

Basque Education Program a year in review

Students as content consumers

Students as content creators

1. What articles do students need?



Our first step was the identification of most valuable articles for students. We used the official Basque Government Curriculum decree.

We wanted to extract 1,000 articles to work on, but we had a list of 1,710 items. We tried to make bold numbers for most of the subjects, and inserted a transversal gender and women topic to work on.

About 250 of them are also in the list of 1,000 articles every Wikipedia should have.

1. Talking to professors: what do we expect?



If you want to have students working in Wikipedia, you must talk first to lecturers and professors.

We centered in the Basque Country University (UPV/EHU) and talked first to directors, then to faculty directors and lastly to professors.

Professors and lecturers from all faculties were contacted, more than 130. We told them the idea: we want students to complete assignments based on the articles 12-16 years old schoolchildren need.

And we convinced 48 of them.

2. Are these articles valuable in Wikipedia?



7% of our daily visits are to these 1,700 articles. We tested the full article list and also topic by topic to know if they were more viewed than other articles.

We also made some cross-check within this topics in other languages, so we could find other basic articles that weren't in our list but were specially relevant.

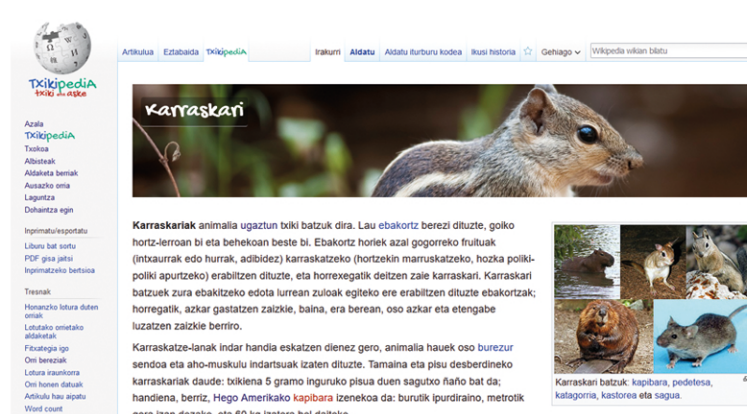
2. A project for each classroom



We designed a project in the Dashboard for each classroom. We added articles from the list and others professors suggested as relevant. Then we visited every classroom at least once, to teach them how to edit Wikipedia.

Finally, we had more than 800 students working in the project. There are less than 800,000 basque-languages speakers.

3. Creating Txikipedia small and free!



Txikipedia (from Txiki, small), is the first ever children oriented Encyclopedia integrated directly into Wikipedia.

Using a tab system, 8-12 years-old schoolchildren can read relevant information for their age, in a plain language and with a more attractive layout.

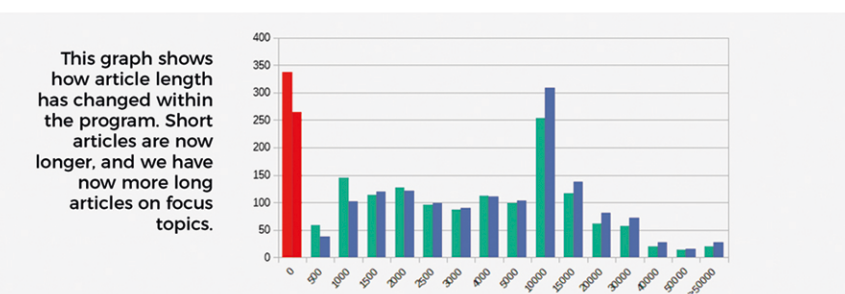
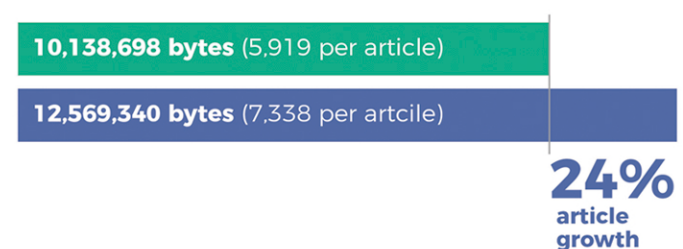
3. 1,000,000 words added



Students edited 716 articles, created 317 and added one million words in Basque Wikipedia. Some of those articles have been rated as featured articles by the community and hit the Main Page.

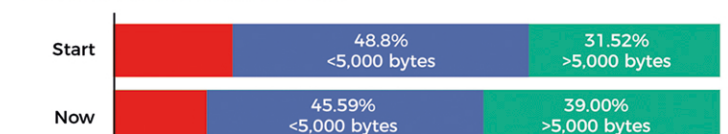
4. After one year: are now articles better?

