

# The great promise of Wiki Science

## Open Problems of Strategic Importance

by Aaron Halfaker



# Aaron Halfaker

## Principal Research Scientist, Wikimedia Foundation

*Think big. Measure what you can. Build better technologies.*



### About me

Hi. I'm [Aaron Halfaker](#). I'm a scientist. See [projects](#) and [publications](#) below. I've been a Wikipedian since 2008. I mostly build tools and run studies, but I make edits where I can. In 2011, I started working with the Wikimedia Foundation as a [research scientist](#). This is my staff account. See my volunteer account, [User:EpochFail](#), for my non-staff work.

### My work

My job is to build understanding about and support for the socio-technical fabric of the Wikimedia movement. I tend to focus on our computer mediated spaces (Wikipedia, Commons, Wikidata, Wikisource, etc.) and quality dynamics (patrolling, curation, newcomer training, etc.)

See [The Rise and Decline](#) for an example of my research and [mw:ORES](#) and [mw:JADE](#) for examples of an experimental technologies I'm actively working on.

### Contact me

- E-mail: [ahalfaker@wikimedia.org](mailto:ahalfaker@wikimedia.org)
- Website: <http://halfaker.info>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/halfak>
- On IRC, I go by "halfak".

**iD**

This user has the **ORCID identifier**:  
**0000-0001-8907-6367**

Sociological history of Wikipedia

Open data & scholarship

Strategic new research directions

# Part 1: Sociological history of Wikipedia



**What is Wikipedia?**

# The world's largest encyclopedia

WIKIPEDIA

**English**

*The Free Encyclopedia*

4 979 000+ articles

**Español**

*La enciclopedia libre*

1 205 000+ artículos

**Deutsch**

*Die freie Enzyklopädie*

1 861 000+ Artikel

**Русский**

*Свободная энциклопедия*

1 257 000+ статей

**中文**

*自由的百科全書*

843 000+ 條目

**Português**

*A enciclopédia livre*

890 000+ artigos

**Polski**

*Wolna encyklopedia*

1 136 000+ haseł



~5 million articles  
in English

English



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# List of lists of lists

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Some articles that consist of a list of things are themselves about lists of things, such as the articles in the ***list of lists of lists*** below.

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## A [edit]

- Lists of ancient kings
- Lists of A&M Records artists
- Lists of ABC shows
- Lists of African Americans
- Lists of African Union members
- Lists of American football players
- Lists of American television episodes with LGBT themes
- Lists of American writers
- Lists of Americans
- Lists of Armenians
- Lists of atheists
- Lists of Australian rules football leagues
- Lists of Australians
- Lists of abbreviations



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## Lists of ancient kings

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The following are **lists of ancient kings** of ancient states:

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- [Abydos King List](#)
- [Turin King List](#)
- [Karnak king list](#)
- [Sumerian King List](#)
- [First Babylonian Dynasty](#)
- [List of Assyrian kings](#)
- [List of Roman emperors](#)
- [List of Byzantine emperors](#)
- [List of Georgian monarchs](#)
- [List of kings of Persia](#)
- [Lists of rulers of Greece](#)
- [List of Indian monarchs](#)
- [List of Chinese monarchs](#)
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# List of pharaohs

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

 This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help [improve this article](#) by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and [removed](#). *(March 2012)*

This article contains a **list of the pharaohs of Ancient Egypt**, from the [Early Dynastic Period](#) before 3100 BC through to the end of the [Ptolemaic Dynasty](#), when [Egypt](#) became a province of [Rome](#) under [Augustus Caesar](#) in 30 BC.

Note that the dates given are approximate. The list of pharaohs presented below is based on the [conventional chronology of Ancient Egypt](#), mostly based on the [Digital Egypt for Universities](#) database developed by the [Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology](#), but alternative dates taken from other authorities may be indicated separately.

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- 3 Archaic period
  - 3.1 Early Dynastic: Upper Egypt
  - 3.2 First Dynasty
  - 3.3 Second Dynasty
- 4 Old Kingdom
  - 4.1 Third Dynasty
  - 4.2 Fourth Dynasty
  - 4.3 Fifth Dynasty
  - 4.4 Sixth Dynasty
- 5 First Intermediate Period

**Pharaoh of Egypt**  
FORMER MONARCHY



The Pschent combined the Red Crown of Lower Egypt and the White Crown of Upper Egypt.





