# An Oral Wikipedia – A dream or reality?

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# Context

- Not all languages are written
  - Different reasons – Historical – Cultural – Political
  - Do they deserve to have their Wikipedia?

- Wikimedia Vision:
  - "Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment."
  - Are the non-written languages part of the knowledge? To what extent?
    - Some consider them as a "knowledge" or a "content"
    - While others support having them as the tool transmitting information.

# Context

- Wikimedia background is shaped by the West.
  - Western languages had the time and opportunity to be written, standardized and developed, at the expense (sometimes) of other languages.
  - Debate on the Oral sources.

- Writing is only one way of documenting
  - Internet started written in the 60's, but we are now in 2019.
  - What about the other ones?

# Discussion

- What are the limitations of diversity?
    - Is having a video/audio Wikipedia part of diversity?

- Audio and video content are already parts of Wikipedia
    - But the are there to support the content, or to archive it.

- What about a whole Wikipedia in Video/Audio?
    - Technical challenges: How will the content be editable?

# Discussion and conclusion

► What is the future of "non-written" minority languages Wikipedias?

  ► Will they be used to document "only"?

  ► Are they encyclopedic languages? Are all languages encyclopedic? Who decides?

  ► Should people speaking these languages just learn a written language?

    ► Illetracy classical definition: Not being able to read and write…

  ► Is it just how the world is?

    ► Wikipedia is the mirror of society (inequalities, bias, etc.)

  ► Can we still dream?

    ► Multimedia is a solution shaped for "oral" languages, let it be explored.

# Thank you!

Questions?