Change in article length

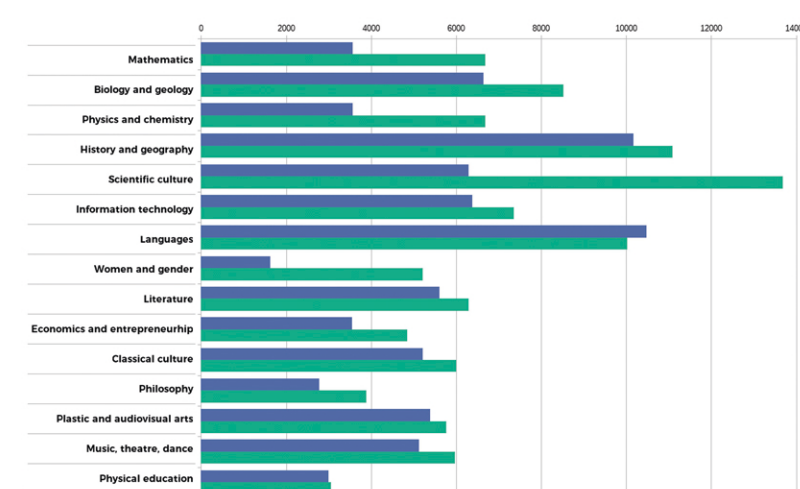


Article creation and improvement

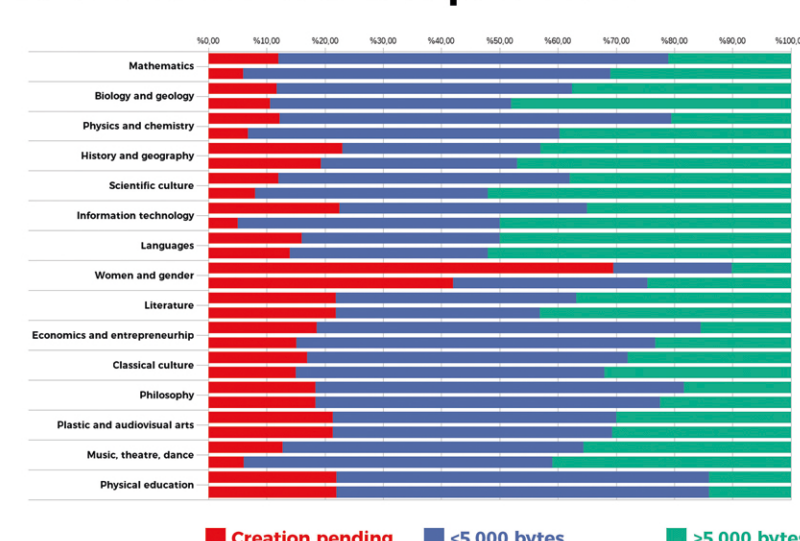
When the school-year started 337 articles did not exist and 836 articles were below 5,000 bytes. Now, with the school-year finished, we need 264 new articles and 781 articles are below 5,000 bytes.



Increase in the length of articles by domain

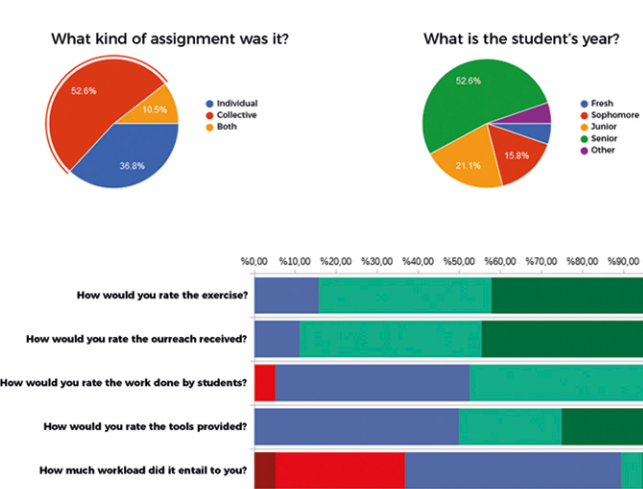


Article creation and improvement

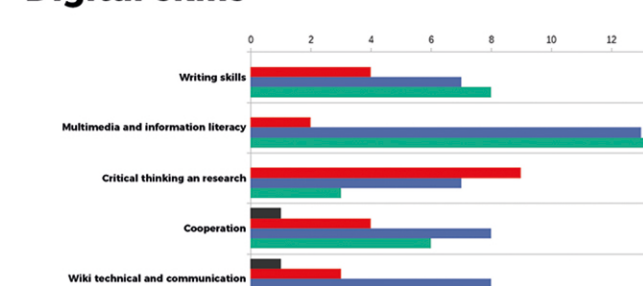


4. Are professors happy with the project?

Answers provided by the lecturers



Digital skills



Professors and lecturers are happy with the results. They think the project is valuable and nearly all of them wish to repeat next year.

It's interesting to note that they don't think their students' work is good enough, but think that the skills learned are good.