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# Ptah

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For the asteroid, see 5011 Ptah.*

In **Egyptian mythology**, **Ptah** (/pəˈtɑː/<sup>[1]</sup> *Egyptian: *ptḥ**, probably vocalized as *Pitaḥ* in ancient Egyptian)<sup>[2]</sup> is the **demiuurge** of Memphis, god of craftsmen and architects. In the triad of **Memphis**, he is the spouse of **Sekhmet** and the father of **Nefertum**. He was also regarded as the father of the sage **Imhotep**.

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- 1 Origin and symbolism
- 2 Representations and hypostases
- 3 Development of the cult
- 4 Main places of worship
- 5 Photos
- 6 Legacy
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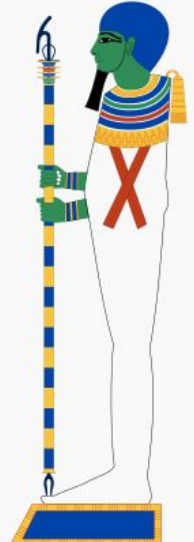
## Origin and symbolism [\[ edit \]](#)

Ptah is the **Creator god** par excellence: He is considered the **demiuurge** who existed before all other things, and by his willfulness, *thought* the world. It was first conceived by Thought, and realized by the Word: *Ptah conceives the world by the thought of his heart and gives life through the magic of his Word.* That which Ptah commanded was created, with which the constituents of nature, fauna, and flora, are contained. He also plays a role in the preservation of the world and the permanence of the royal function.

In the **Twenty-Fifth Dynasty**, the **Nubian** pharaoh **Shabaka** would transcribe

**Ptah**

**God of creation, the arts, fertility and of craftsmen**



Ptah, in the form of a mummified man, standing on the symbol for Ma'at, holding a scepter or staff that bears the combined ankh-djed-was symbols.

Name in 🔍 📄 🔄





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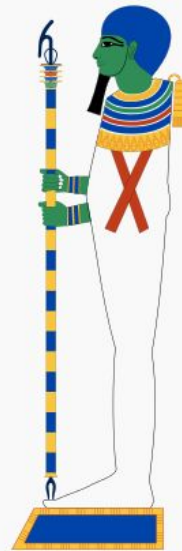
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Ptah, in the form of a mummified man, standing on the symbol for Ma'at, holding a scepter or staff that bears the combined ankh-djed-was symbols.

Name in

# A wiki



- Anyone can edit
- Shared authorship

## **Flipped publication model**

- publish first
- review later (maybe)

# An online community

- ~100k active volunteer editors



WikiProject Video Games

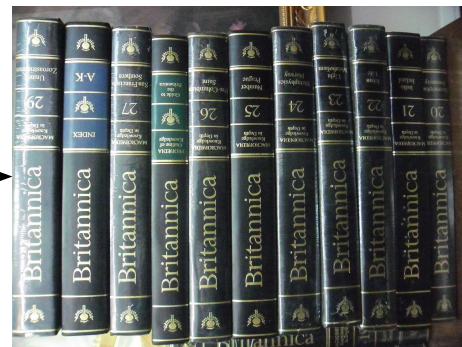
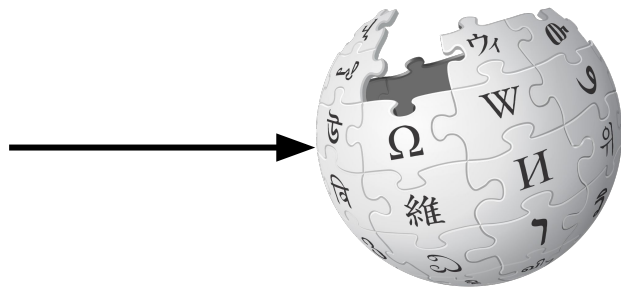
Village pump sections				
 <p><b>Policy</b> watch </p> <p>To discuss existing and proposed policies</p>	 <p><b>Technical</b> watch </p> <p>To discuss technical issues. For <a href="#">wiki</a> software bug reports, use <a href="#">Phabricator</a></p>	 <p><b>Proposals</b> watch </p> <p>To discuss <b>new</b> proposals that are not policy-related. See also: <a href="#">perennial proposals</a> and <a href="#">persistent proposals</a>.</p>	 <p><b>Idea lab</b> watch </p> <p>To discuss ideas before proposing them to the community and attempt to find solutions to issues</p>	 <p><b>Miscellaneous</b> watch </p> <p>To post messages that do not fit into any other category</p>



