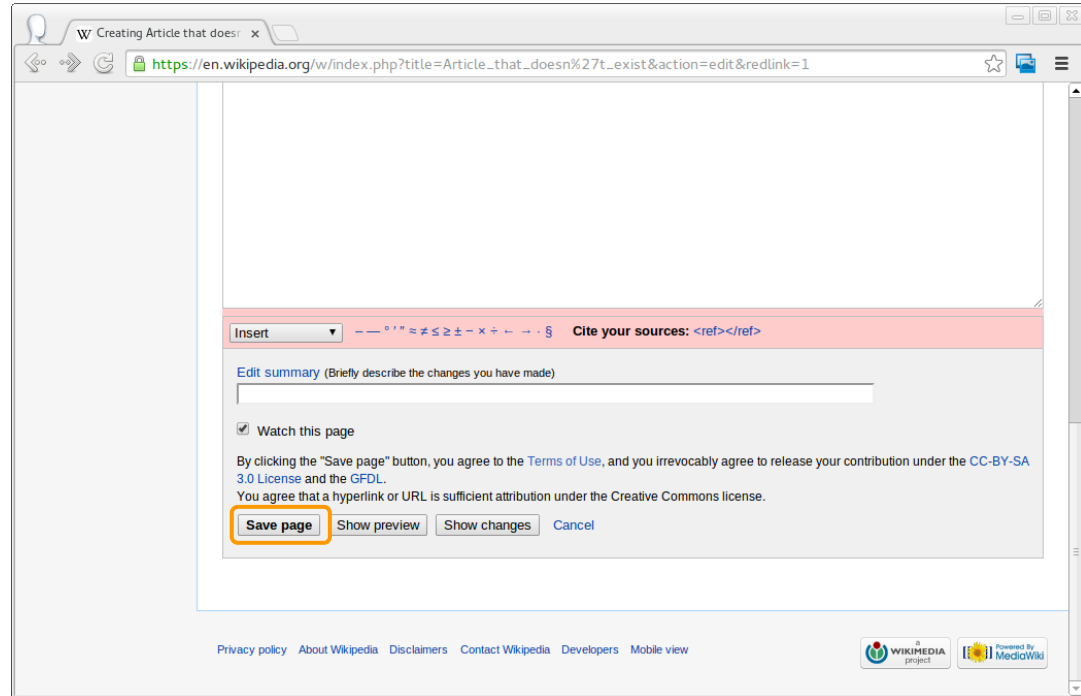
1. Go to Wikipedia
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3. Add some content





# How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist
3. Add some content
4. Hit “save”

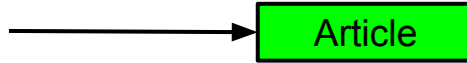


# How to create an article

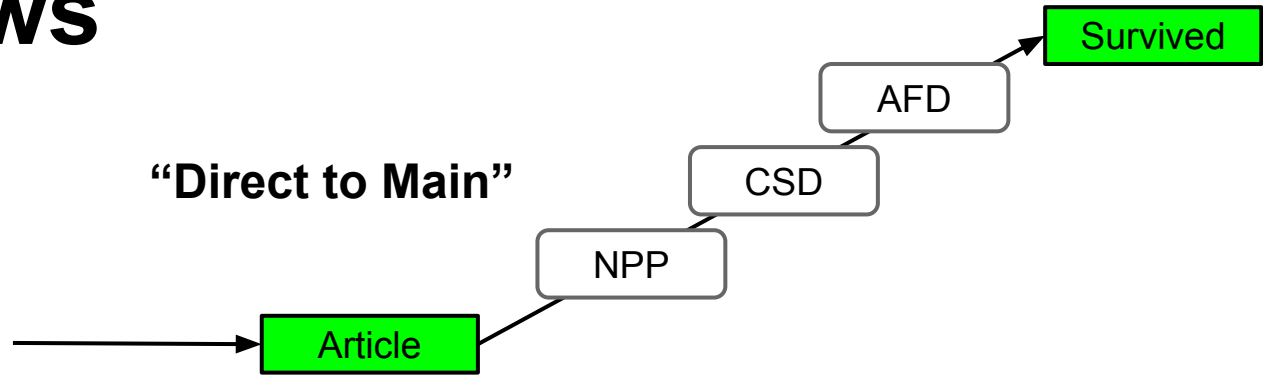
Done!

# Workflows

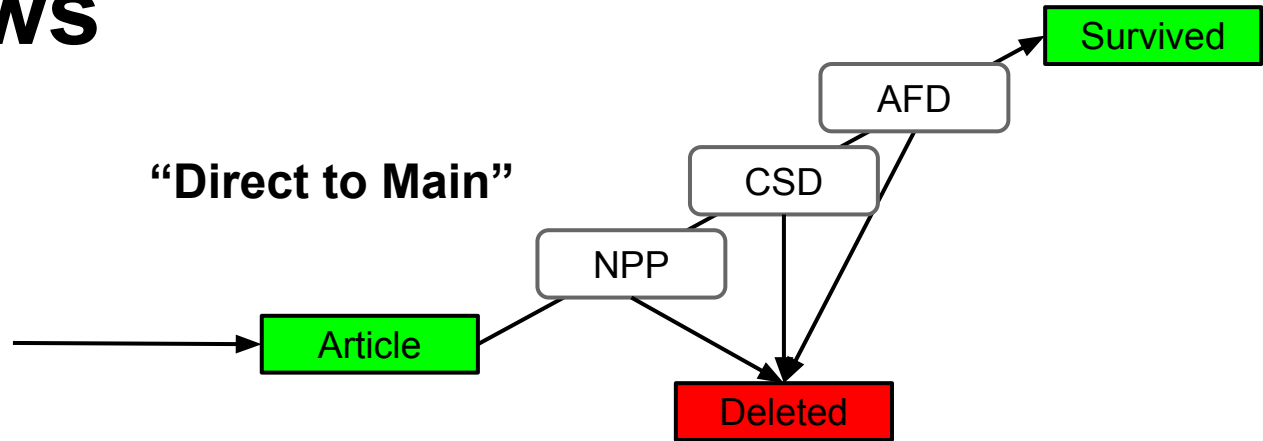
“Direct to Main”



# Workflows

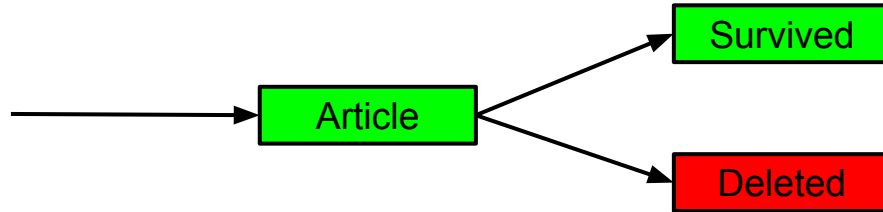


# Workflows



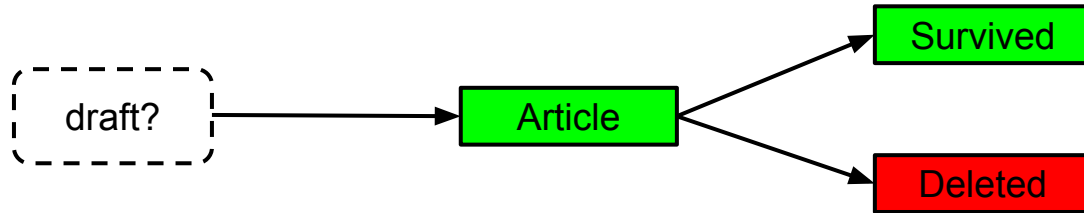
# Workflows

“Direct to Main”

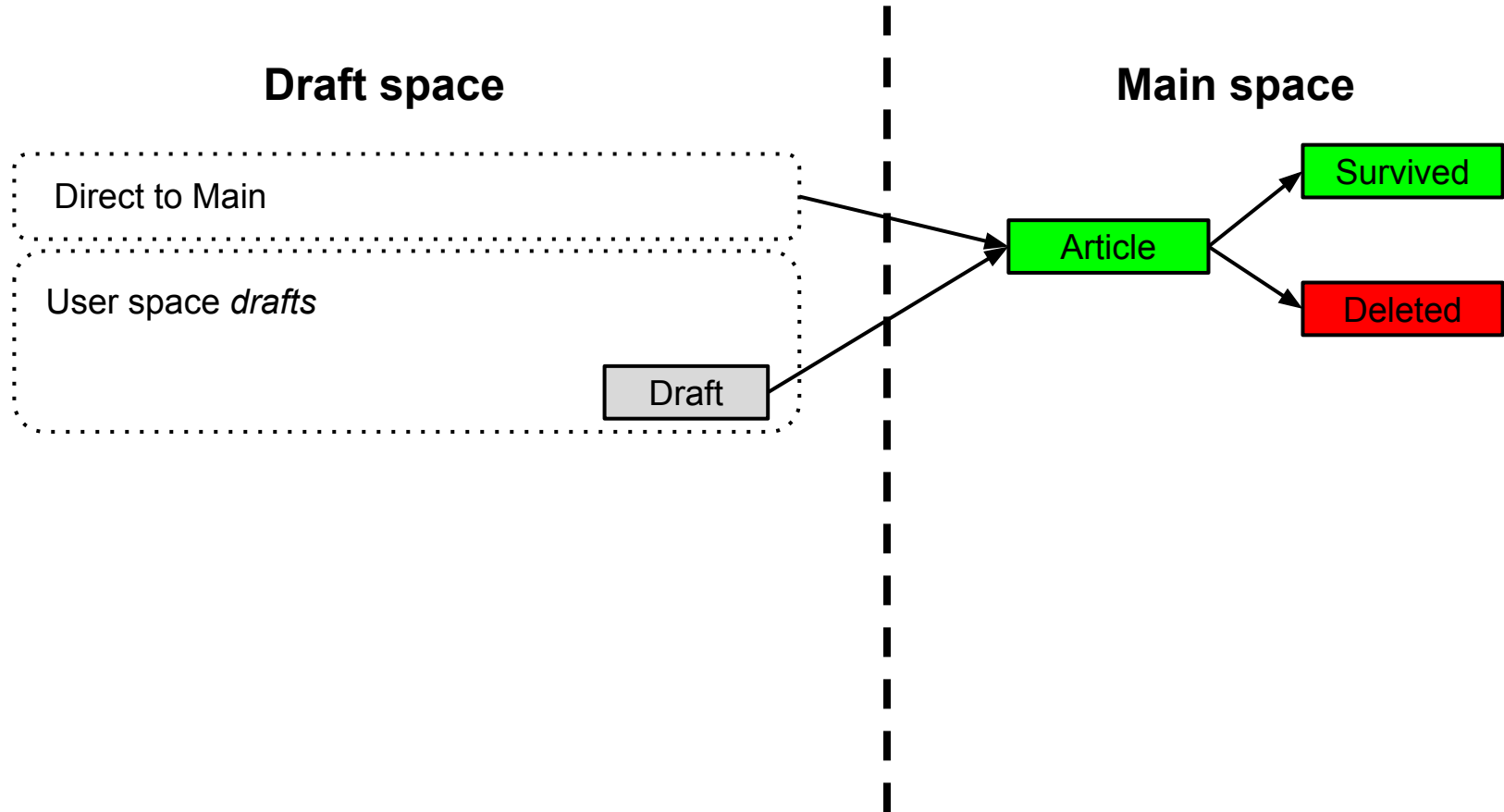


# Workflows

“Direct to Main”



# Workflows





# User space draft

1. User:EpochFail/Article that doesn't exist

# User space draft

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2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*

# User space draft

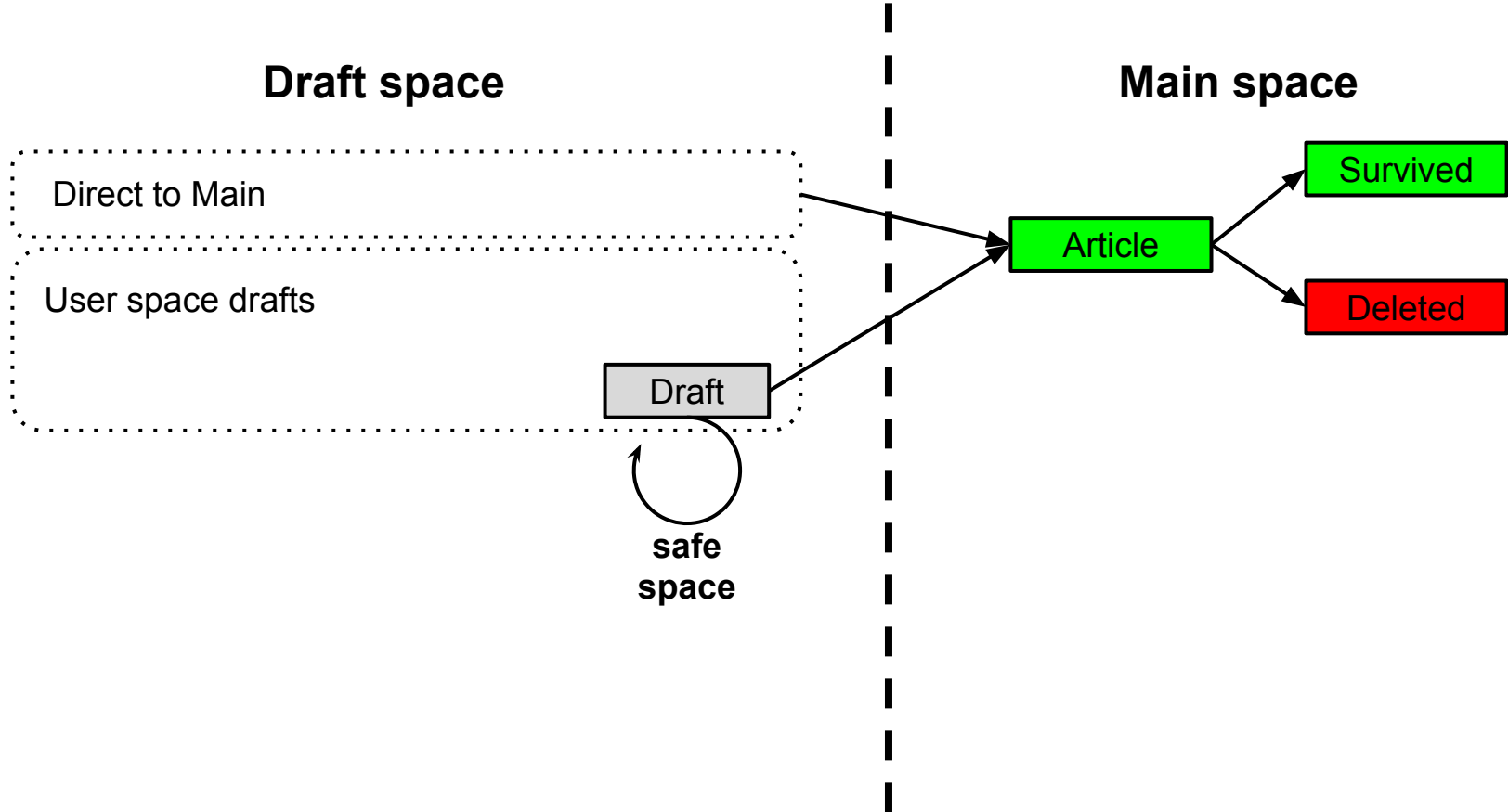
1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn't exist
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3. Move to Main when you're ready

