



# Media Viewer Update

Improving the viewing experience  
on Wikimedia projects

Presented by the  
Multimedia Team  
Wikimedia Foundation

09/04/2014  
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# Goals

Media Viewer aims to:

- **improve the viewing experience** for readers
- make it easier to **preview** and **browse images**
- provide quick **summary**, with easy access to **details**

This was our multimedia team's **first big project**.

# Problem

The current file page has many issues:

- **too much information**
- **cluttered design**
- **separate page** (on other site)
- **duplicate page** (on enwiki)
- **longer load time**
- **great for power users**
- **confusing for readers**

The screenshot shows a Wikimedia Commons file page for 'Location\_Large\_Hadron\_Collider.PNG'. The page is cluttered with navigation links on the left, a detailed description, a table of file history, and a list of external links. The description includes metadata like date (6 September 2010), source (an OpenStreetMap), and author (diverse contributors). The file history table shows two versions: one from 2010 and one from 2008. The bottom section lists various external links and usage on other sites like Wikipedia and Wikidata.

|  | Date/Time                | Thumbnail | Dimensions         | User                        | Comment   |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Details of current (change visibility) | 22:05, 6 September 2010  |           | 518 × 518 (372 KB) | Zykura (talk   contribs)    | Created a new version that resembles the current state of OSM (a lot of mapping has been done in the past two years). Here the "key-display mode" was used to show LHC and SPS on the map, therefore both devices are visible more clearly. Also, the old image       |
| delete (change visibility)             | 07:44, 11 September 2008 |           | 397 × 637 (158 KB) | Mohar1972 (talk   contribs) | [[Information:Description= en-1 Location map Large Hadron Collider (green circle)]]<br>[[Source=open street map (http://www.openstreetmap.org/index.html?lat=42.0942&lon=6.0659&zoom=7)]]<br>[[Author=diverse contributors]]<br>[[Date= ]]<br>[[Permission=cc-by-sa]] |



WIKIMEDIA  
COMMONS

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- [Welcome](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Village pump](#)
- [Help center](#)

- Participate
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  - [Recent changes](#)
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- Tools
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  - [Printable version](#)
  - [Permanent link](#)

"Golden Crown Sparrow close up" by Alejandro Erickson licensed under CC BY 2.0 (via Flickr).

File [Discussion](#)

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# File:Zonotrichia atricapilla -British Columbia, Canada-8.jpg

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

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*Zonotrichia atricapilla* -British Columbia, Canada-8  CC BY 2.0

Alejandro Erickson - Golden Crown Sparrow close up Uploaded by [snowmanradio](#)