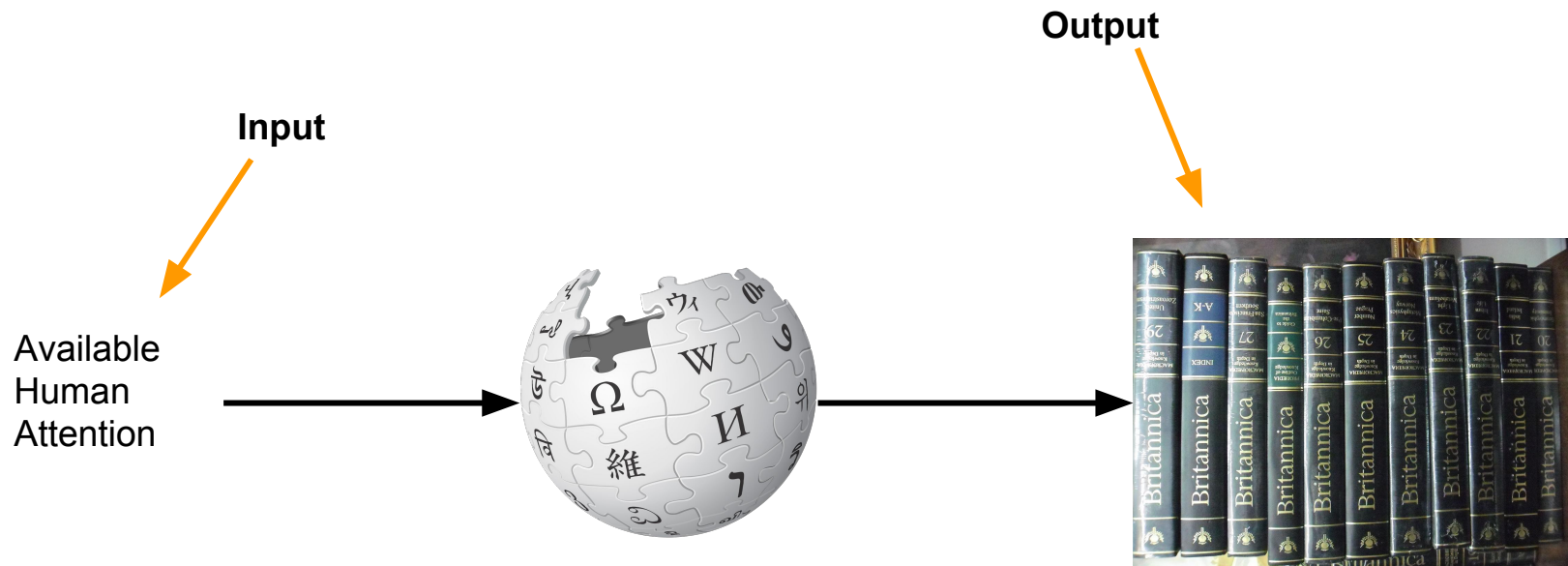
WikiProject Medicine

# A system

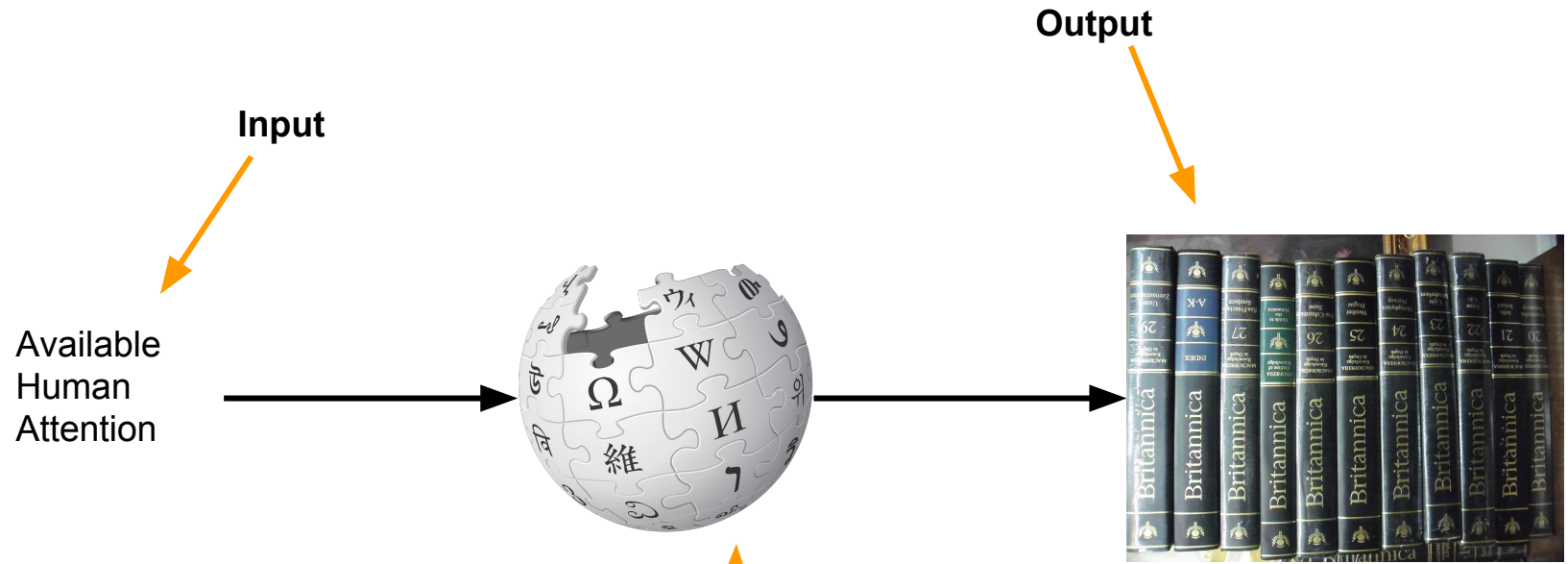
Available  
Human  