# User space draft

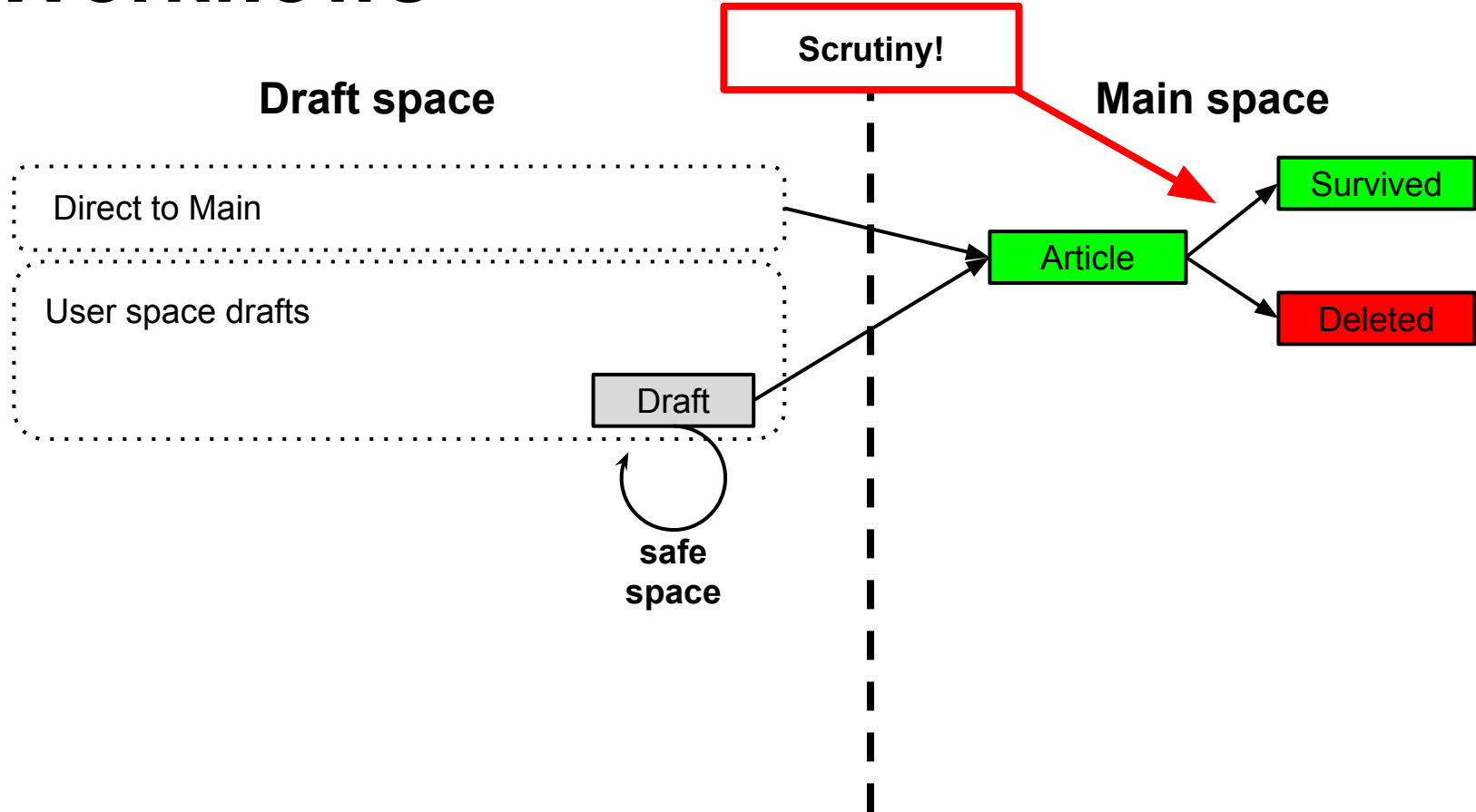
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**Cool! Right?**

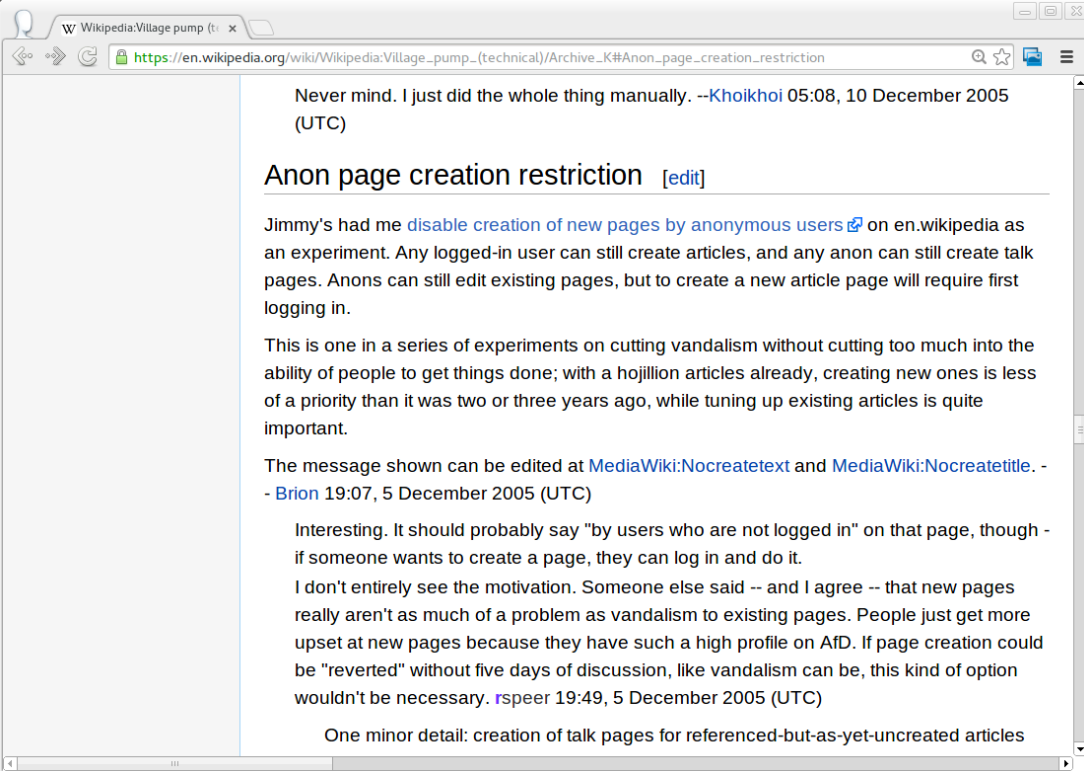
# Workflows



# Workflows



# Articles for Creation



Never mind. I just did the whole thing manually. --[Khoikhoi](#) 05:08, 10 December 2005 (UTC)

## Anon page creation restriction [\[edit\]](#)

Jimmy's had me [disable creation of new pages by anonymous users](#) on en.wikipedia as an experiment. Any logged-in user can still create articles, and any anon can still create talk pages. Anons can still edit existing pages, but to create a new article page will require first logging in.

This is one in a series of experiments on cutting vandalism without cutting too much into the ability of people to get things done; with a hojillion articles already, creating new ones is less of a priority than it was two or three years ago, while tuning up existing articles is quite important.

The message shown can be edited at [MediaWiki:Nocreatetext](#) and [MediaWiki:Nocreatetitle](#). - [Brion](#) 19:07, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

Interesting. It should probably say "by users who are not logged in" on that page, though - if someone wants to create a page, they can log in and do it.

I don't entirely see the motivation. Someone else said -- and I agree -- that new pages really aren't as much of a problem as vandalism to existing pages. People just get more upset at new pages because they have such a high profile on AfD. If page creation could be "reverted" without five days of discussion, like vandalism can be, this kind of option wouldn't be necessary. [rspeer](#) 19:49, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

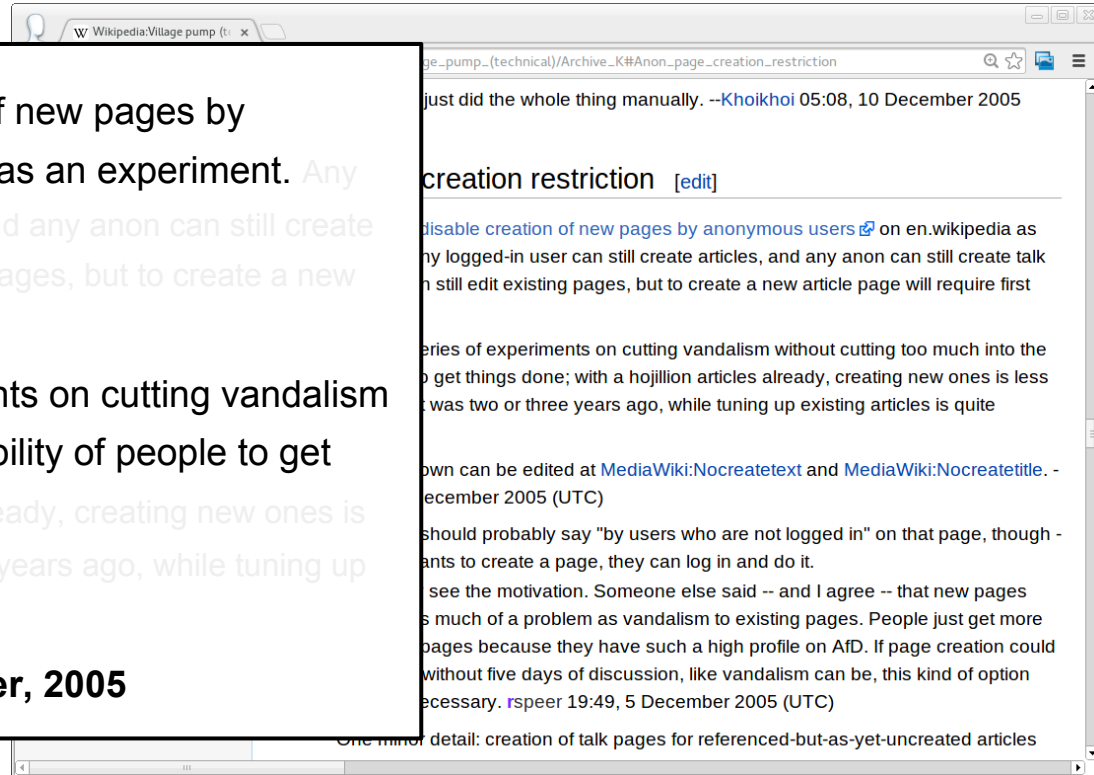
One minor detail: creation of talk pages for referenced-but-as-yet-uncreated articles

# Articles for Creation

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**Brion -- December, 2005**







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- Current events
- Random article
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  - Help
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  - Español
  - Português
  - Română
  - Русский

Edit links

Project page **Talk**

Read **Edit** View history

Search



Amending our Terms of Use:

Please comment on a proposed amendment regarding undisclosed paid editing.

[ Help with translations! ]

# Wikipedia:Articles for creation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by **Uncle G** (talk | contribs) at 09:15, 2 January 2006. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) – Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision – (diff)

**The easiest way to create a new article is to create an account then log in - no personal information is necessary.**

Shortcut:  
[[WP:AFC]]

If you prefer not to create an account, you can post requests for article creation here. Registered users who see these requests can create articles for you. Remember your requested topic must be [suitable for Wikipedia](#).

Please read [Wikipedia:Your first article](#) before making a proposal - it will help you avoid the classic "newbie" mistakes, and save your hard work being deleted.

**Template:AFC instructions**

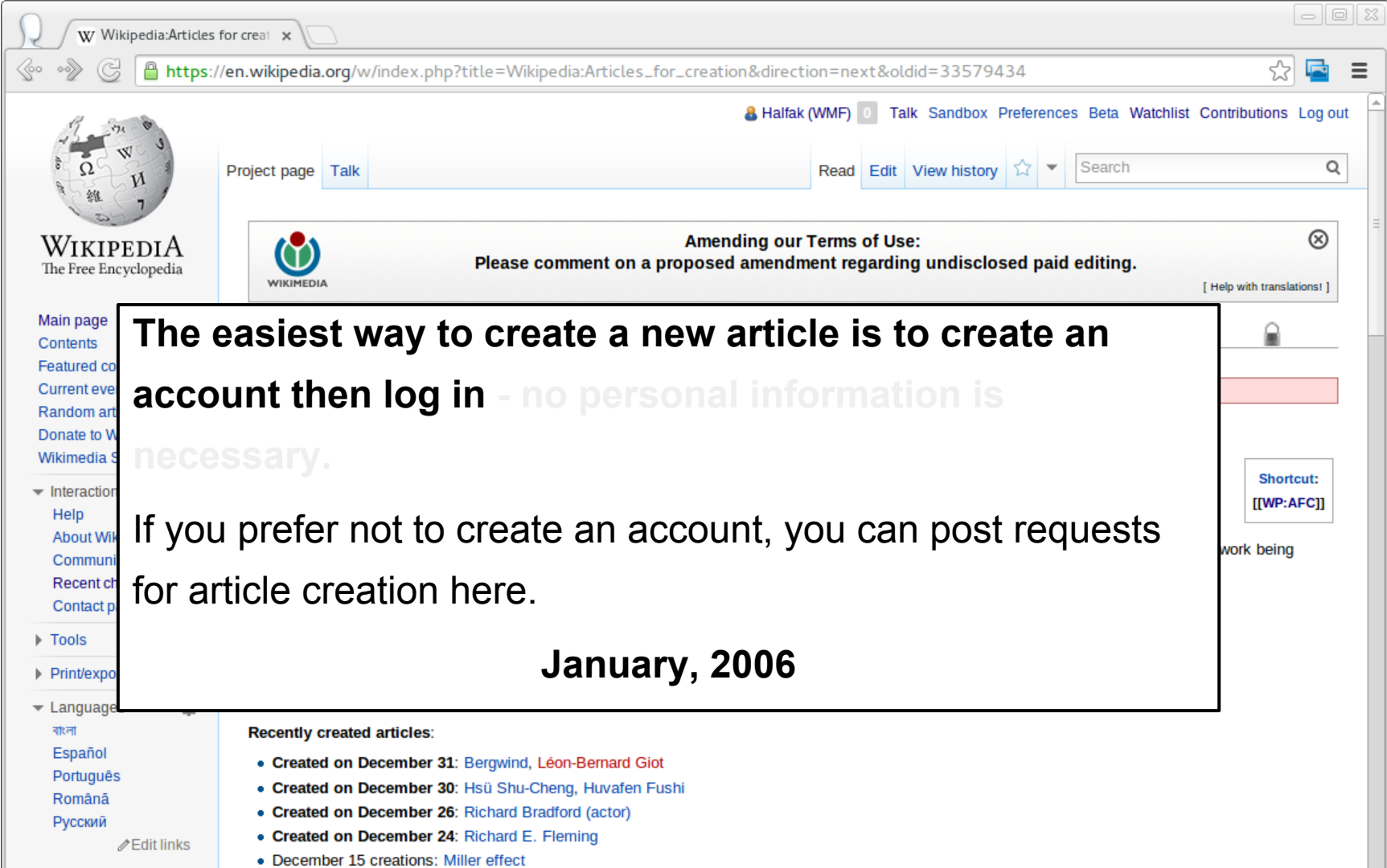
Wikipedia:Articles for creation/Today

Click here to make a proposal (don't change the text in the box above)

You can get more information on using Wikipedia at the [Welcome](#) page.

### Recently created articles:

- Created on **December 31**: [Bergwind](#), [Léon-Bernard Giot](#)
- Created on **December 30**: [Hsü Shu-Cheng](#), [Huvaŋen Fushi](#)
- Created on **December 26**: [Richard Bradford \(actor\)](#)
- Created on **December 24**: [Richard E. Fleming](#)
- December 15 creations: [Miller effect](#)



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**January, 2006**

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[ Help with translations! ]

# Wikipedia:Articles for creation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by **Masky** (talk | contribs) at 00:38, 1 February 2007. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) – Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)



This page has a **backlog** that requires the attention of willing editors.

Please remove this notice if and when the backlog is cleared.

This page allows **unregistered** and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians. The easiest way to create a new article, however, is to [create a free Wikipedia user account](#) and then [log in](#). No personal information is necessary to register, and registered users can create new articles without the hassle or delay of the Article for Creation process.

Shortcut: **[[WP:AFC]]**

If you have an idea for a good article subject, but do not want to provide text for the article, you should make an [article request](#) instead. Alternatively, if you want to discuss and plan an article go to [the drawing board](#).

### Most articles are declined... don't let this happen to you!

The majority of submitted articles are declined, because they are **not suitable for Wikipedia**. Read [Wikipedia:Your first article](#) before writing your article, to learn how to write it well and read below to avoid some common mistakes other people make.

#### Unregistered users: Submitting an article

Follow these directions to submit an article for creation.

