

# The frontend of Wikicite

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

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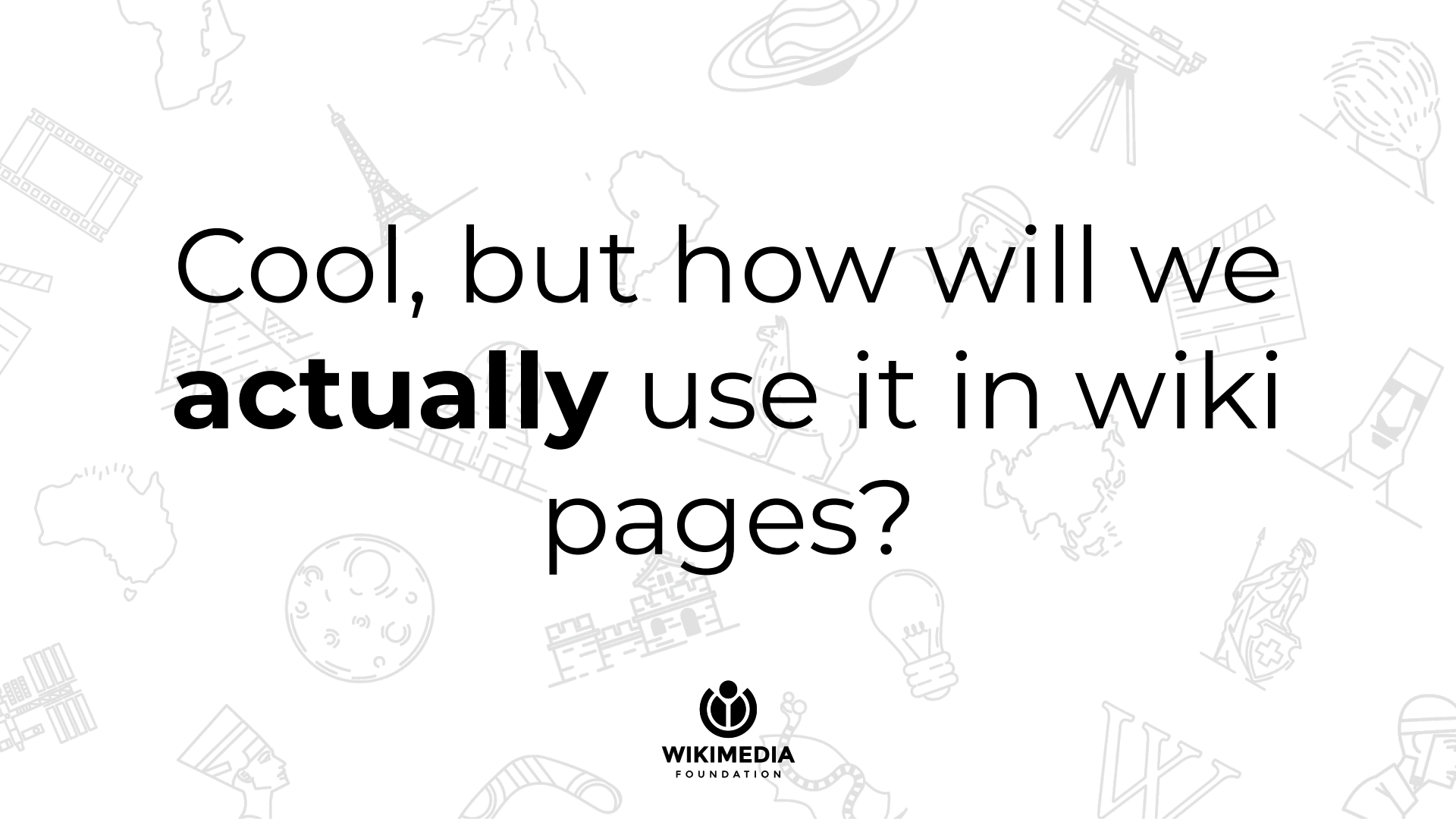


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# Wikicite:

- 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 *}}`



`<ref></ref>?`

- 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 :(



`<ref name>?`

- 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)



**<references />?**

- Added by default if not written explicitly
- Often replaced by `{{reflist}}`
- or its counterparts in other languages:
  - `{{Примечания}}`
  - `{{مراجع}}`
  - `{{Sklici}}`
  - `{{Références}}`
  - `{{הערות שוליים}}`



`{ {reflist} }`

- 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...)





`{{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



`{{cite web}}`  
`{{cite journal}}`  
`{{cite book}}`  
etc.

- 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}}`



```
{ {cite web} }  
{ {cite journal} }  
{ {cite book} }  
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}}**



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