Accra, We Have A Problem

Peter Gallert

Department of Computer Science
Faculty of Computing and Informatics
Namibia University of Science and Technology

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Outline

Our plans at WikiIndaba14

Outreach to OtjiHerero speakers in eastern Namibia in order to develop the OtjiHerero Incubator

1. Persuasion: use games, feedback, encouragement, competition through persuasive computing and communication
2. De–bushing: bypass the English Wikipedia for now to avoid training that is focused on teaching rules
3. Evolution: re–interpret existing rules
4. Revolution: A viable local language Wikipedia might look quite different fom what we are used to:
   - Notability
   - Citation types
   - Flagged revisions
   - Oral content
   - quite possibly other factors

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- Persuasion works well . . . for exactly its duration
- Allowed us some remarkable observations on work flow:
  1. Participants met in person to discuss article content
  2. Coordination of the meeting via a closed Facebook group
  3. Only people of own ethnicity invited **(problem 1)**
  4. All article content discussed in person until consensus was achieved
  5. Result of consensus uploaded by group representative
- Not really how (the rest of) Wikipedia works
- Painfully slow (1–2 sentences of content creation per session)

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De–bushing

- Fewer rules and less control on the Incubator
- Bypassing the English Wikipedia works ...
    - more open atmosphere during workshops
    - more work getting done
    - amazing variety of editing tasks
    - but no editor recruitment **(problem 2)**
    - participants don't get reverted because they cease editing
- very successful for the participating scientists
- at least very enjoyable for the participants
- at most a valuable experience for the editor community
    - As in: This is how it doesn't work
    - Quite a bit of money 'invested' (not all WMF, but still...)

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Evolution

- Oral Citations Experiment, October 2014, Otjinene

Figure: An Elder Tells a Tale. Picture by Daniel Gonzalez–Cabrero, CC-BY-SA 4.0

Results and Implications

1. Oral knowledge is relevant, persistent, peer–reviewed, and useful
   - White spaces in Wikipedia articles could be filled
   - Results at Wikipedia:Oral citations experiment
   - Policy debate still outstanding

2. No way we can train the elders to edit Wikipedia
   - Aversion to technology is part of being an elder
   - Most are completely illiterate, not just on the computer
   - We might not do them a favour
   - Split role required: Elder — Interviewer [— Wikipedian]

3. Interviewing is no outsiders' job
   - Answers regularly appear as riddles, also in further interviews
   - Insider knowledge required to understand answers
   - Insider knowledge required to ask questions
   - Only feasible people for this role: Community's own offspring
     (problem 3)

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Revolution?

1. Audiovisual Wikipedia?
   - Got no further than a single page: Incubator:Opuwo
   - Available audio files too long, off–topic, not translated
   - Participants came from further away and didn't know Opuwo proper
   - Technically rather challenging—needs a WikiGnome in the background
2. OtjiHerero Wikipedia with own rules?
   - Flagged revisions, group accounts, oral citations, IP editor restrictions, file uploads, civility rules, hidden areas (DarkWiki), and quite a bit more
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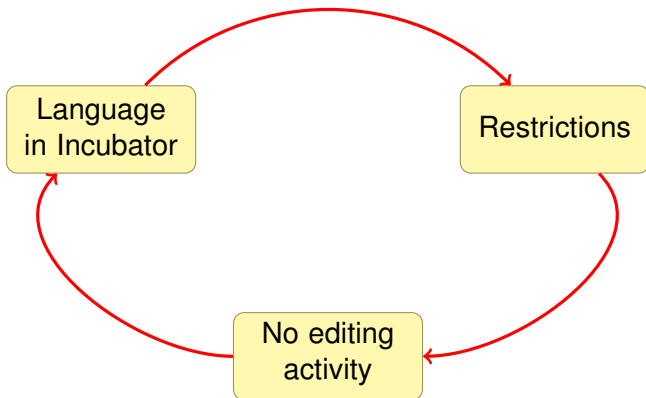
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Vicious Circle

End of Presentation

Any questions?