

Notes from the Wikimedia Summit 2024 online engagement sessions (Etherpad & chat)

== Introduction & Framing ==

How do global decisions affect your affiliate?

Affiliation

- Who do we work with inside the movement
- Visibility of affiliates and their progression of intent
- Affiliations could help for better contribution
- Creating a new hub
- Creating thematic hubs
- Multiplication d'affiliés sur un même territoire, avec un risque de conflits
- Leadership development/skills infra within affiliates/UGs
- Where do thematic orgs belong?
- Too many affiliations
- Affiliation help to get along with the lowest group
- Affiliation inherently should have more value, not just participation
- The availability of adequate reporting platforms determine how difficult and work-intensive activity reporting is
- tools and platforms available to your user group
- cross-learning between affiliates, local fundraising for sustainability
- There is the open question of whether being a recognized affiliate versus not, would make any difference (money wise, decision making wise etc.)
- affiliations to ensure intergenerational legacies
- My affiliate organization might receive or give small grants, and this should be done in a legitimate accountable wise way
- add BRAND (ab)USE as resource management in affiliation
- Affiliation is an interesting topic to investigate, sometimes some affiliates do not have the same means of audit than a chapter has (or at least feels like that?)
- Many affiliates struggle with internal governance and financial management skills. It is so hard as many people start their efforts by contributing to Wikipedia without knowing clearly how to do the governance parts. They want to be good members of the community and need support. This governance work is helpful

Money

- vast majority of chapter finances is in the form of Foundation grants
- Who receives money on behalf of an affiliate and how such money is being used
- Ability to receive grants
- Scholarships
- accès aux fonds programmatiques
- How much is my region going to touch during the next round

- Ability to make a change using the funds we raise
- Distribution
- ability to make decisions about who gets paid/hired
- The affiliation budgets determine a lot the types of projects that one can execute
- How they distributed the money and how they do it
- The lack of transparency in how they distribute the money
- How money is used for the betterment of communities
- Challenges in getting money in India and SARC
- 1 year funding vs 3 years made a big difference
- Multi Year grants enable my chapter to develop as an organization - the set of rules that govern this kind of money distribution within the movement is crucial to our financial planning
- Get a grant is vital for my UG survival
- Division of funds between regions and affiliates
- Money is relevant for every affiliate, as how money from donors is distributed can help to understand how we work. We are trying to apply for a multi year grant
- my affiliate has no significant history of discussing or accessing Wikimedia Movement funds
- Allocation of funds is of critical importance to most organizations in our movement
- the decisions are limiting how effectively we can work, e.g. how easily it is to receive money from WMF, or how easy is to help WMF to adapt its behavior to be align with its promises
- which affiliates can run the donation banners is an important issue
- For several years we had frozen funds, and since 2 years ago we have been able to start growing. I think we need more support to be able to continue to grow and to be able to fundraise on our own as well
- we largely depend on WMF decisions for the most of those when it comes to the broad rules we have to operate within as WMF grants is our main source of financing
- Money decisions are relevant... How affiliates are funded, and how to ensure the funding is aligned with the movement strategy
- my affiliate received the grant with rapid grand or general fund and it allowed us to carry out useful projects
- Well our chapter's budget is obviously affected by this decisions. It is important to make these decisions in a transparent way and that they adhere to movement priorities
- How money can be delivered to my affiliate
- Shifting funding priorities can be a challenge sometimes e.g. for WikiConference North America in 2019, the Foundation wasn't able to provide their typical conference funding for us so we had to find external partners for funding and support (which ended up working out very well)

Technology

- technology decisions impact if things that the smaller languages need are being prioritized or not..
- many chapters do not have resources to develop their own technical solutions and have to rely on Foundation/other affiliates (like WMDE)

- When tech decisions are made on a particular technology to use without consideration on the end user capacity, usability really affects. And end up not being useful to to the lack of compatibility
- As user group we rely mostly on technology provided by WMF
- a focus on technology that is not inclusive
- new vector skin repelling editors
- Tech is related with UX, is quite relevant
- to work independently , to do tech innovations, preparing own useful tool
- Tech that supports activities
- In our UG we have option to select several scripts, although it is a good thing, sometimes it is distracting
- All development and change of the infrastructure important for the local projects, sometimes more influence of the development direction would be useful
- The technology of tomorrow needs to be localized and socialized today. Individuals do not have access to either the technology or the places of technology
- How technology supports non-Latin script, how it should be prioritized to be inclusive for presentation of knowledge
- How technology is improved
- I am equally looking interested in how technology supports virtually impaired contributors and how it should be prioritized to support inclusion
- Which Projects are made a priority?
- Technology is really relevant: most of the decisions are not taken in a transparent way, even some of them go against the strategic direction
- it's important for our local community to be able to contribute to the development of technological aspects of the Movement - things like Community Wishlist is a good way to channel this need
- Processes like the Wishlist are completely broken: there's no way to contribute in a logical way, democracy is broken and the WMF goes in a totally wild direction on this
- Small wiki communities have different Tech needs than larger ones - lack of Professional support when volunteers struggle
- The Wikimedia Stewards User Group deals with highly specialized tools. We need support from external bodies like WMF to serve the community in our elected roles.
- my affiliate is eager to try out translation tools, which appear from time to time, but have unpredictable development
- We need to re-imagine our technology, so they can better serve our mission and the open-knowledge ecosystem. In general, we need to democratize how our tech priorities are defined and to establish maintenance strategies for our basic infrastructure given a community/social compass point
- WMF decisions on technology is what influences the projects we talk about, although we self-manage some of our own infra, as to affiliation, again broad rules are WMF boundaries based, but we do constantly discuss what Bylaws or policies changes we need to do internally
- Technology changes have been tough for our members. Takes a lot of effort to open a conversation about it since they are by default against changes.

Others

- Being able to make more activities and more support
- Ability to Support affiliates
- Ease of use
- Blockage d'utilisateurs lors d'éditathon
- Communication ability is affected
- Knowledge equity
- our ability to realize our group's mission around the world / gain adoption and partnership from other entities in the world
- Responsibility, accountability...
- Having policing and engaging with community
- Principles of transparency
- Bilateral cooperation w/ other groups
- Sustained growth. Interest from volunteers is not an unlimited resource.
- Sustainability of communities and affiliates
- How tools are used across multiple projects so that we do not "reinvent the wheel"?
- Governance to me means representation that is aimed at achieving or advancing established agendas