#### Registered users: Reviewing submissions

Registered Wikipedians should follow these directions to review submitted text and create new articles.



This page allows *unregistered* and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians.

**February, 2007**

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Follow these directions to submit an article for creation.	Registered Wikipedians should follow these directions to review submitted text and create new articles.



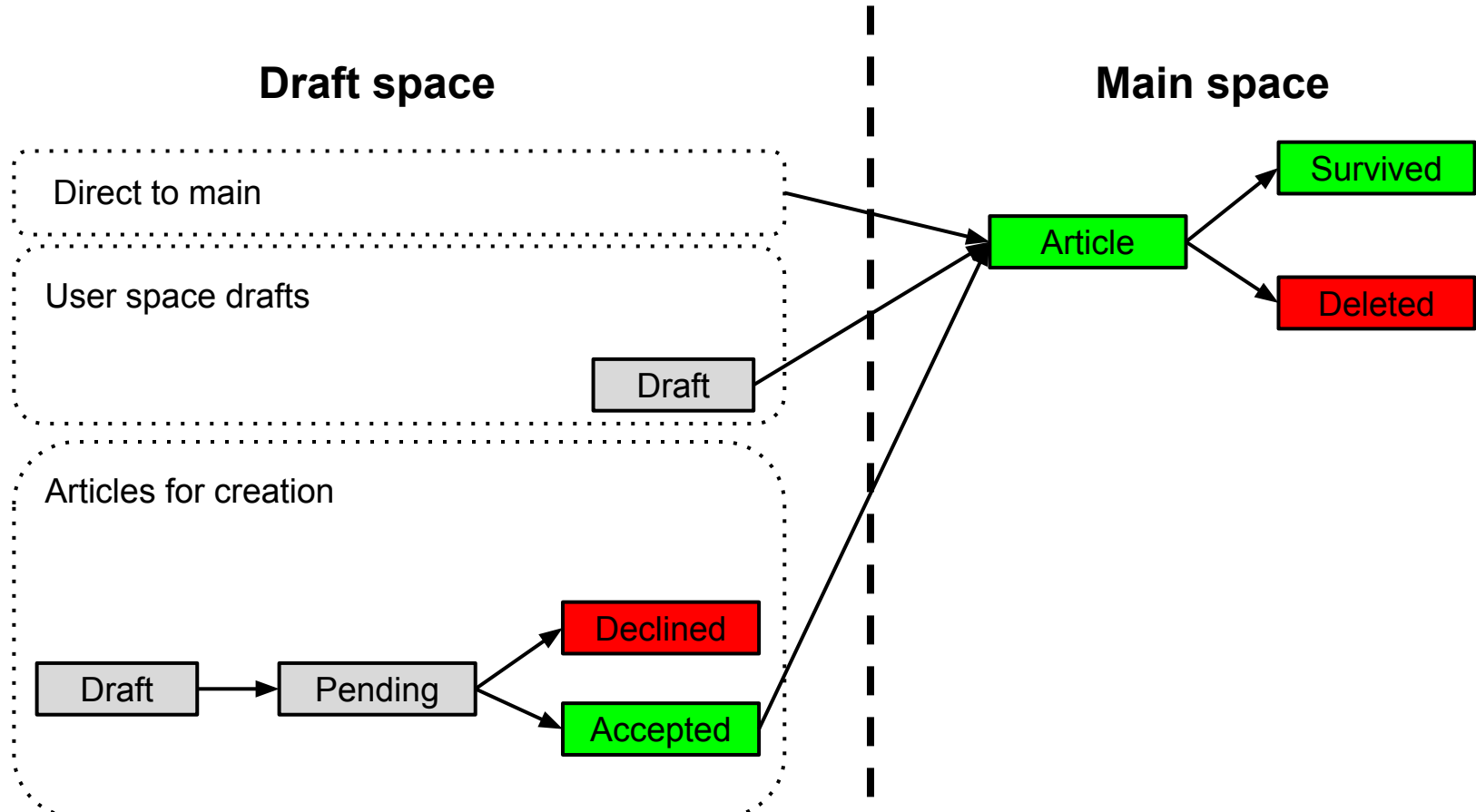
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**February, 2007**

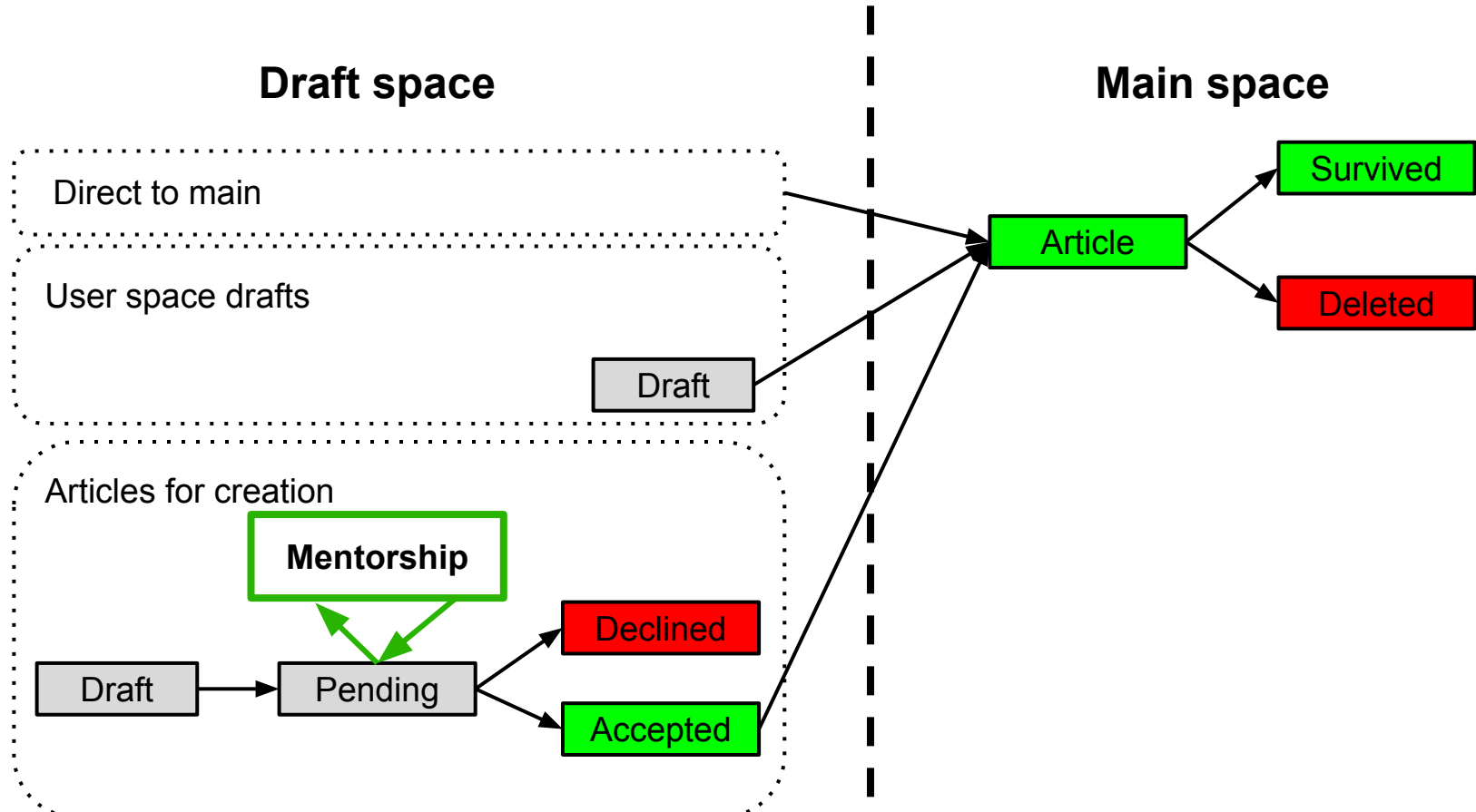
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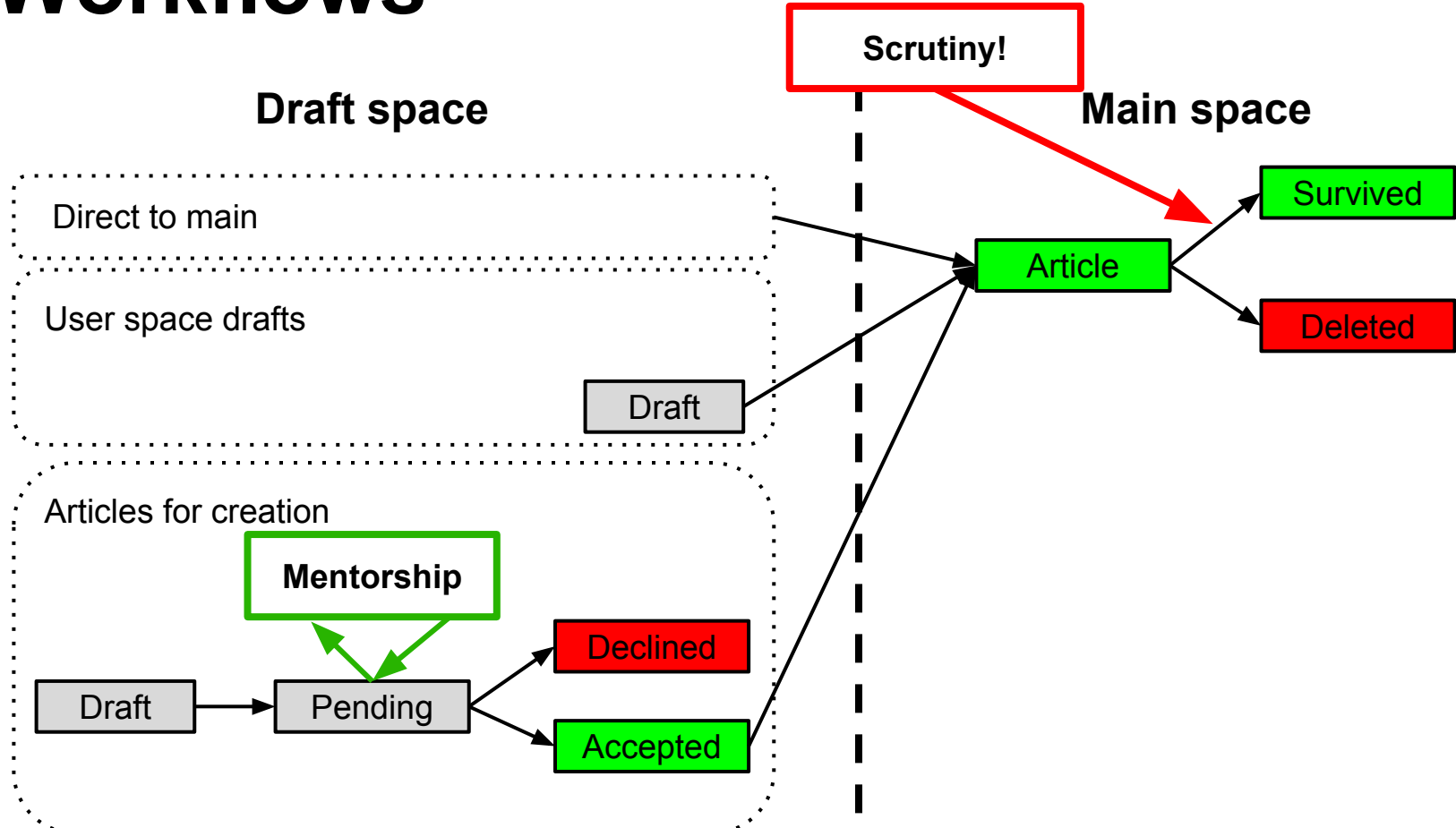
# Workflows



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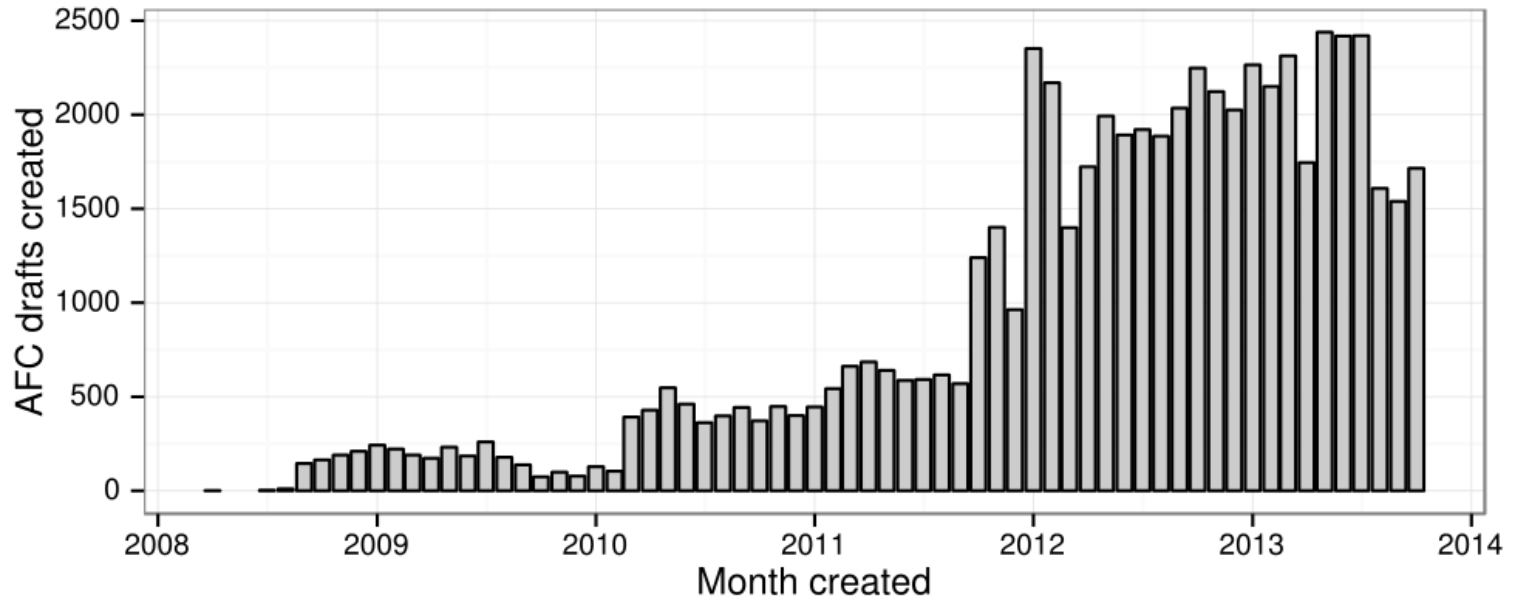
# Workflows





# Workflows

Newcomers → Articles for Creation



# Workflow examined

Main space

Draft space

AfC

English

English only

German

Portuguese

Spanish

Italian

French

Russian

Japanese

Polish

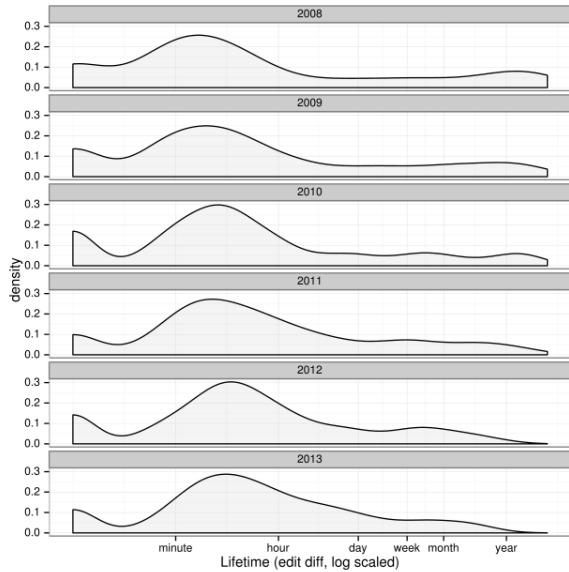
Chinese

# Part 2. Results

# Methods!

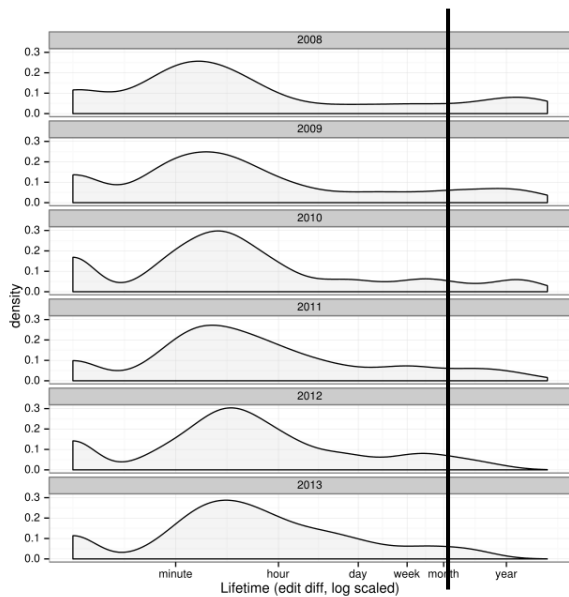
# Methods!

