From Russia with love and squalor: an overview of Russian Wikipedia

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Image by Dart Revan
Russian Wikipedia is actively growing

* 559 000+ articles

* Will overtake by the number of articles:
  * Portugese Wiki on 12/10/2010
  * Dutch Wiki 27/12/2010
  * Spanish Wiki 21/09/2012

Data by Zserghei and project "The Contest"
Russian speaking doesn't mean from Russia

*Former Soviet Union including the Baltic States, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan
*Countries with large Russian speaking diaspora: Germany, Israel, USA
Main conflicts:

*Systemic:

**Articles about fiction;

**Fair use exacerbated by the absence of Panorama Freedom

* Content:

**Azerbaidjan vs Armenia;
**Russian Civil War (1917 - 1923);
**Eastern Europe vs "New Imperial Russia" (mostly Ukraine vs Russian Federation);
**Stalinists vs democrats;
Arbitration Committee

A group of experienced users elected for a certain period to resolve disputes which were impossible to resolve by any other methods. Arbitration Committee can use any practical methods and sanctions that do not contradict to the rules of Wikipedia*.

*Also approves checkusers and oversights and makes requests to remove status.
Arbitration Committee

*Organised in 2006;

*Elected twice a year for 6 month term by a direct open vote. Each eligible voter can approve or vote against as many candidates as he wants;

*First 5 candidates with 66.6% approval rating plus 2 additional members can be elected. Additional arbiters can take part in the discussion but can not sign the decisions unless replacing absent or recusal arbiter;

*Discussions via Skype, logs of discussion are published after the decision. Drafts of decisions are often published on special pages and amended according to suggestions of other users;

*3 out of 5 arbiters enough for the ruling passed but usually all 5 approve.

*Arbitration Committee 9 (January - June 2010) had 56 arbitration requests, 39 were accepted.
"26 Baku Comissars" Cabal

* Azerbajzhani users organised in 2008 a google group with about 30 users for coordination of their in-wiki action:
  **Coordinated reverts and voting in admin and ArbCom elections;

* A ruling by ArbCom in spring 2009 established a special editing regime for Armenian and Azerbajzhani topics: one revert per article during 24 hours, a special group of mediators;
  **Coordinated hounding of mediators with ArbCom requests as a method;

* In May 2010 logs were made available to one of the Armenian users. Mediators refused to deal with it.

* ArbCom case where involved users insisted that publishing was a privacy breach and threatened a legal case.

* ArbCom blocked 14 users for the duration of 3 to 6 month with further topic ban
The “GSB Cabal”

* The cabal named after its' organiser operated on an external forum-like site during spring/summer 2007;

* About 10 people and around 50 sockuppets;

* Anti-gay, "new imperial Russia";

* Virtually no coordinated presence in articles;

* Aims: to hound "unsuitable" admin candidates, to elect "suitable" admins, and ultimately the Arbitration Committee;

* Arbitration Committee 4 election: supported neutral candidates in return for future favours;

* Discovered in June 2007, sockuppets blocked;

* GSB published the cabal communication on the net in autumn 2007.
The GSB Cabal

Main result:

with the exception of elections all questions
including articles deletion and introduction of new rules are
decided by a summary of the discussion by the community
and not by a direct vote.
87 admins, 1 election per month in 2010

"Summing Up Users" (ПИ) - summarise simple nominations for deletions and delete articles via a bot. 26 users so far.
*Switched on 5.08.2008, second after the German Wikipedia and immediately resulted in the Arbitration Committee case;

*Patrolling interface switched on for all autoconfirmed users 25.09.2009;

*Preparing to show patrolling interface to all users;
Flagged Reviews

*685 patrollers (100 edits in main space plus discussion) and 726 autopatrollers

*Patrolling interface switched on for all autoconfirmed users 25.09.2009

Initial patrolling

Statistics and images by GranD and Artem Korzhimanov
Incubator

Separate namespace where ultra-short or articles with questionable significance, mainly from speedy deletion are transferred for editing

*V 1.0 "Meet and greet" — spring 2008, current version started in 2009 by Samal.

*Indexing by search engines was switched off.

*Around 5 articles per day are created, 700 so far.

*During 2010 100 articles were transferred to mainspace Wikipedia, only 2 of them deleted.

*General trend is similar to the Russian Wikipedia: most contributors make one edit, several work for one day and leave.

*But the few that remain seamlessly transfer to the main space.

*Advantage is mostly in friendly experienced users, which don't bite the newcomers.

*The project allows finding typical mistakes of the newbies and preparing manuals for them.
Mistakes report

*Adapted from Polish Wikipedia by Alexandr Sigachev

*For the majority of readers who are afraid to edit
  *Located in MediaWiki:Wikibugs.js
  *Activated by adding importScript( "MediaWiki:Wikibugs.js" ) to MediaWiki:Common.js

*Added to the sidebar in MediaWiki:Sidebar
Если вы заметили ошибку в Википедии, пожалуйста, исправьте её самостоятельно, используя на этом сайте технологию вики позволяет это сделать. Не сомневайтесь, одно из правил Википедии гласит: «Правьте смело!» Если вы не можете исправить ошибку самостоятельно, сообщите об ней с помощью данной формы.

Если ошибка уже исправлена — не сообщайте о ней.

Не оставляйте свой телефон и/или электронный адрес, ответ на сообщение будет дан только на странице с сообщениями и нигде больше.

- Текущий список сообщений об ошибках.
В Википедии есть страница для сообщения об ошибках, где пользователи могут сообщать о найденных ошибках. Пользователи, заметившие ошибку, могут написать об этом в форме "Сообщить об ошибке". Эта форма предназначена для участников, которые не владеют вики-разметкой или не понимают, как исправить найденную ошибку. Предполагается, что после внесения исправлений пользователи, заметившие ошибку, могут написать о ней на странице сообщения, чтобы другие увидели исправления.

Если вы нашли какую-либо ошибку в Википедии — это не ошибка, запросы на новые статьи вы можете оставлять на странице «Википедия:К оснащению».

Чтобы добавить сообщение об ошибке, нажмите здесь ✪ (в поле «Тема/заголовок» введите название статьи, в которой обнаружена ошибка).
**"Wikificator" by Ctac allows automatically change dashes, quotation marks etc.**
*Links conversion by AlexSm converts %%% into words.*
Russian Usability
Conclusions:

* Russian Wikipedia is a rapidly growing project where most of the decisions are made by discussion and not vote.
* Arbitration Commitee is an effective way to resolve large conflicts (and keep "mandarins" in check);

* Flagged Reviews are a worth having feature;
* A separate namespace for new editors is advantageous;
* Mistakes report allows readers engagement.