Attention



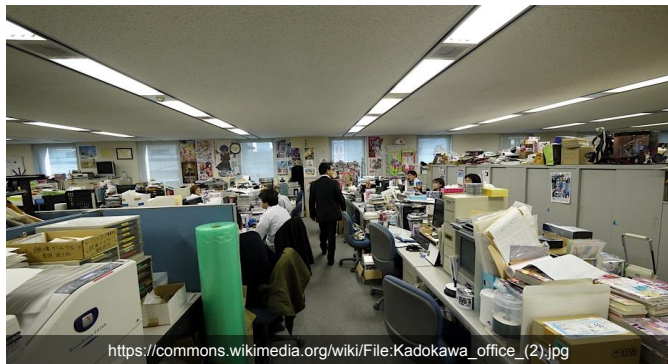
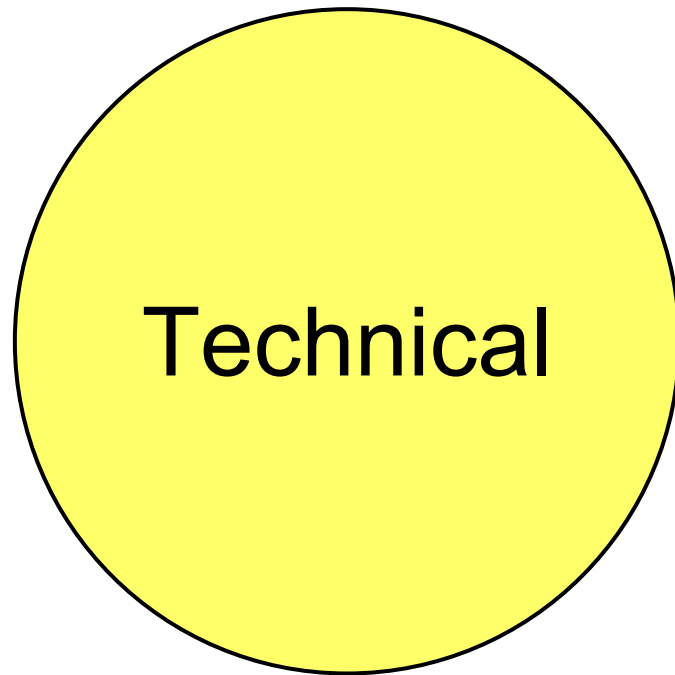
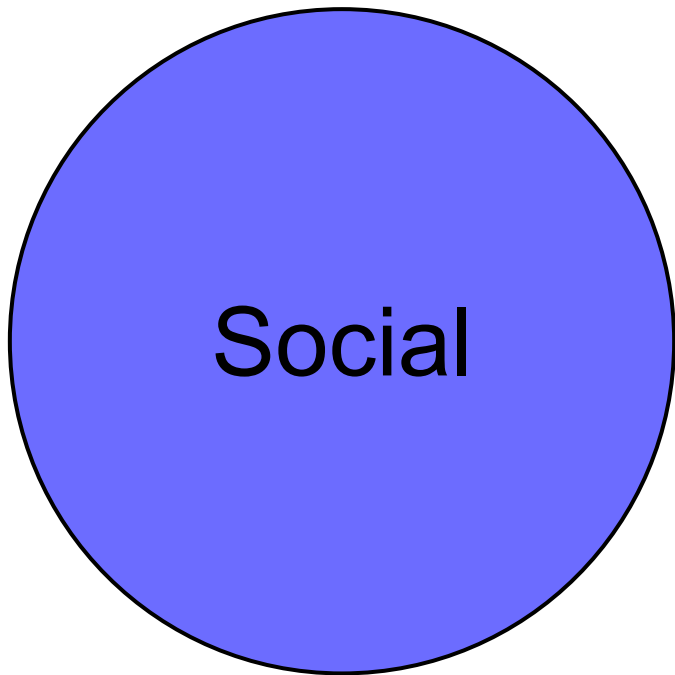