“surviving articles”

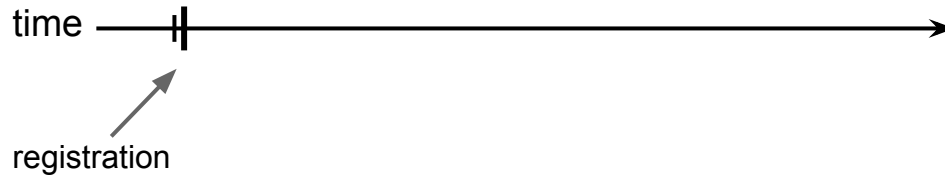


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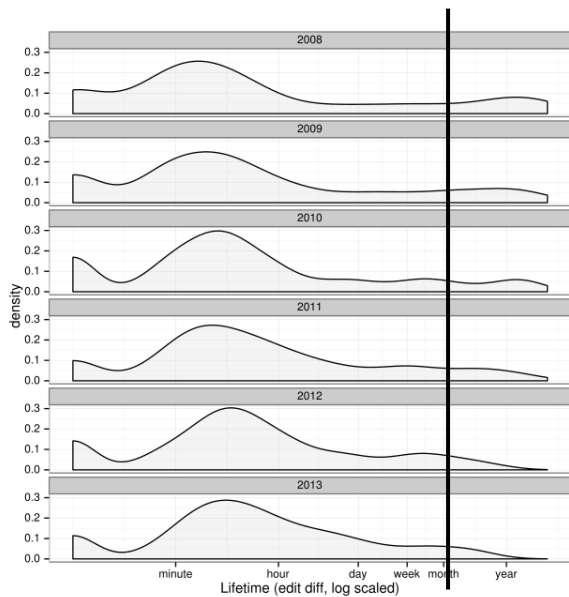


“editor classes”



# Methods!

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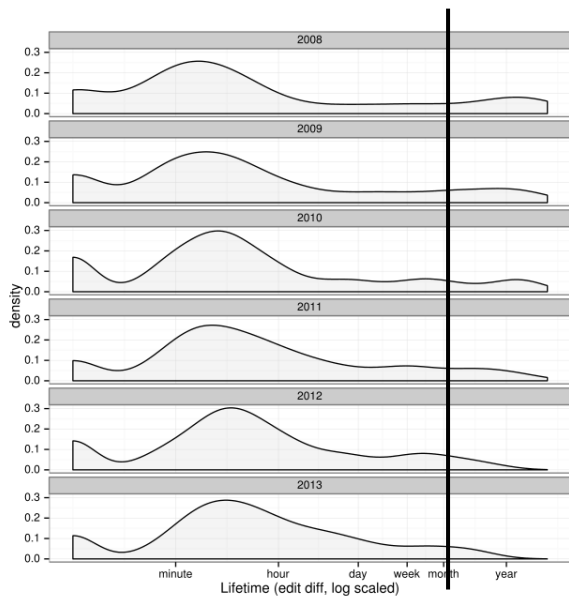


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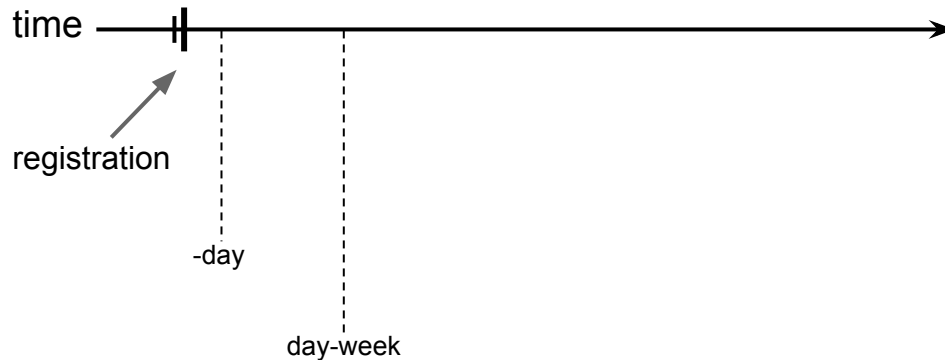


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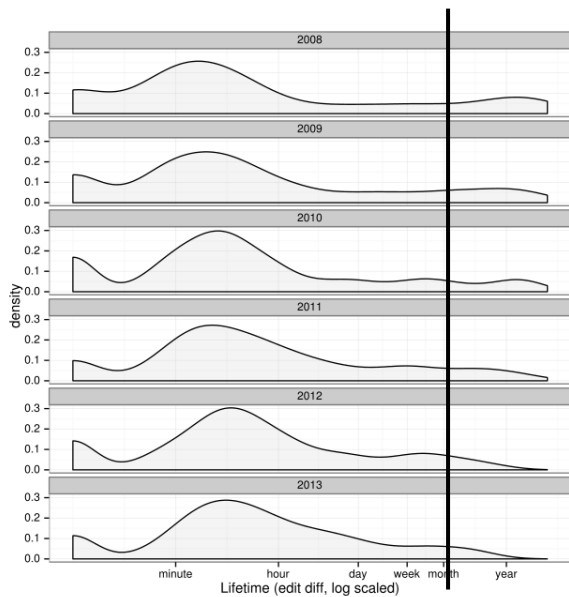
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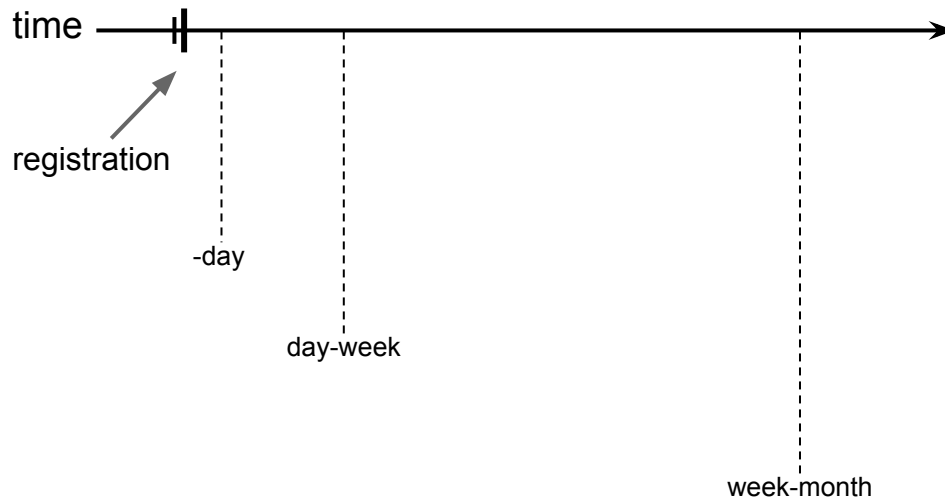


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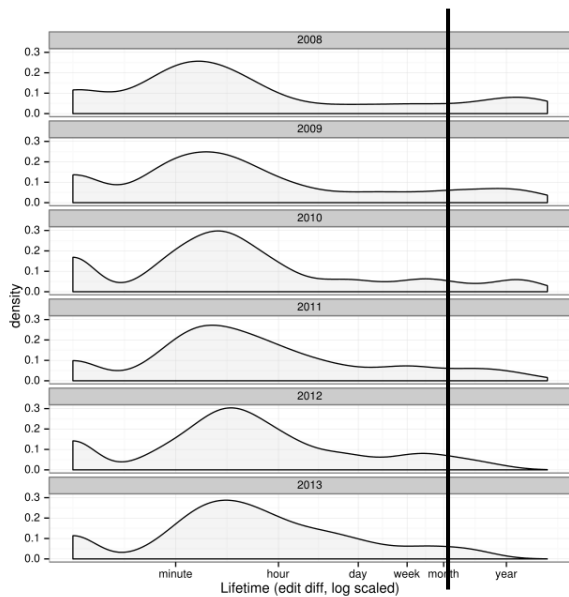


“editor classes”

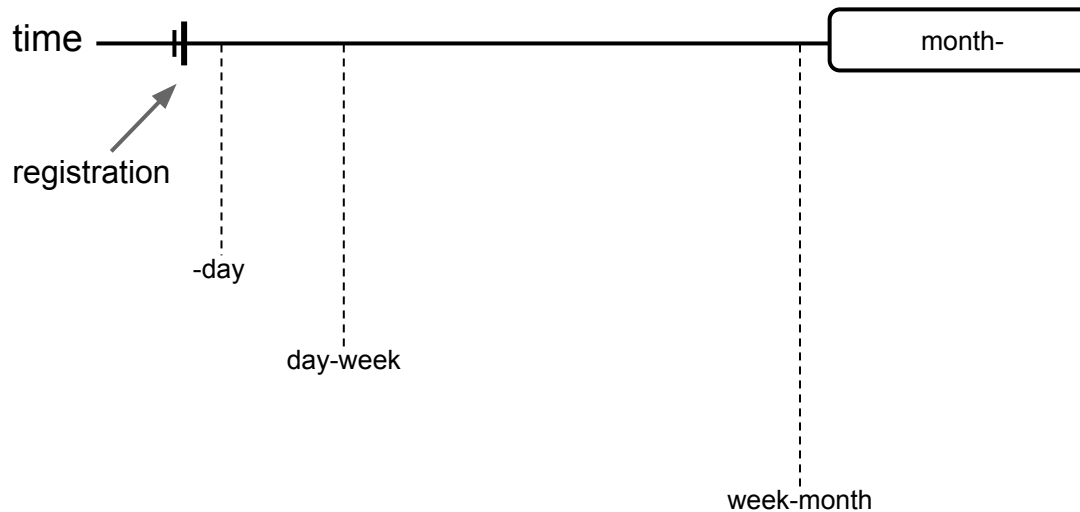


# Methods!

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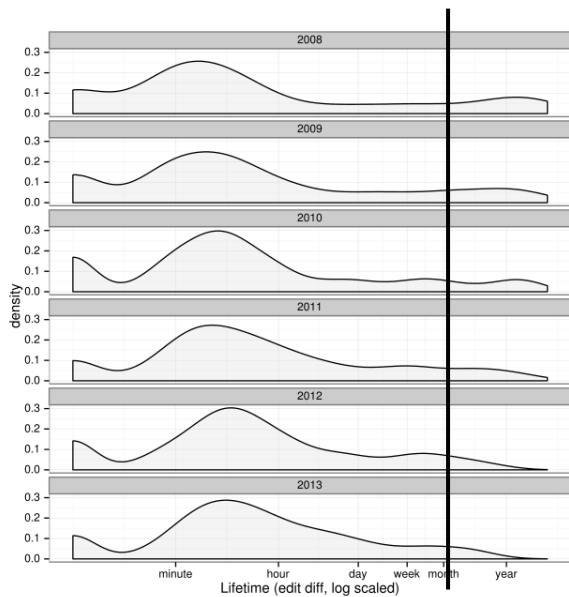


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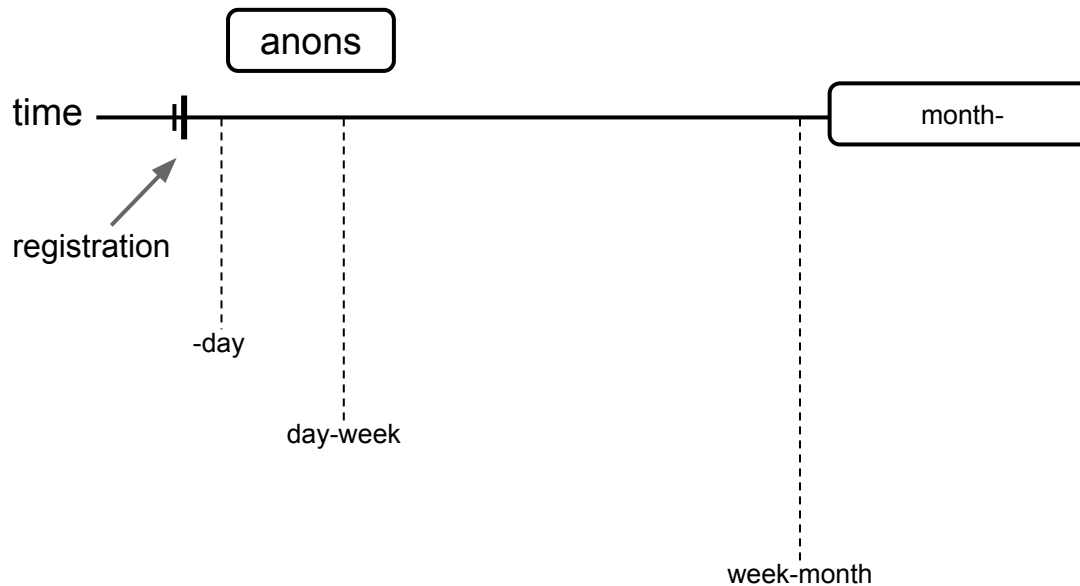


# Methods!

“surviving articles”

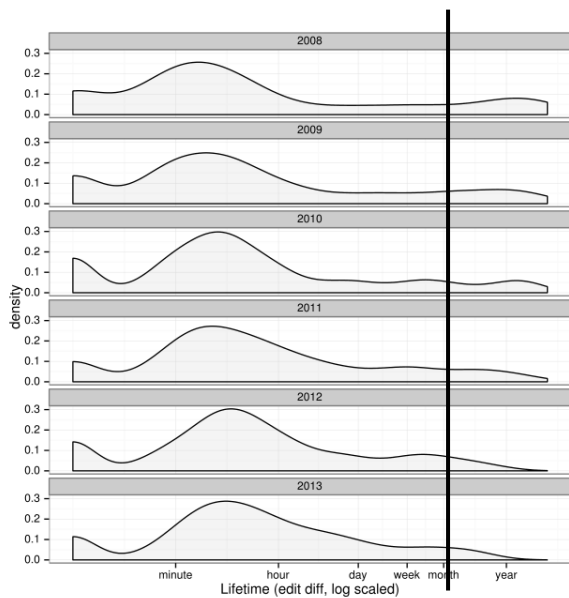


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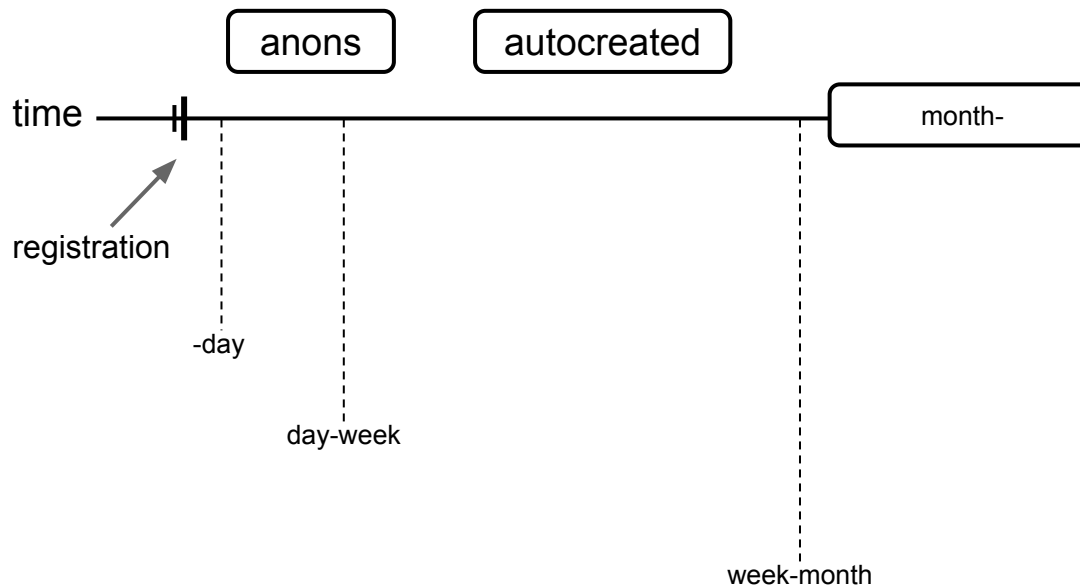


