

Oral Citations Experiment

WikiIndaba 2014

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21 June 2014



Chapter Outline

- 1 What?
 - Description of the Experiment
- 2 Where and When?
 - Organisational Details
- 3 How?
 - Design, Status, and Program
- 4 With Whom?
 - Scholarships
- 5 Why?
 - Background and Hypothesis



Workshop: Indigenous Knowledge for Wikipedia

- Pre-conference event of the October 2014 [Participatory Design Conference](#) in Windhoek
 - held bi-annually since 1990
 - first time in Africa
 - *The* international event on participatory design
- 10 participants + 2 facilitators visit a village in rural Namibia
- 5 Wikipedians, 5 PDC attendees will:
 - 1 interview knowledge bearers to gather indigenous knowledge
 - 2 on topics that demonstrably have no available written sources
 - 3 and write new / expand old articles
 - 4 in the `Wikipedia:` name space of the English Wikipedia



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Organisational Details

- Participatory Design Conference (PDC) 6–10 October 2014
- Pre-conference event, partly or fully (TBA)
- Conference in Windhoek, workshop location TBA, a few hours away
- Timeline:
 - 1 Call for Participation 17 June
 - 2 Submissions due 22 July
 - 3 Notification of Acceptance (also: subsidy) 28 July
 - 4 Confirmation of participation (also: registration) 5 August



Workshop Design

- 1 **CfP:** Pick an article / red link from a list on [Wikipedia:Oral_Citations_Experiment](#)
- 2 Expand with online reliable sources (honest but strict)
- 3 Fill in a Google form (=“submit”)
- 4 Acceptance = subsidy (“scholarship”) but is dependent on:
 - 1 your ability to write content for English Wikipedia without help (no edit count!) **and**
 - 2 make a case that you would attend PDC anyway **or**
 - 3 convince us that the subsidy (\approx 1,000 US\$) fully covers your cost **or**
 - 4 convince us that you have other means of finance
- 5 \Rightarrow No ‘edit training’ / ‘rules intro’ for workshop participants
- 6 \Rightarrow If we reserve the place we need to be sure you attend



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Workshop Status and Program

● Status:

- Proposal **accepted** by PDC (with minor changes)
- Grant proposal **approved** by WMF (also with minor changes)

● Program:

- *Day 1 (voluntary)*: Morning session in the *Namibiana* section of the library of the Polytechnic of Namibia
- *Day 1, afternoon*: Travel to rural community
- *Day 2*: Interviews with knowledge bearers in the rural community
- *Day 3, morning*: Travel back to Windhoek
- *Day 3 (voluntary)*: Afternoon wrap up, discussion, and finalising of articles in a computer lab of the Polytechnic of Namibia



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Scholarship Design

- No luxury:
 - 1 B&B accommodation
 - 2 2 nights in the village \Rightarrow bring light sleeping bag
 - 3 *You will* get dirty (dusty gravel road)
 - 4 Please use the Mainliner if possible (Jo'burg, Cape Town, Maun)
- \approx US\$ 1,000 (10,000 ZAR) \Rightarrow US\$ 700 travel, US\$ 300 subsistence should:
 - fully cover delegates from SADC
 - halfway cover delegates from further away
- because we need somewhat experienced Wikipedians but don't want to make it a free holiday
- because Africans might have more use cases for oral citations than "Westerners"



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Background

- 1 **Oral Citations** project by Achal Prabhala, December 2012
 - Successful [project](#) but fierce editor resistance on English Wikipedia
 - most edits reverted, and implicit attacks on the WMF
- 2 Several noticeboard discussions, contributors almost exclusively opposed
- 3 **Indigenous Knowledge** project by Peter Gallert and Maja van der Velden, August 2013
- 4 Theoretical evaluation of the noticeboards' arguments
 - Pre-release of book chapter [Reliable Sources for Indigenous Knowledge: Dissecting Wikipedia's Catch-22](#)
 - Wikimania 2013 talk [Indigenous Knowledge for Wikipedia - Bending the Rules?](#)
 - Review of this book chapter November 2013 in the [Research newsletter on meta](#)



A Typical Noticeboard Discussion

- One more **noticeboard discussion**, initiated by me
 - 1 not verifiable \Rightarrow *Oh yes, it is!*
 - 2 source selection is original research \Rightarrow *Written sources are the same!*
 - 3 not encyclopedic \Rightarrow *Oh yes, it is!*
 - 4 not published \Rightarrow *Oh yes, they are!*
 - 5 always a primary source \Rightarrow *No no, it isn't!*
 - 6 must be transcribed or uploaded first \Rightarrow *No, then it wouldn't be oral anymore!*
 - 7 Go away.



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Hypothesis

- ***There are oral citations that are sterling reliable sources***
 - 1 verifiable
 - 2 independent
 - 3 third-party
 - 4 peer reviewed
 - 5 free of original research
- Sources that violate **neither the spirit nor the letter** of any pillar, policy, or guideline on English Wikipedia
- And that source would be:
 - 1 A speaker in an official role
 - 2 speaking within their area of expertise
 - 3 in front of a public audience
 - 4 at an occasion where such narrative could be expected
- Capture *role* ('journal' or 'newspaper'), *narrator* ('author'), and *occasion* ('publisher')



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End of Presentation

Any questions?

