# How to do a good school project on Wikipedia

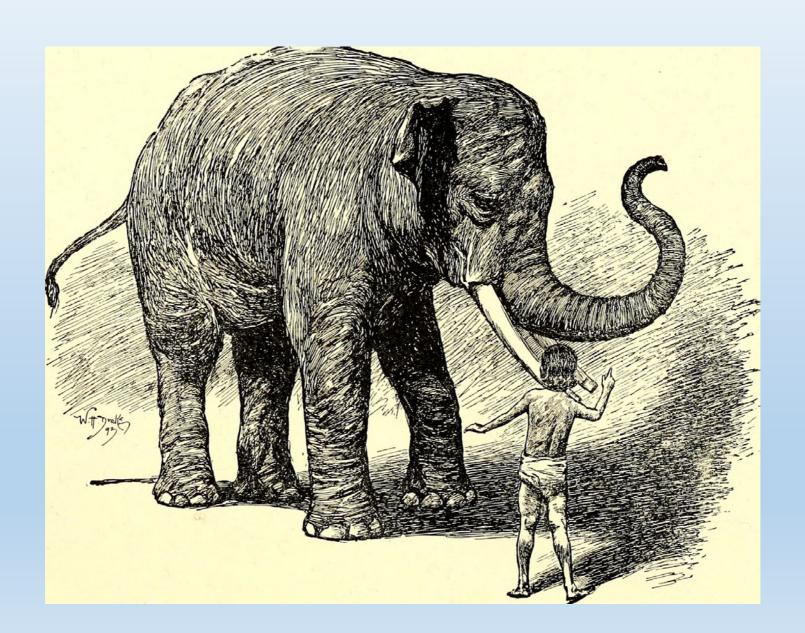


Simon Villeneuve Cégep de Chicoutimi Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

#### **Plan**

- Projects I have done
- Tips
- School book
- Discussions

## Wikipedia: the elephant in the room in education



### **Projects realised**

- Experiment Wikipedia in class for 10 years (2008-2017)
- 7 differents courses (2 in university, 5 in cegep)

Astronomy

**Astrophysics** 

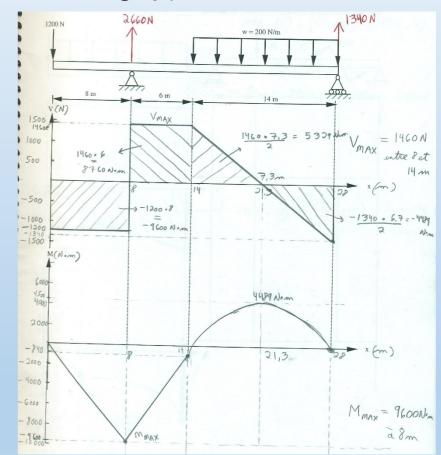
History of sciences

Evolution of the planet

Electromagnetism for metallurgy

Strengh of materials

**Mecanics** 



Total of 337 students

~450 articles. 23 B (little more than good start), 104 BD (good start), 314 stubs



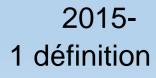
2008-~450 articles



2013-2 books 8 articles



2013-~120 articles















## Bigger is the wiki, harder it is to create and sustain a school project on it.

### Examples

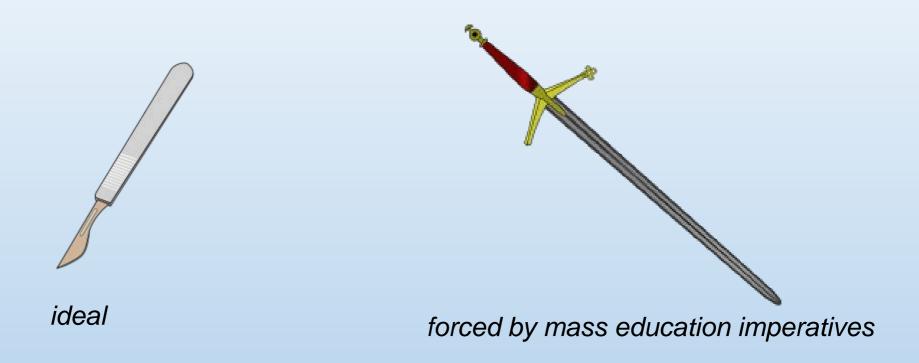
- Project on Simple English Wikipedia
  - simple:Wikipedia:Schools/Projects/Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe
- Atikamekw Wikipedia
  - 160 articles created in one year by newbies, many without written source

- For all projects, one time = easy, year after year = hard
  - Part of the community will help, or not be too demanding for a new school project, but after that, it will be more hard to please it.

## Correct every student work done in mainspace

- Like for every schoolwork, whatever the precision of the instructions given, there's always, always, students who didn't get a clue of what they must do or how they can do it. You can reduce this with step by step descriptions, but you can't eliminate it all.
- Students botch. You must revise **all** their contributions done in mainspace.
- Make them work in subpages of useraccount or projects.
   When the work is too bad, you can let it there without correction.
- You MUST clean the place everytime. Otherwise, the community will reject your project, if not immediatly, surely next time.

## Cleaning/correction tools



• Usually, unless you have a small number of students, you'll not have time to do fine tunning corrections of their works. You, and they, will need to accept to suppress big parts of some of it.

## Keep in mind





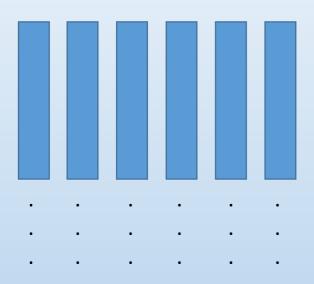
...than big articles needing cleanup.

## Why?

Cause Wikipedians usually don't recycle. They start the article all over again and crush the old version with the new one.

## Many wikipedians hate schools projects

Immediatism vs. eventualism





Ideal immediatism : All articles are featured articles.

Ideal eventualism: All notions have an article, no matter how long this one is.

- students **cannot** do FA articles in one course. They'll often hardly do a good start. Their work will often piss off immediatists wikipedians.
- Keep the faith!

#### School book

- Wikipédia en éducation :
  - fr.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikipédia en éducation

• 4 parts: How to navigate, study, contribute and teach with

Wikipedia

Exercices

- Free evaluation copies
  - Please, give feedback!



#### **Credits**

#### Without precisions, the licence of the images are CC-BY-SA

Slide 1: Logo Chicoutimi : Lilyu, license : WTFPL 2.0 Slide 3: Elephant : PD Slide 4: Shear and moment diagram: Simon Villeneuve Slide 5: WMF projects : <u>PiRSquared17</u>, <u>Rillke</u>, e.d. Slide 8: Scalpel: Petit B Claymore: Pearson Scott Foresman, license: PD Slide 9: Pencil: <u>David Vignoni</u> et <u>Urutseg</u>, license: GNU Recycling symbol: Benoit Rochon Slide 10: Immediatism/eventualism: Simon Villeneuve Slide 11:

Rabbits: Lepsyleon