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“surviving articles”



“editor classes”

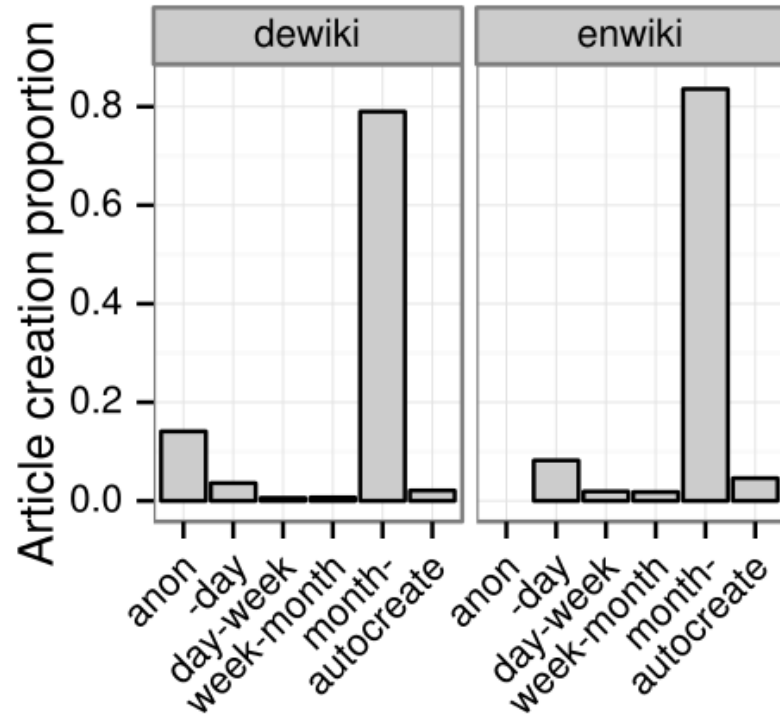


# Questions

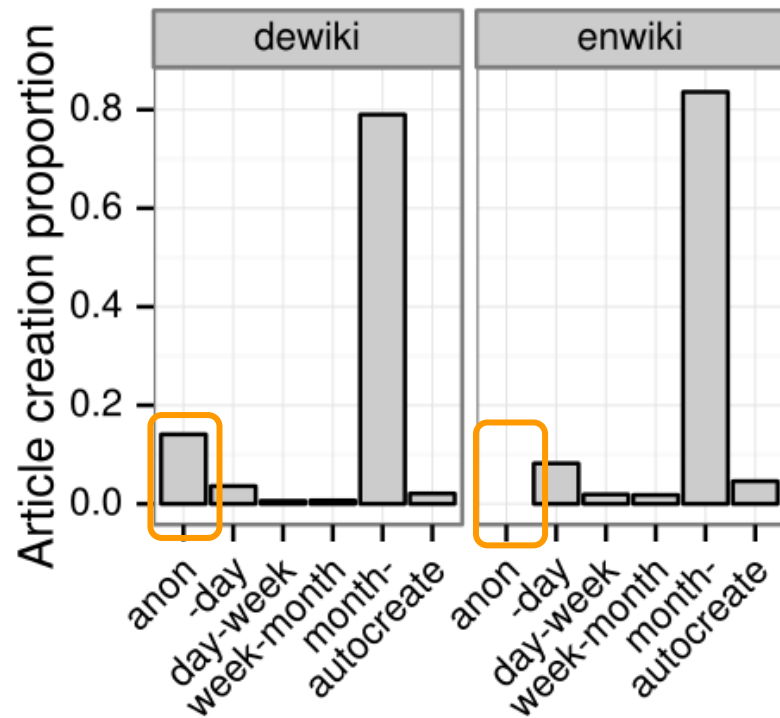
- Who's creating all the articles?
- Whose articles survive?
- What effect does the workflow have?

**Who is creating all the articles?**

# Who is creating all the articles?

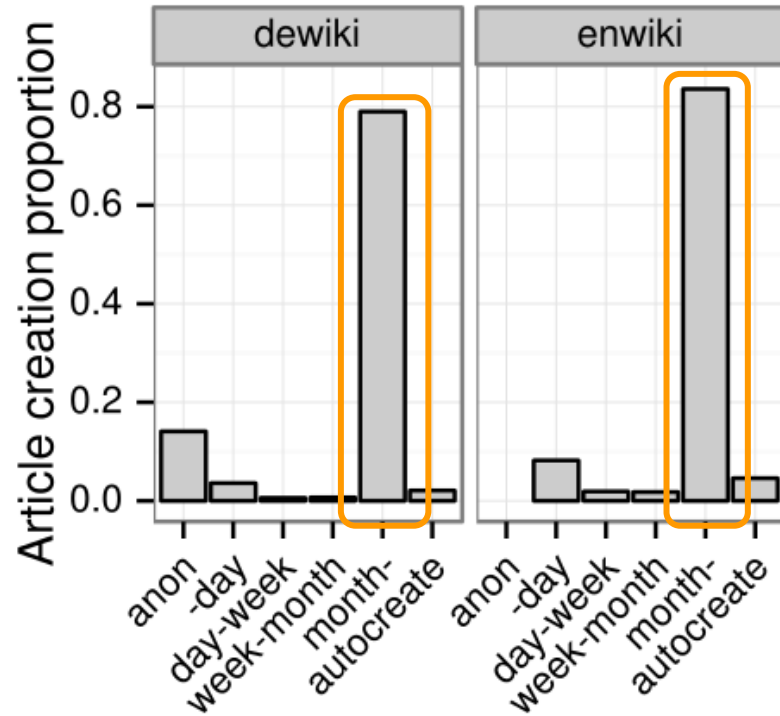


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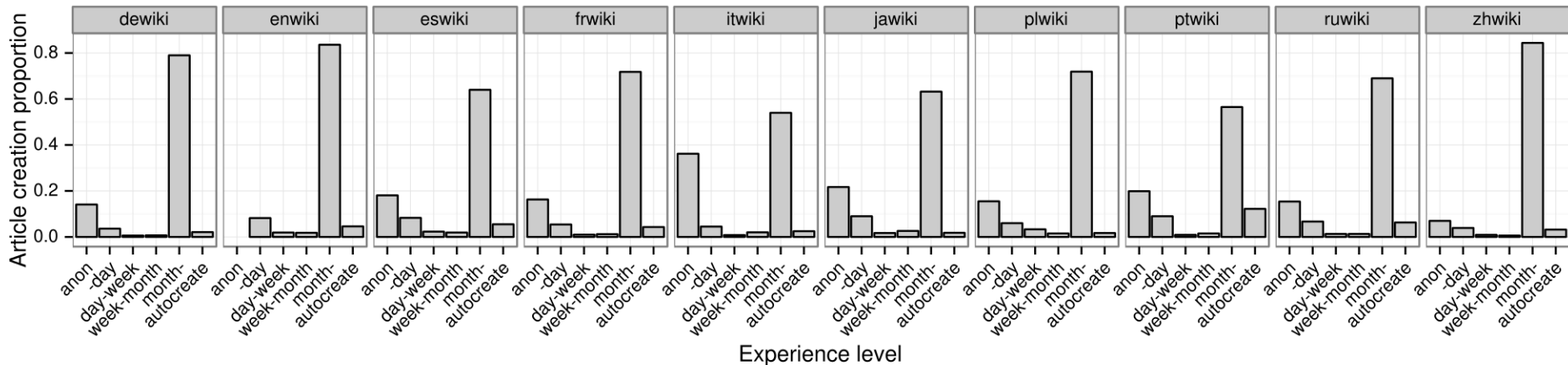




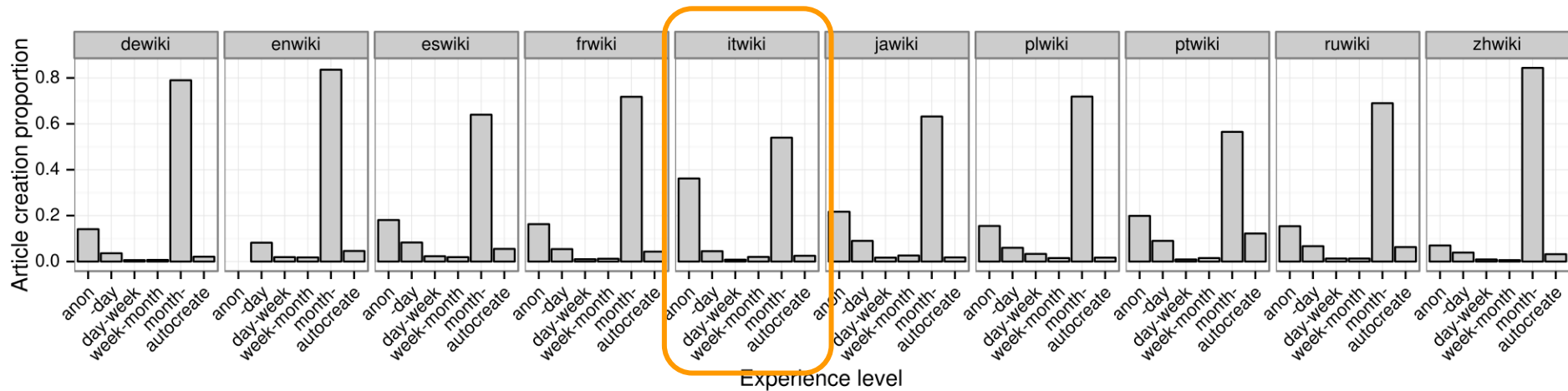
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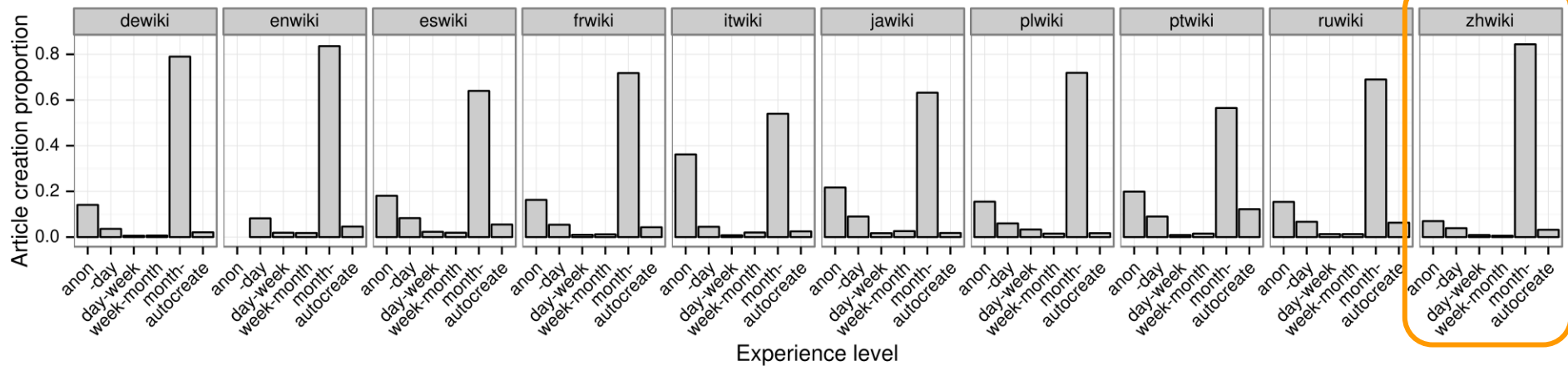
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# Who is creating all the articles?



# Who is creating all the articles?



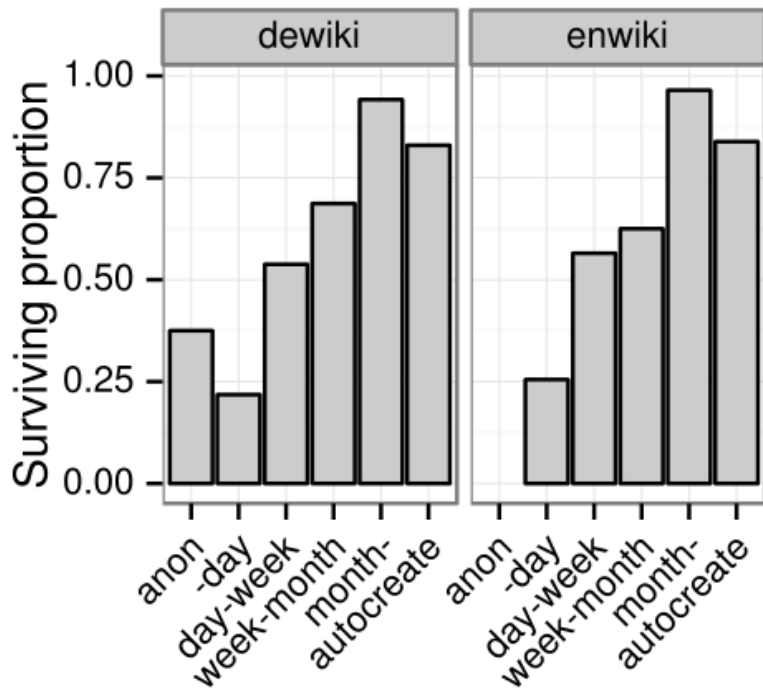
# Who is creating all the articles?

