The frontend of Wikicite

How will the citation data actually be used in wiki projects?

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An initiative to develop open citations
A series of conferences and workshops
A community of people which focuses on source metadata
Cool, but how will we actually use it in wiki pages?
Tools we know

- `<ref></ref>`
- `<references />`
- `{{cite *}}`
A nightmare to use in wiki syntax in right to left languages

Often (or always) replaced by a template

And these templates are not really supported by Visual Editor :(
Has all kinds of quirks, especially in Visual Editor

Automatic naming (<ref name=":0">)

No nice support for mentioning different pages (although WMDE is developing something)
• Added by default if not written explicitly
• Often replaced by
  
  ```{{reflist}}```
• or its counterparts in other languages:
  ○ ```{{Примечания}}```  
  ○ ```{{مراجع}}```  
  ○ ```{{Sklici}}```  
  ○ ```{{Références}}```  
  ○ ```{{הערות שוליים}}```
36th most transcluded page in the English Wikipedia (out of 700,000 templates)

- Has a lot of parameters for columns, size, etc.
- Different parameters in different languages (of course...)

{{reflist}}
{{cite web}}
{{cite journal}}
{{cite book}}

etc.

- Different in every wiki
- Difficulty to copy from one wiki to another:
  - in wiki syntax,
  - in Visual Editor, and
  - in Content Translation
Not available in a lot of wikis at all!

We have more than 300 Wikipedias, but:

- 194: {{cite web}}
- 181: {{cite journal}}
- 250: {{cite web}}

etc.
Difficult to make machine-readable...

... At least in a way that would be usable for Wikipedias in different languages
However
Citation localization

- User:PerfektesChaos:
  - “Formatting needs to be adapted to local culture and may need different parameters”
  - “German Wikipedia has differing citation concepts not compatible with English Wikipedia”
Citation localization

- Same problems with Russian, French, Dutch, Swedish, etc.
- Respecting standards and traditions is a component of authority!
- But is it really a problem?
Citation localization

- If the **data** about a source is centrally stored, can the citation’s **display** be localized per language or wiki?
- Perhaps even more conveniently?
- Open question...
Some other issues...
Terminology: Source, reference, citation, cite, quote, footnote, oh my!
Are references footnotes?

- Footnote = presentation
- Reference = information
- Should we maybe separate them? Some Wikipedias already do, using `<ref group>` and templates
- Perhaps add `<footnote> syntax?"
Are references footnotes?

- 🧦 Why are they at the bottom of the page?
- If they are important, why are they in the least visible place?
- Kind of more visible on mobile, but could be better?
For what part is the `<ref>` or the lack thereof?

- Some Wikipedias mark the text to which the `<ref>` or the {{citation needed}} applies.
- English Wikipedia doesn’t quite use it, and relies on writing style.
For what part is the `<ref>` or the lack thereof?

- Perhaps think about doing it uniformly?..
- If citations are structured, can we mark statements of fact in the encyclopedia as having a reference, not having it, or explicitly being suspect?
For what part is the <ref> or the lack thereof?

- And should we?
- In Wikidata, some people want all statements to have references.
- Is it right for Wikipedia, too?
Queries and APIs (not exhaustive)

• How much of Wikipedia is covered by references? (Possible if the previous idea is implemented.)
Queries and APIs (not exhaustive)

- Who are the most popular authors?
- What are the most popular sources?
- What is the most frequently cited part (page, section) of a book?
Queries and APIs (not exhaustive)

- What is the article with the largest number of <ref>s or {{citation needed}}?
- In which articles is a source used?
Monitoring

- Changes in Wikidata appear in the watchlist, but is it good?
- DYK: Changes in Commons don’t appear in the watchlist. Does anyone care?
- Will changes in Wikicite appear in the watchlist?
{{Thanks}}