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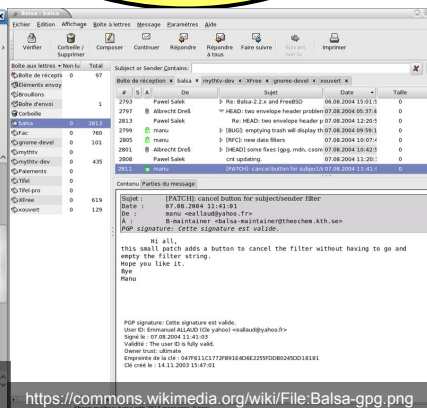
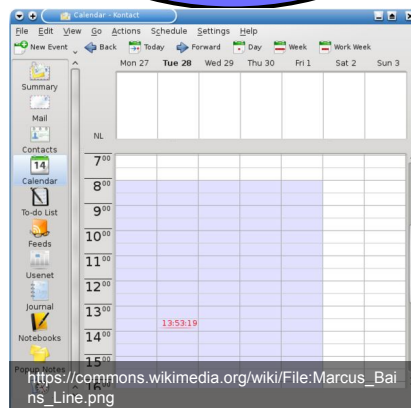
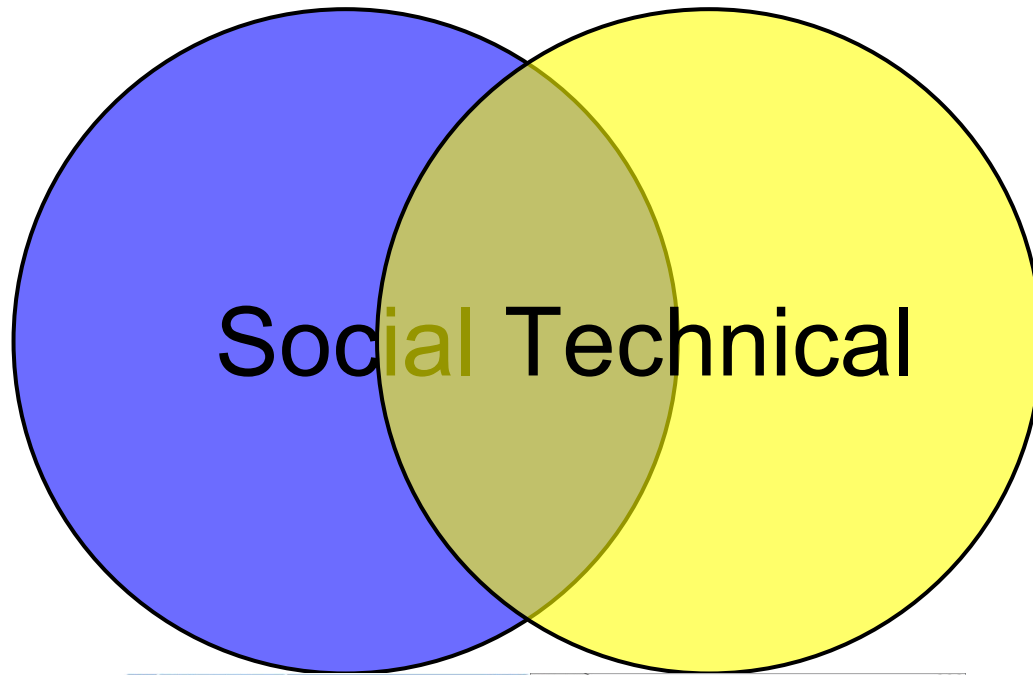
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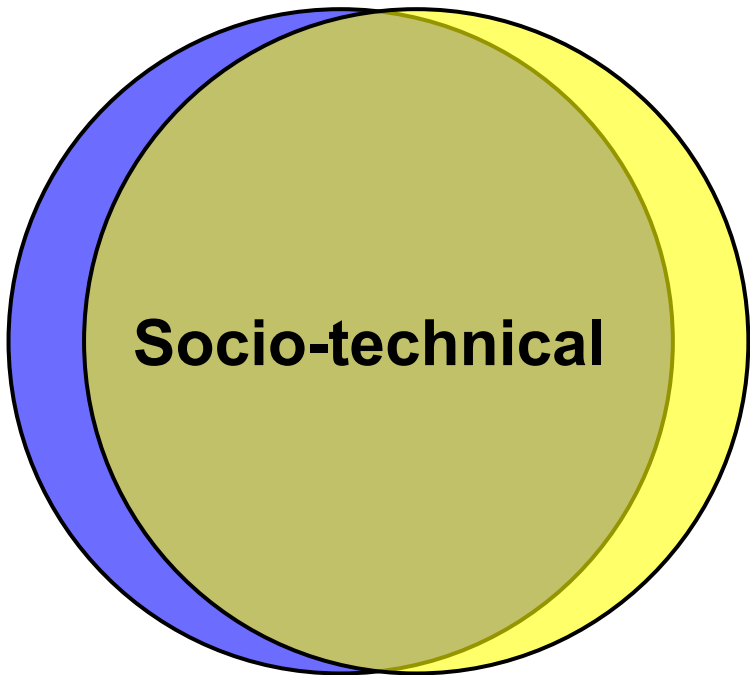
Socio-technical



