

Discovery

Community Tech
Summary of Research
for Cross-Wiki Watchlist

April 2016


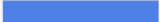










Shannon Badiee

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Tech/Cross-wiki_watchlist

“I don't use the watchlist, because it fails to give me vital information and doesn't allow me to check off certain edits as okay or requiring follow-up. These options are really needed.”

- Mgm, 27 April 2009

Wikimedia project popularity by respondents

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Wikipedia		85	98%
2	Commons		62	71%
4	Wikidata		45	52%
6	Meta-Wiki		35	40%
7	MediaWiki.org		23	26%
8	Wikimedia Foundation or WMF chapters		15	17%
3	Wiktionary		13	15%
9	Wikiquote		9	10%
5	Wikisource		6	7%
11	Wikivoyage		5	6%
12	Wikibooks		2	2%
13	Wikiversity		1	1%
10	Wikispecies		0	0%

How many language Wikipedias are you active on?

- 37% are active on 1 language
- 29% are active on 2 languages
- 14 % are active on 3 languages
- 13% are active on 4-5 languages

How often do users contribute to projects?

- 53% said multiple times a day
- 23% said everyday
- 20% said a few times a week

77%

Want a temporary watchlist

Top reasons users add pages to their watchlist

1. Follow changes to pages they've created
2. Follow changes to files they've uploaded
3. Follow a talk page to watch for a response

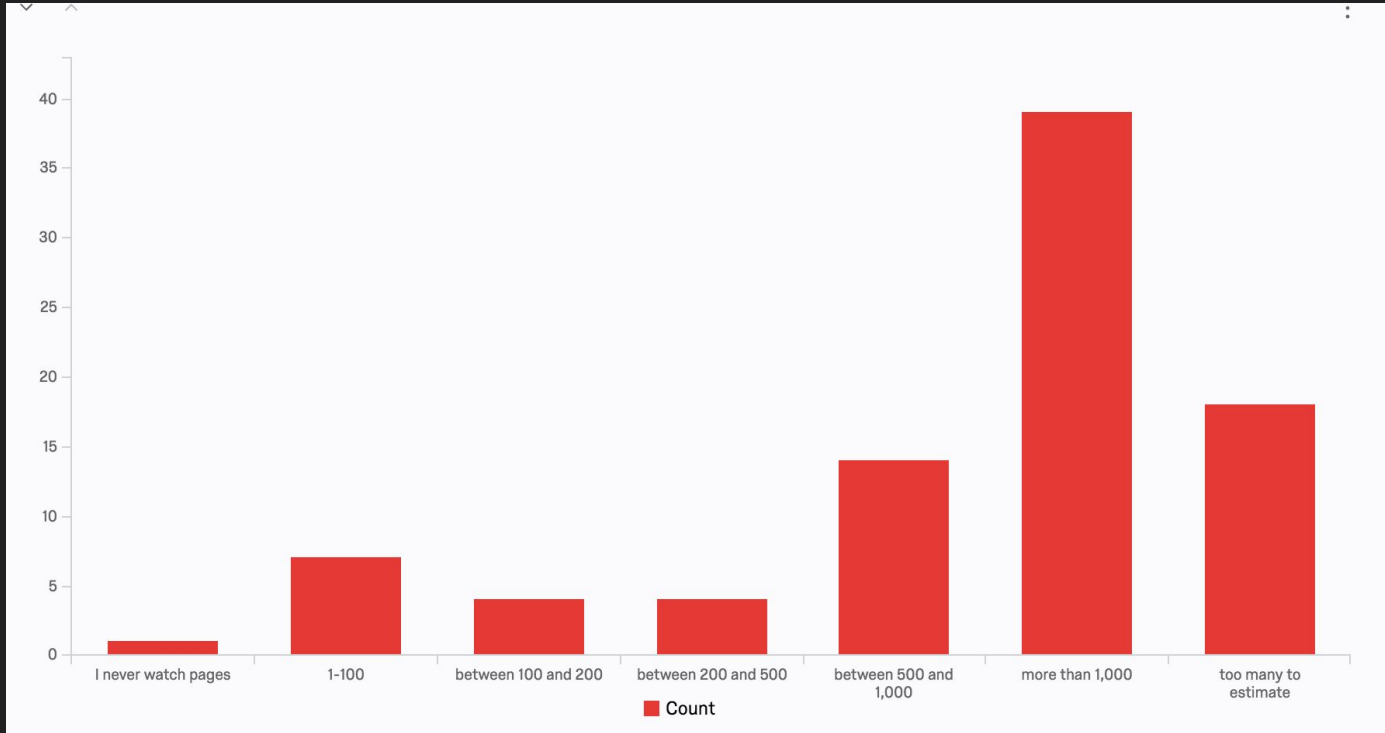
But the list of reasons is varied...