- 55-85% Experienced Wikipedians
- 5-15% Newcomers
- 10-20% Anons\*

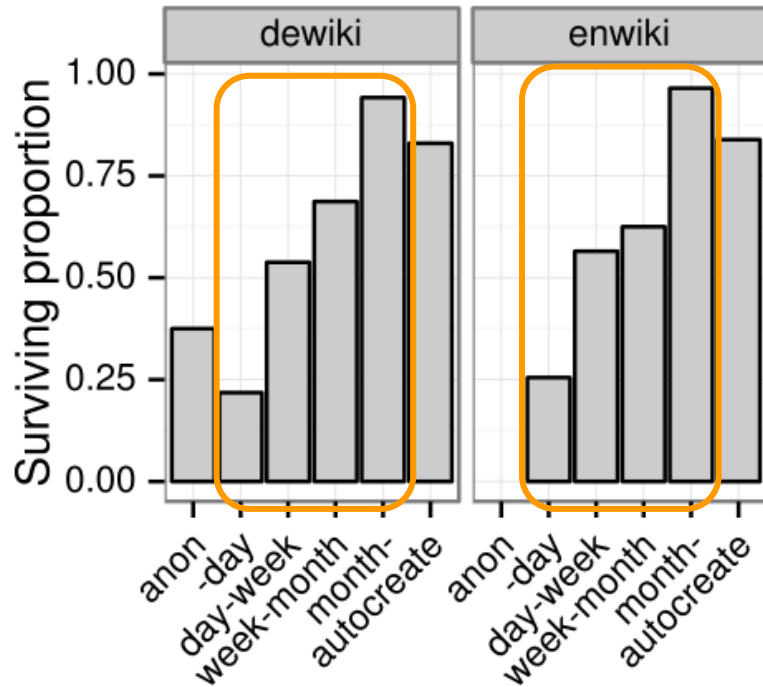
\* non-enwiki

**Whose articles survive?**

# Whose articles survive?

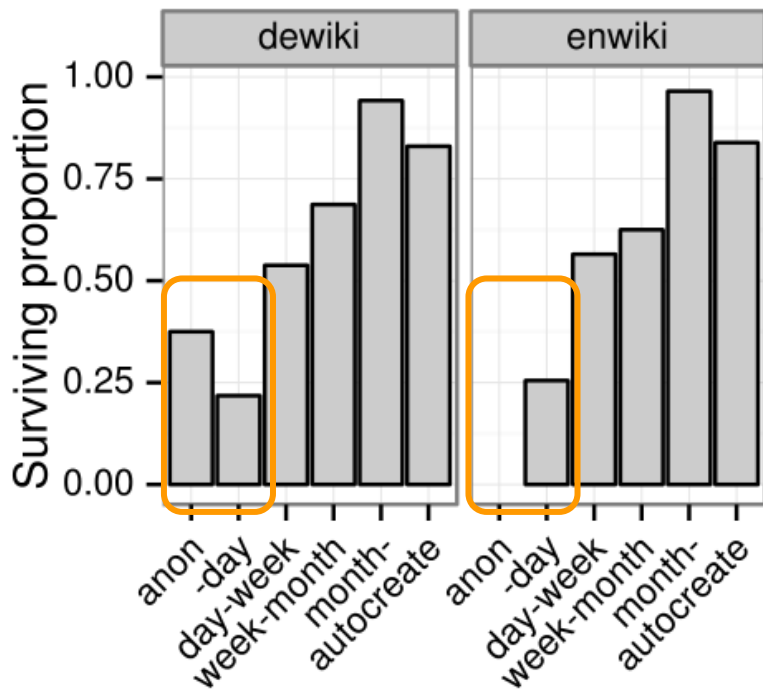


# Whose articles survive?

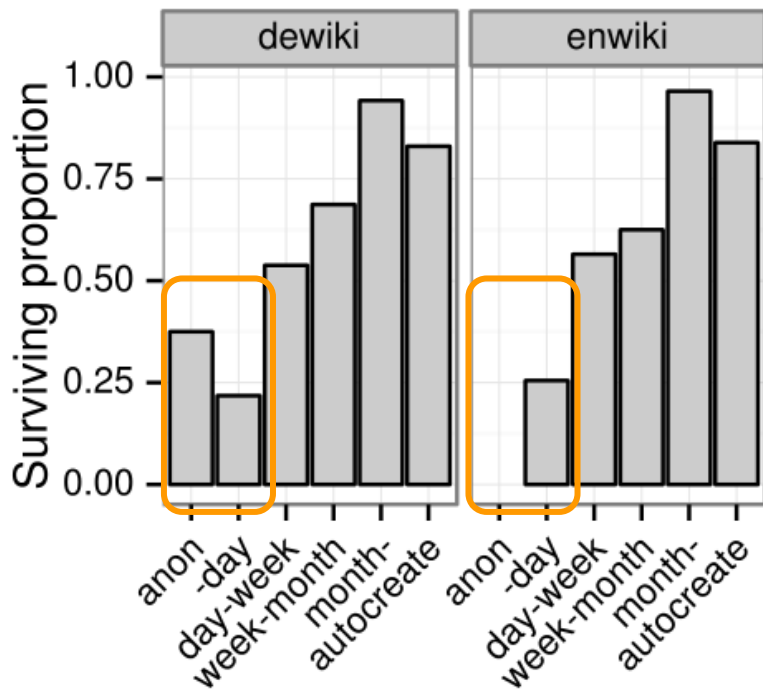




# Whose articles survive?

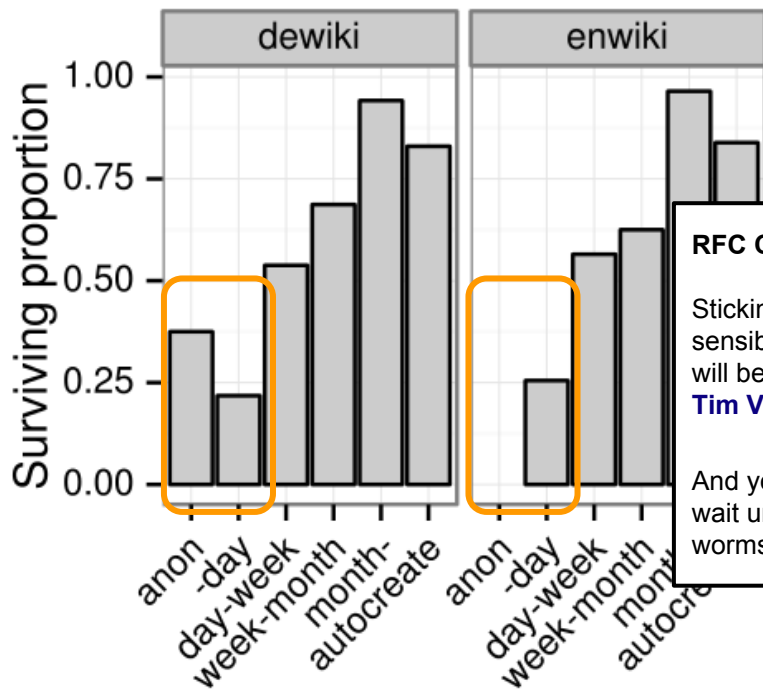


# Whose articles survive?



Wat

# Whose articles survive?



Wat

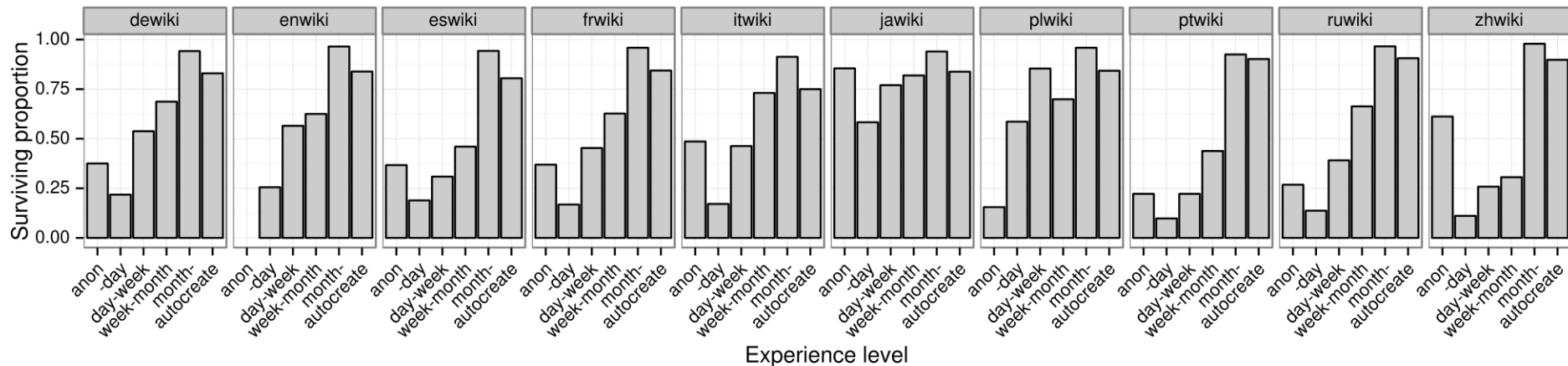
## RFC Comments:

Sticking your finger into an electric shredder is not a sensible experiment, we know exactly what the result will be and confirming the prediction will be painful. [...]

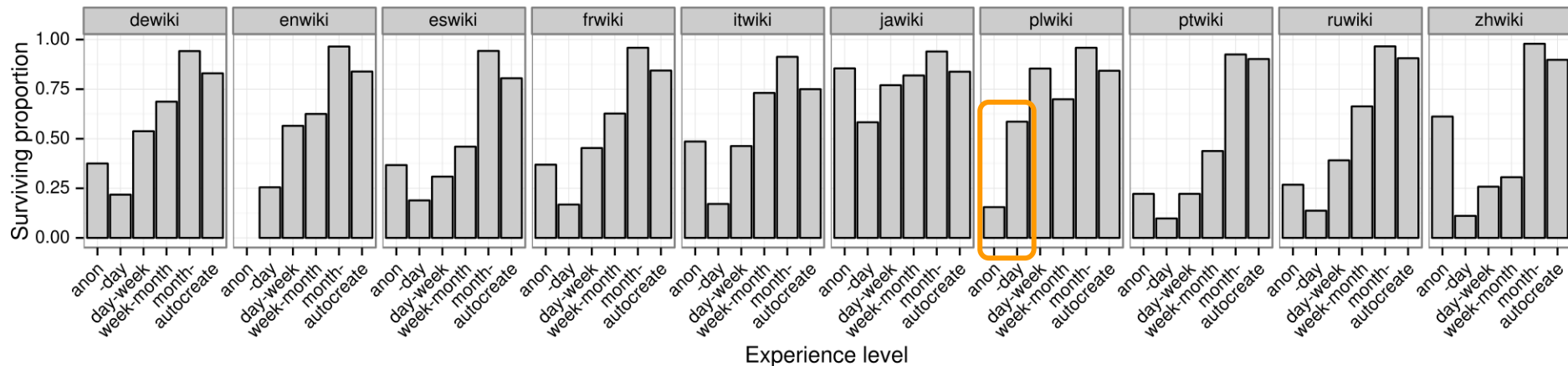
**Tim Vickers**

And you think the deletion backlogs are bad now? Just wait until IP creation is open. It's like opening big can of worms. **Miranda**

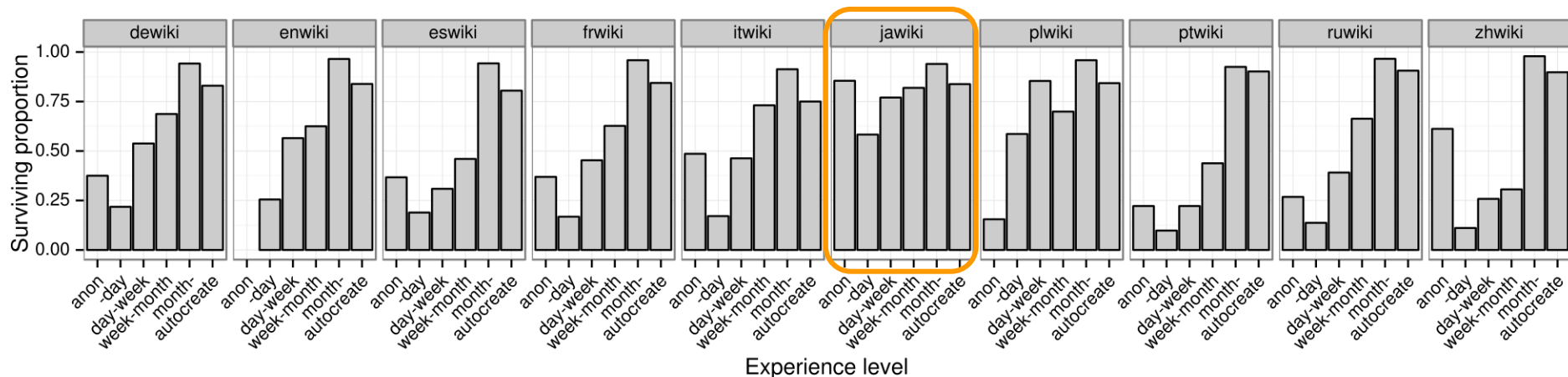
# Whose articles survive?



# Whose articles survive?



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**Whose articles survive?**

# Whose articles survive?

- More experience → More survival



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- Japanese editors (???)

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- More experience → More survival
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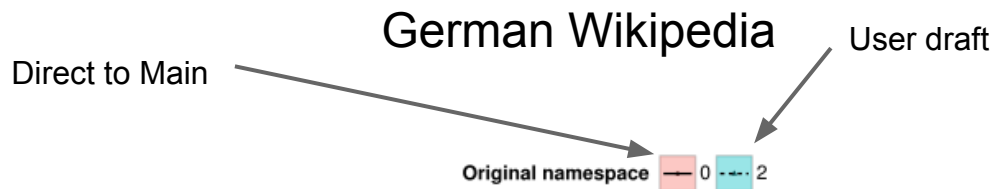
Caveats & complaints → Discussion

**What effect does the workflow have?**

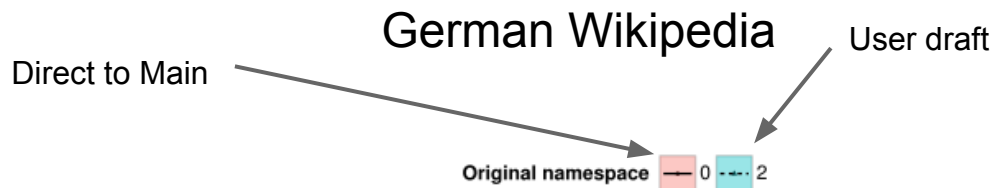
# What effect does the workflow have?

German Wikipedia

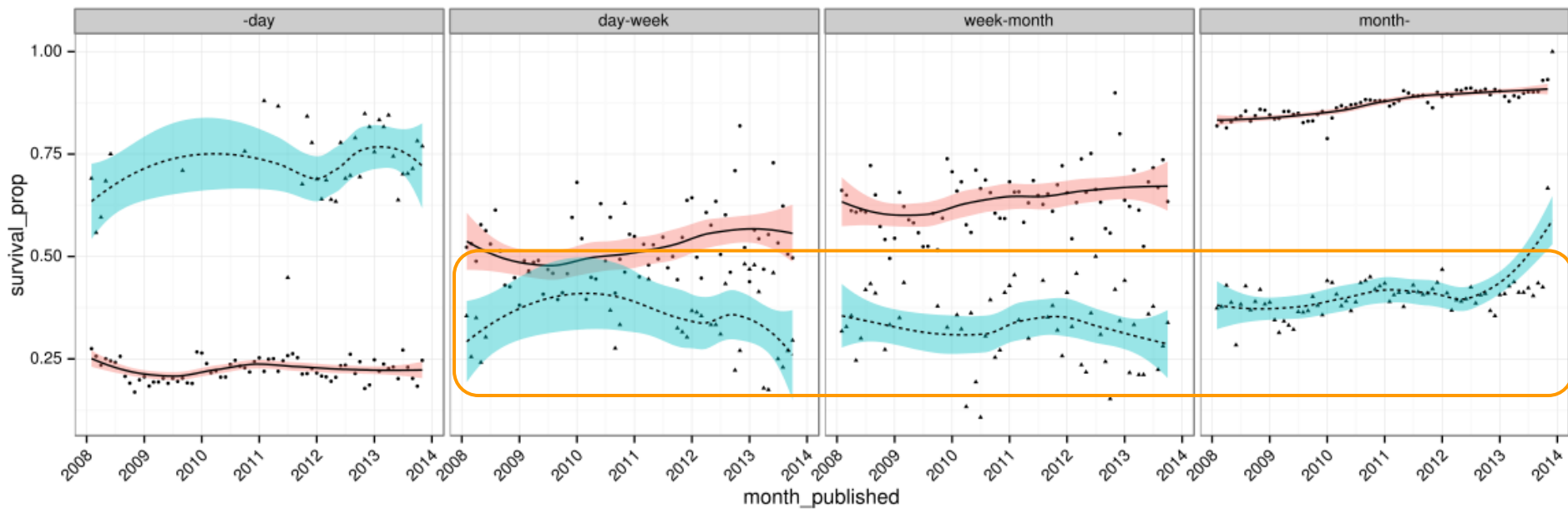
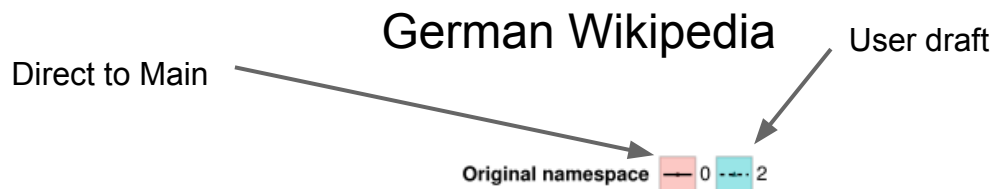
# What effect does the workflow have?