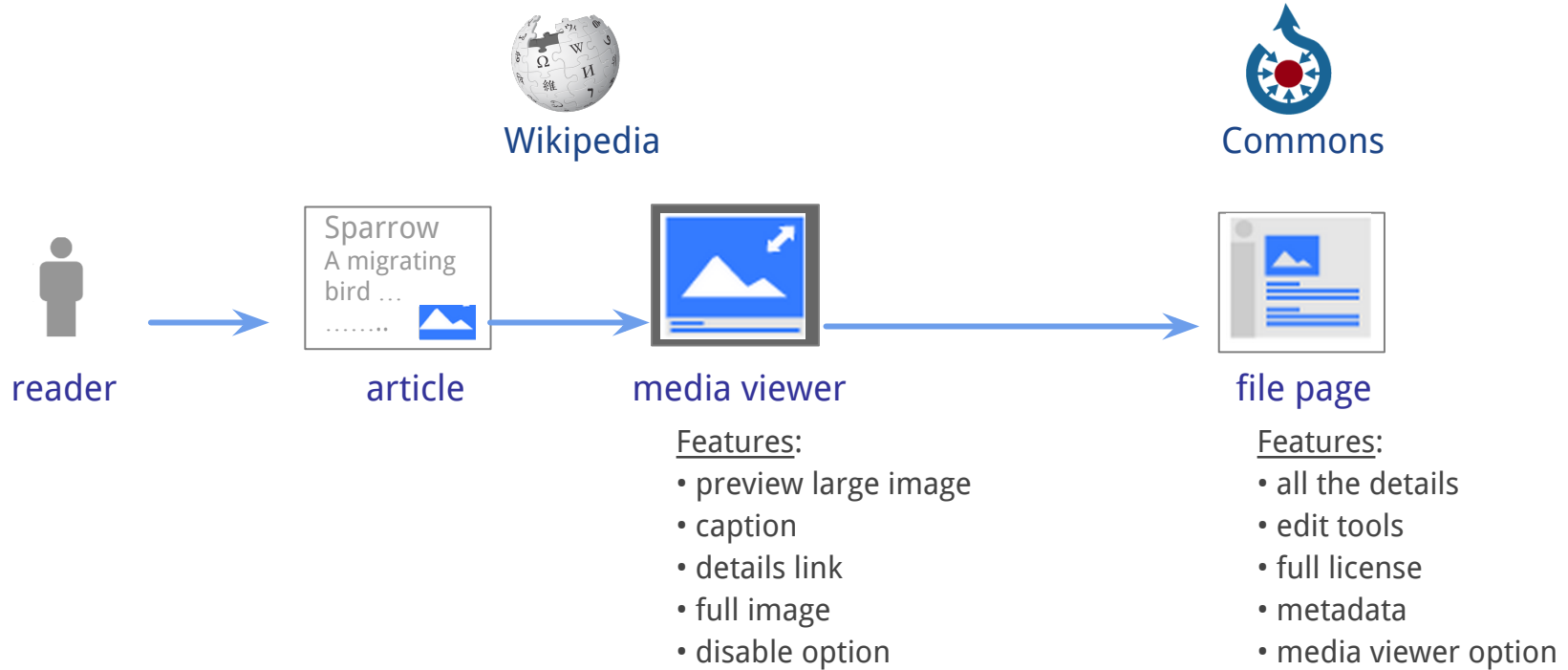


 Use this file



# Media Viewer and File Page

How do they flow together?



# Media Viewer vs. File Page

Who are they for? When should you use them?



## Media Viewer

Best for:

- **readers**
- **casual editors**

Use it to:

- **preview** larger images
- see **caption** or descriptions
- **browse** related files
- all on the same page you're on



## File Page

Best for:

- **experienced editors**
- **advanced users**

Use it to:

- get all the **details**
- **edit** this file
- **curate** this file
- on its own description page

# Community + Research

We have done a lot of community engagement and research for this feature:

- 12+ **roundtable discussions** (in-person, IRC, hangouts)
- many **onwiki discussions** (mw.org, dewiki, enwiki, frwiki, etc.)
- 25K+ **beta testers** (for 6 months, throughout development)
- 18K+ **survey responses** (throughout release, in 8 languages)
- 30+ **user tests** (throughout development and release)
- **community consultation** (now active on meta)



# Surveys

Here are key requests from surveys:

- Want **zoom** 14%
- **More image sizes** 8%
- Want **opt-out** 6%
- Easy way to **exit** 5%
- **Scroll down** for info 5%
- Info **cuts off images** 5%
- **Can't find info** 4%
- Show **whole image** 3%
- **More info above** 3%
- **Disoriented** by UI 3%

(% survey requests)

## Survey Results

# Talk pages

Here are some key issues reported in talk pages:

- Make it **opt-in**
- Hard to find **file page link**
- Show **caption higher up**
- Can't **go back** quickly
- Image load **too slow**
- Issues on **tablets/mobile**
- Show **full file name**
- Show more **license info**
- Show label for **author**
- Make **image clickable**

[Main Talk Page](#)

# User study 1

Here are key issues from our first user study of the current version in July:

- Hard to **discover info panel**
- Info panel **covers images** & is hard to control
- Hard to find '**View original file**' button
- Hard to find '**Download**' button
- Clarify meaning of **viewing options**

[User study 1 slides](#)

# Demo

[New design >](#)


[Sample Images >](#)

[Current Version >](#)



Rapa Nui is full of moais, but Ahu Akivi are the only moai that face the ocean.

 Ian Sewell - <http://www.ianandwendy.com/OtherTrips/SouthPacific/Easter-Island/index.htm>  CC BY-SA 3.0

 More details

# User study 2

## Primary Tasks

- **Preview** images
- **Learn** about images
- Get more **details**
- **Browse** images
- **New disable** dialog
- **Re-enable** feature

## Secondary Tasks

- **Enlarge**
- **Share**
- **Download**
- **Go back**

# Improvements

- **Details**
- **Caption**
- **Enlarge**
- **Disable/Enable**
- **Download/Share**
- **Licensing**
- **Performance**
- **Metrics**



See [Improvement plan](#)

# Next steps

- design ✓
- user research ✓
- community consultation
- updated release plan
- development
- testing / metrics
- iterative deployment



# About Media Viewer:

[mediawiki.org/wiki/Multimedia/About\\_Media\\_Viewer](https://mediawiki.org/wiki/Multimedia/About_Media_Viewer)

Join our mailing list:

[lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/multimedia](https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/multimedia)