	Not at all likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total
Follow changes to a page you've created	4	7	75	9.12% 86
Follow a file that you've uploaded	17	15	54	9.12% 86
Follow a talk page to see responses to a discussion that you're involved in	12	21	52	9.01% 85
Follow a news or community page (village pump, etc) for updates	24	22	40	9.12% 86
Follow changes to a page you've contributed to	7	43	36	9.12% 86
Follow a noticeboard or a workflow page	20	33	32	9.01% 85
Follow a talk page to keep an eye on conversations there	15	41	30	9.12% 86
Follow an event page for updates	28	35	23	9.12% 86
Collect and organize pages that you're interested in	42	25	19	9.12% 86
Mark a page to remind you to edit later	47	26	13	9.12% 86
Follow changes to a page you haven't contributed to	34	47	4	9.01% 85
	26.51% 250	33.40% 315	40.08% 378	943

40%

have more than 1,000 pages on their watchlist

Graph of pages on a user's watchlist



64%

Are using their watchlist daily.

To check their watchlist multiple times a day (40%) or have their watchlist open all day (24%)

39%

add new pages to their watchlist daily

“...straightforward without too many bells and whistles...”

(from survey)

“...doesn't have to look pretty as long as it's highly customizable.” (from survey)

Good suggestions but out of scope

- Add other people's user accounts to your own watchlist
- Make watchlist into a homepage
- Add a hub area of suggested editing work, an area of collaboration. Can be with your saved project pages, categories or personalized editing ideas
- An area of only administrative tools/function
- Watchlist email updates, especially if pages were not changed
- Allowing to follow only articles (instead of articles with talk pages)
- Ability to watch sections of an article
- Folders
- Changes to the revision (diff) screen

Appendix

Notes from Wikimedia Germany via Brigit

overall (very) positive feedback and enthusiastic comments (there was a second discussion about cross-watch on the talk page of WP:Kurier, all the people commenting there pretty much appreciated the tool, too) especially having the option to view the diff already in the watchlist is great

- Show absolute time instead of relative time, similar to how the Mediawiki watchlist works (high priority)
- The field for preferences/filters is too prominent and should be folded by default
- Too much javascript, some browsers have problems with that (performance issues); design is weird when using cross-watch on ipad and other devices with a small display - too long page titles get cut off, too many clickable options are confusing (this is not really important for your project, just added it for completeness).
- Diff view for pending changes needing review should not be expanded by default

Resources

Project Page https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Tech/Cross-wiki_watchlist

Phabricator <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T121469>

Survey https://wikimedia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BRVhdayaTyuGJ7

[German Wikipedia discussion](#)

Cross-wiki notifications user research/Notes https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Cross-wiki_notifications_user_research

Help Talk: Watchlist https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help_talk:Watchlist

Help: Watchlist <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Watchlist>

Smart Watchlist https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User_talk:Jimbo_Wales/Archive_74#Smart_watchlist_proposal

2009 Watchlist InBox Idea [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Village_pump_\(proposals\)/Archive_46#Make_the_Watchlist_more_like_an_Inbox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Village_pump_(proposals)/Archive_46#Make_the_Watchlist_more_like_an_Inbox)

2008 Multiple watchlists Idea [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Village_pump_\(proposals\)/Persistent_proposals#Multiple_watchlists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Village_pump_(proposals)/Persistent_proposals#Multiple_watchlists)

Customizing watchlists https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia_talk:Customizing_watchlists#Thanks