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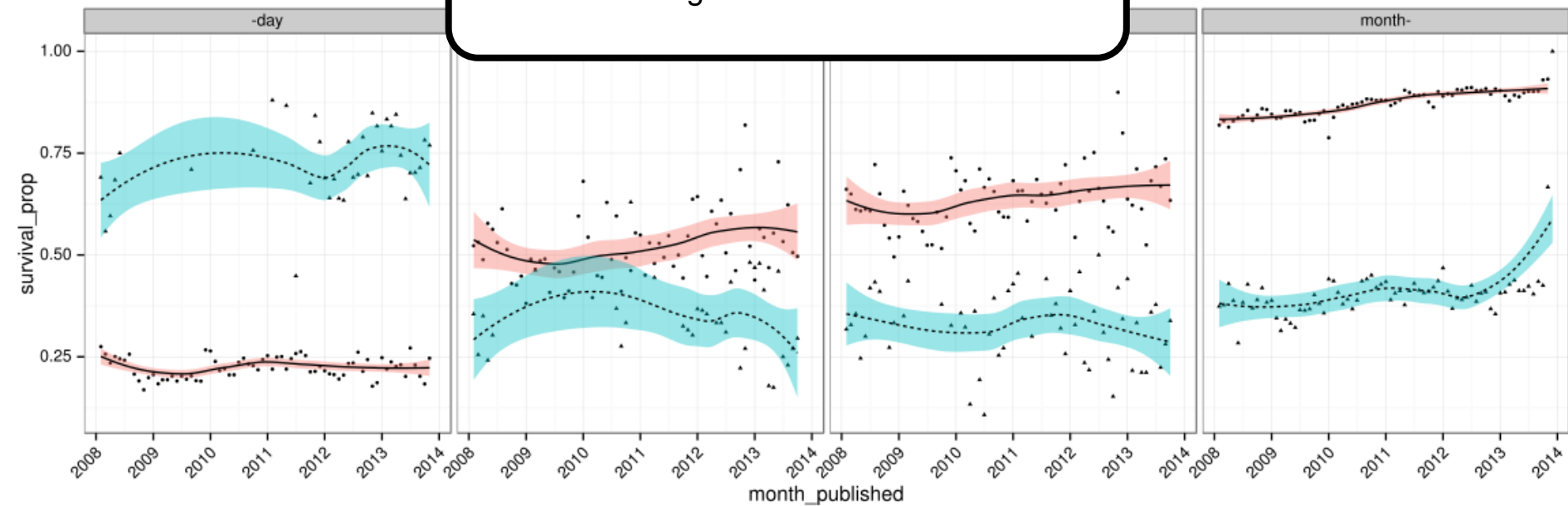
# What effect does the workflow have?

German Wikipedia

User draft

Direct to Main Page

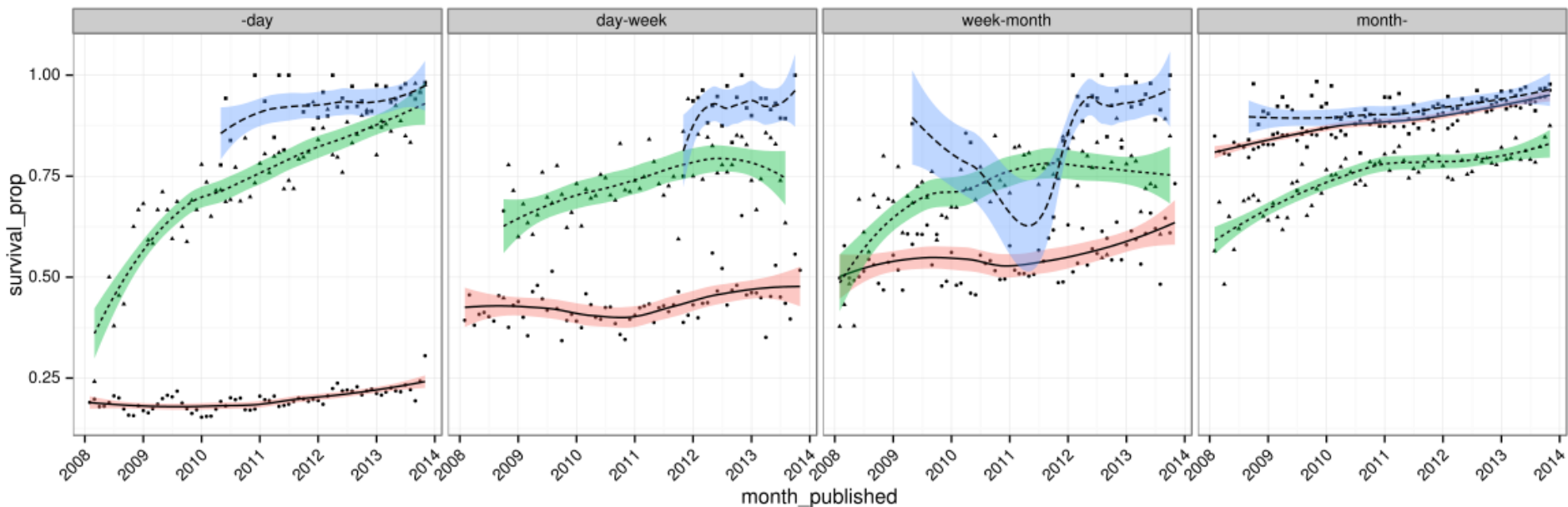
Drafts reserved for articles that might not make it? \*shrugs\*



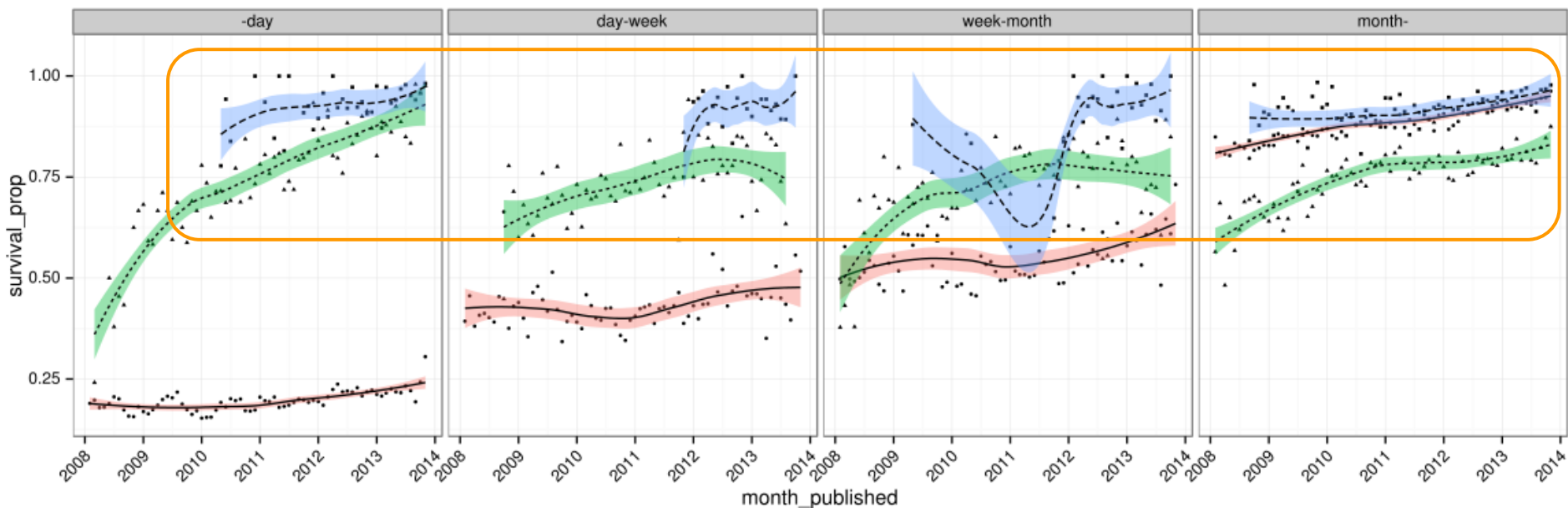
# What effect does the workflow have?

English Wikipedia

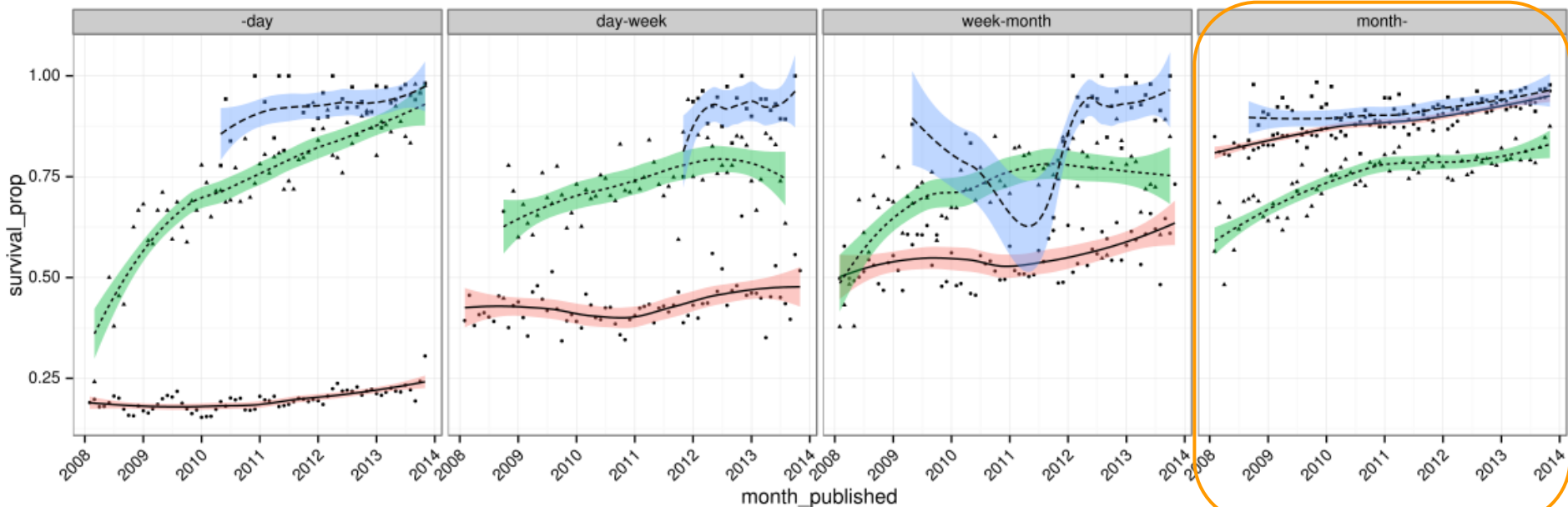
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# What effect does the workflow have?

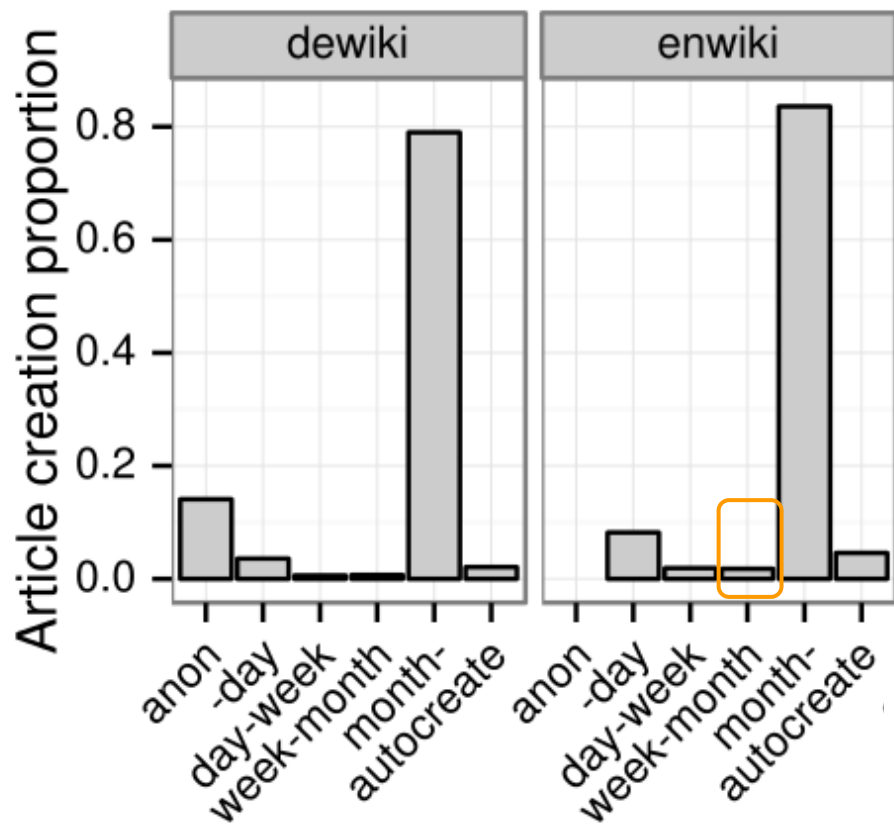


# What effect does the workflow have?

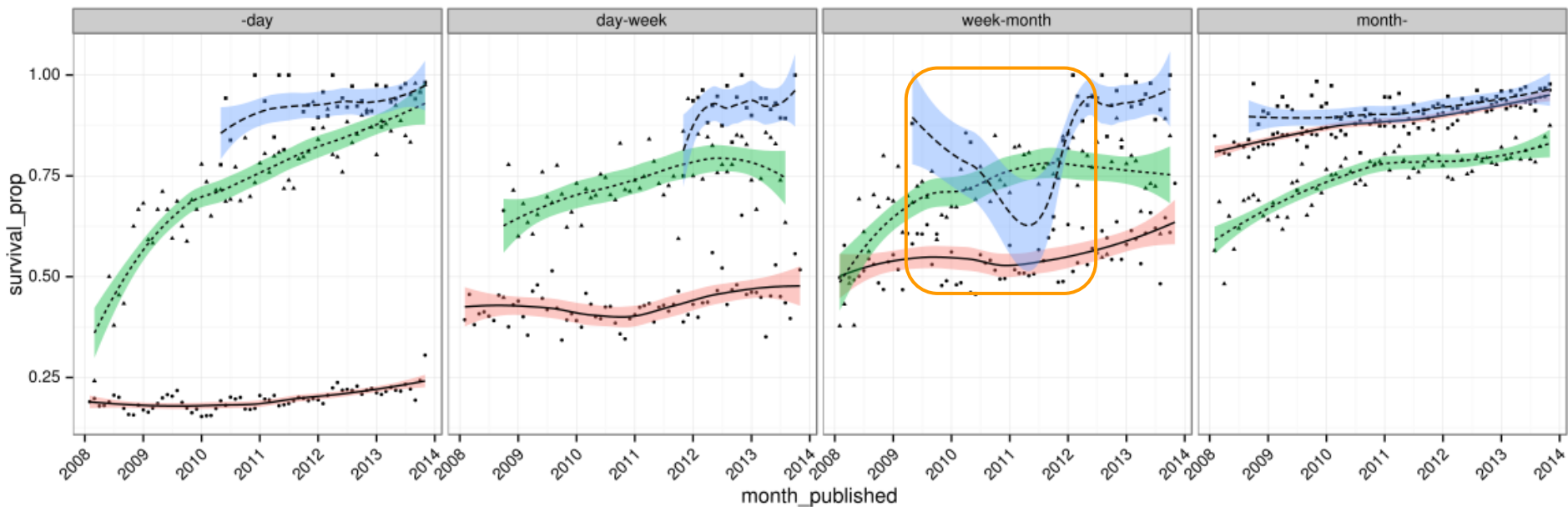


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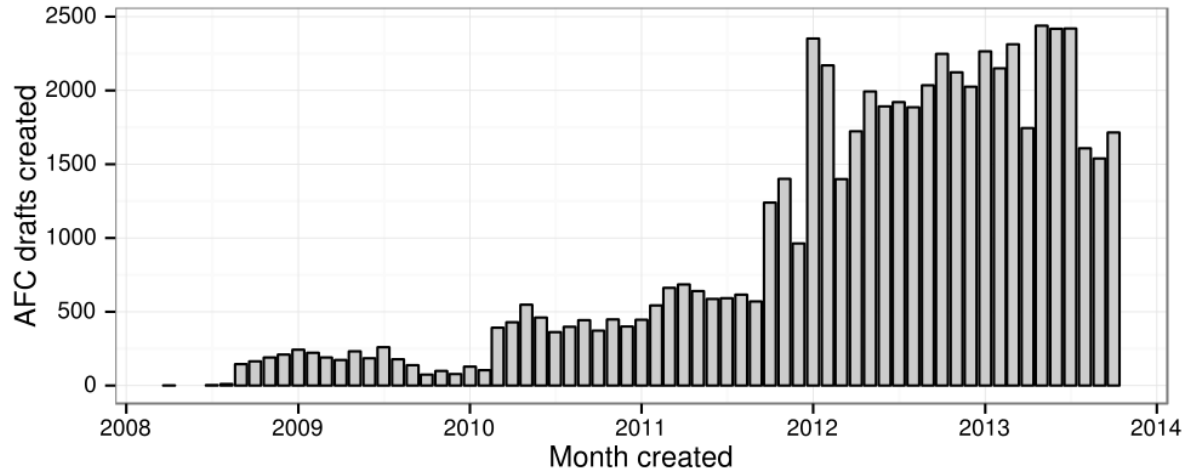


# What effect does the workflow have?

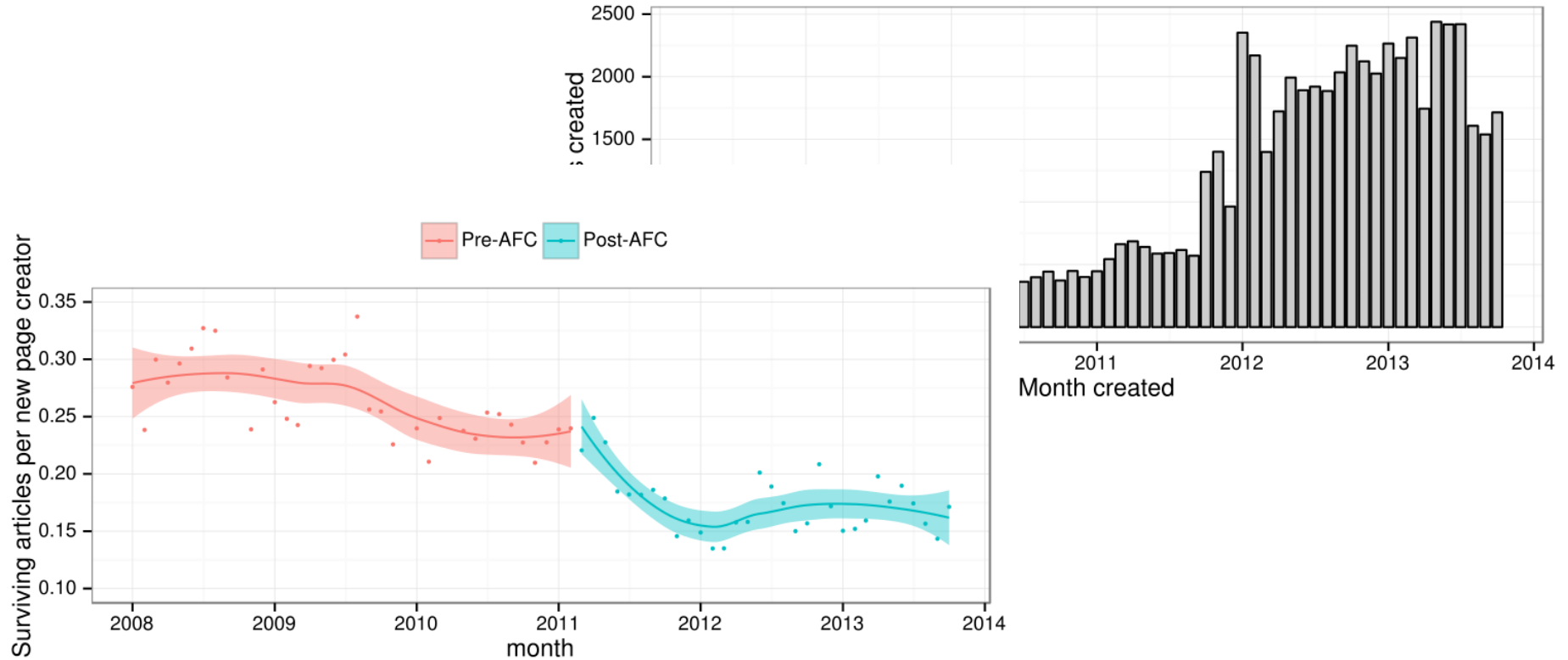




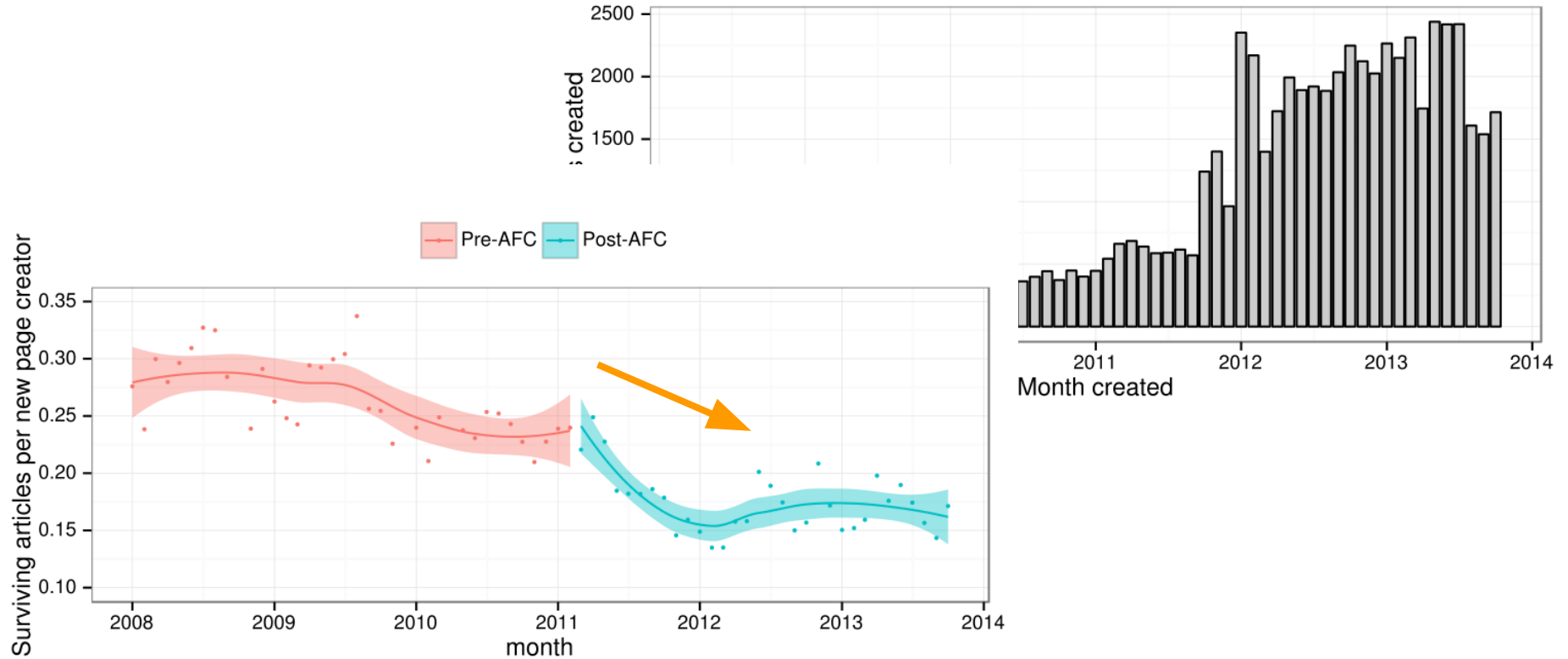
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**What effect does the workflow have?**

# What effect does the workflow have?

- Drafts → Survival\*

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  - Especially for newcomers

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- Drafts → Survival\*
  - Especially for newcomers
  - German is weird (???)
- AfC trades productivity for quality
  - Higher survival than user drafts (~95%)
  - Massive backlog slows production (~50% loss)

# **Part 3. Implications**

**Anons are better than we thought**

# Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles

# Anons are better than we thought

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  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered\* can publish

\* and autoconfirmed

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- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered\* can publish
- Better understanding of anons

\* and autoconfirmed

# Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered\* can publish
- Better understanding of anons
  - Why don't they register?

\* and autoconfirmed



# Trade productivity for quality



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The Free Encyclopedia

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Random article  
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## Wikipedia:BOLD, revert, discuss cycle

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Wikipedia:BRD](#))

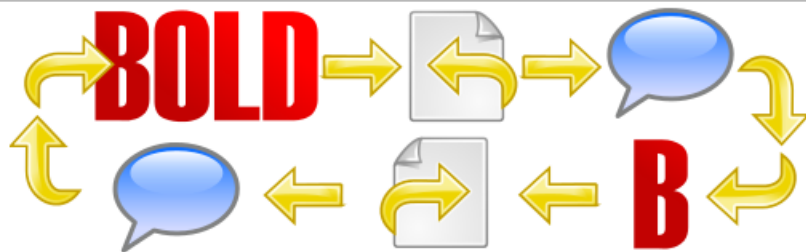


While this [essay](#) is not a [policy](#) or [guideline](#) itself, it is intended to supplement the [Wikipedia:Consensus](#) and [Wikipedia:Be bold](#) pages, which should be deferred to in case of inconsistency between that page and this one.

Shortcut:  
[WP:BRD](#)  
[WP:BRDC](#)  
[WP:CYCLE](#)



**This page in a nutshell:** Making **bold edits** is encouraged, as it will result in either improving an article, or stimulating discussion. Therefore, if your edit gets **reverted**, do not revert again. Instead, use the opportunity to begin a **discussion** with the interested parties to establish **consensus**.



The **BOLD, revert, discuss cycle (BRD)** is a [proactive](#) method of reaching consensus. It can sometimes be useful for identifying objections, keeping discussion moving forward and help towards breaking deadlocks. *Care and diplomacy should be exercised. Some editors will see any reversion as a challenge, so be considerate and patient.*

Wikipedia:BOLD, revert, di x

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:BRD

Halfak (WMF) 0 Talk Sandbox Preferences Beta Watchlist Contributions Log out

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**1. Boldly** do what you think is right

**2.** If someone disagrees, they will **revert**

**3.** Have a **discussion** about what to do

Shortcut:  
WP:BRD  
WP:BRDC  
WP:CYCLE

improving an article, or  
lead, use the opportunity

The **BOLD, revert, discuss cycle (BRD)** is a [proactive](#) method of reaching consensus. It can sometimes be useful for identifying objections, keeping discussion moving forward and help towards breaking deadlocks. *Care and diplomacy should be exercised. Some editors will see any reversion as a challenge, so be considerate and patient.*

# Trade productivity for quality

- Insight of WP:BRD

# Trade productivity for quality

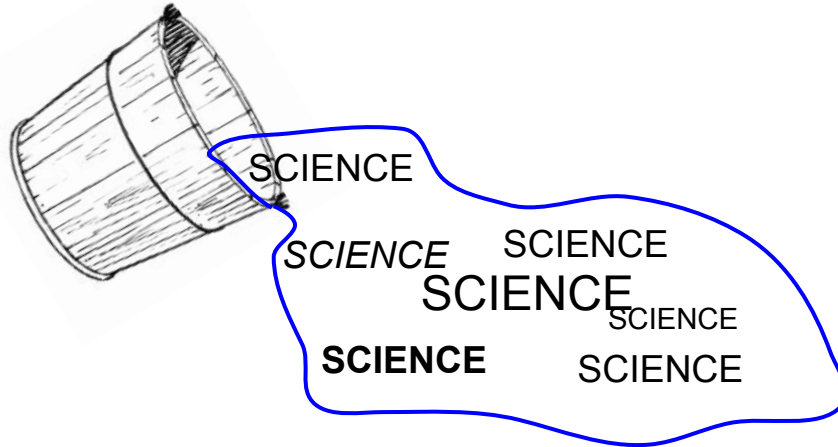
- Insight of WP:BRD
  - Most people will do the right thing if you let them

# Trade productivity for quality

- Insight of WP:BRD
  - Most people will do the right thing if you let them
  
- Workflow designers/developers
  - Beware the backlog

# Thanks

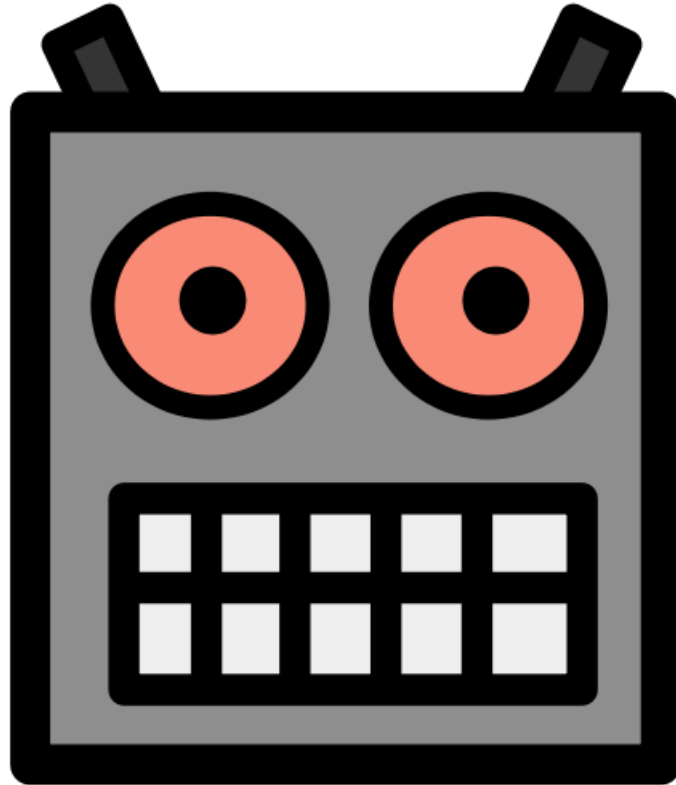
Aaron Halfaker  
[ahalfaker@wikimedia.org](mailto:ahalfaker@wikimedia.org)  
“halfak” on IRC



## Wikipedia article creation

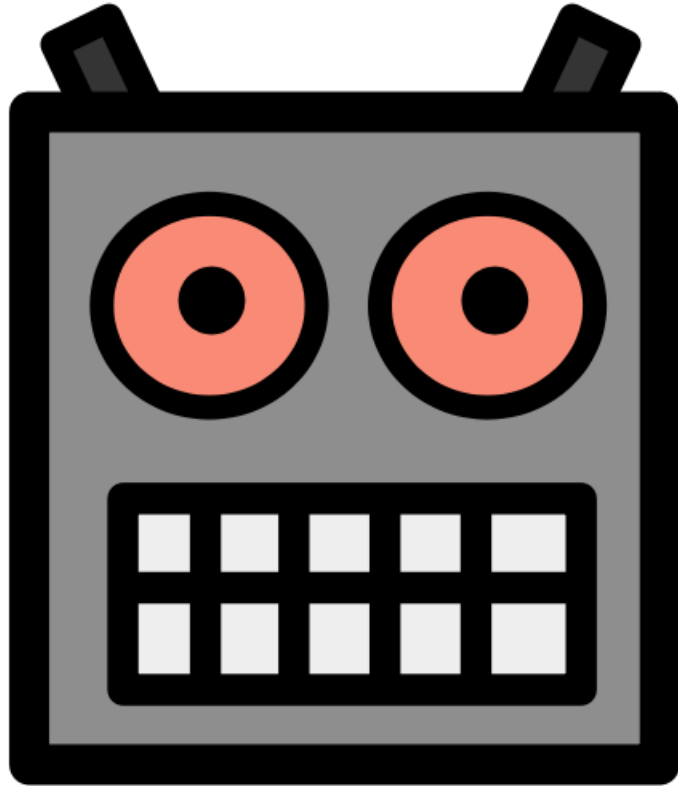
Full report: [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Wikipedia\\_article\\_creation](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Wikipedia_article_creation)

You went too far.  
**GO BACK!**





**NO!**



STAHP