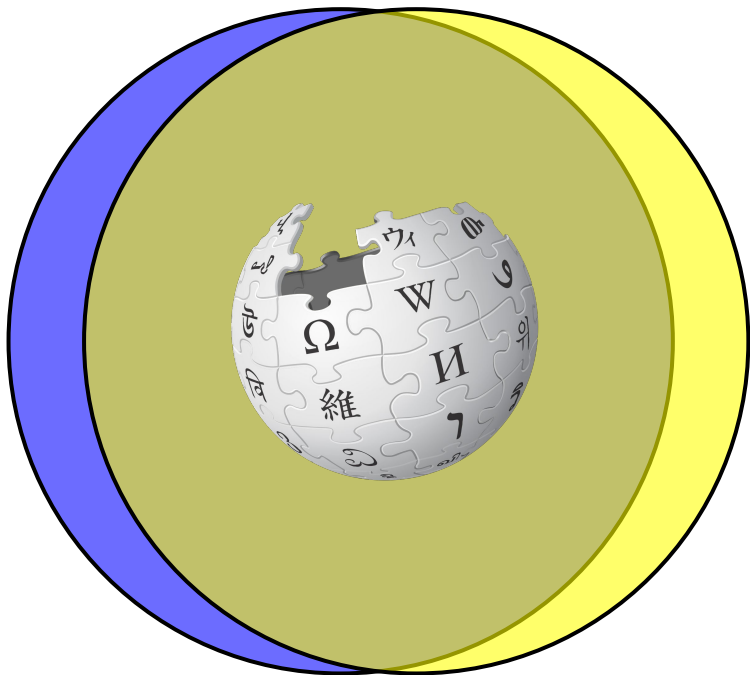




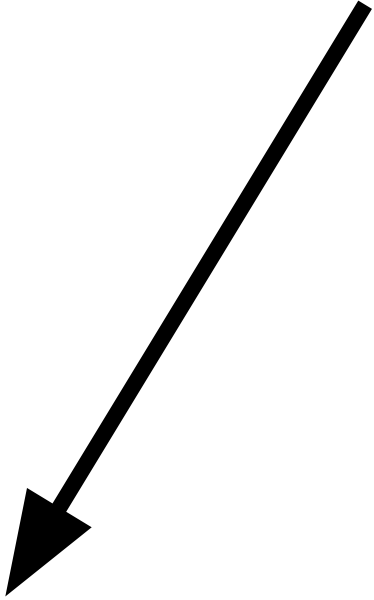




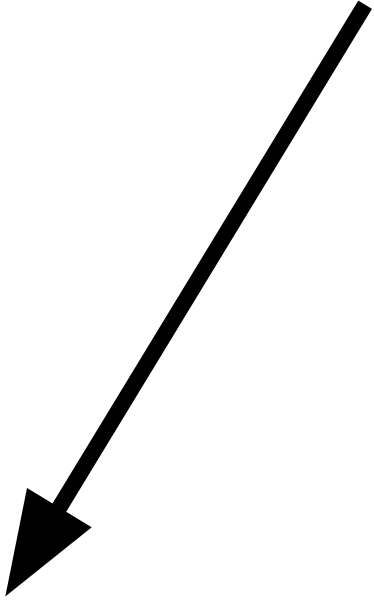
**Socio-technical**



# Technologist

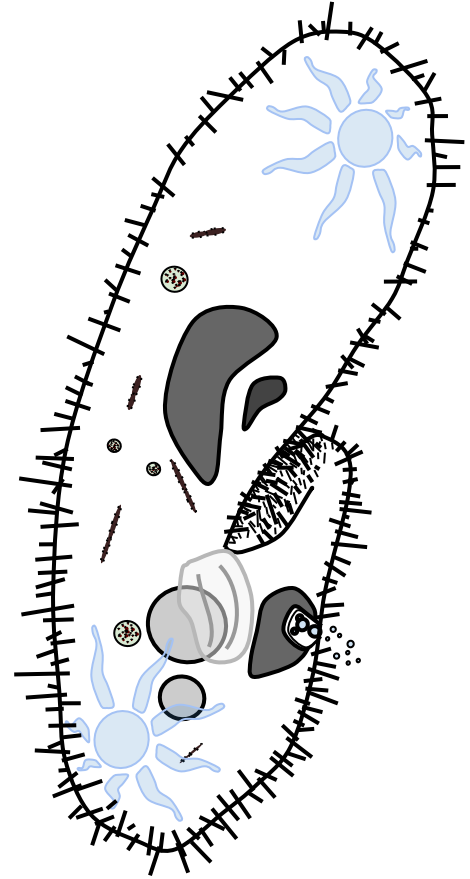


# Techno-biologist?

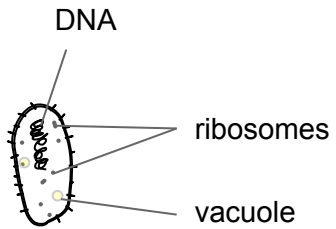




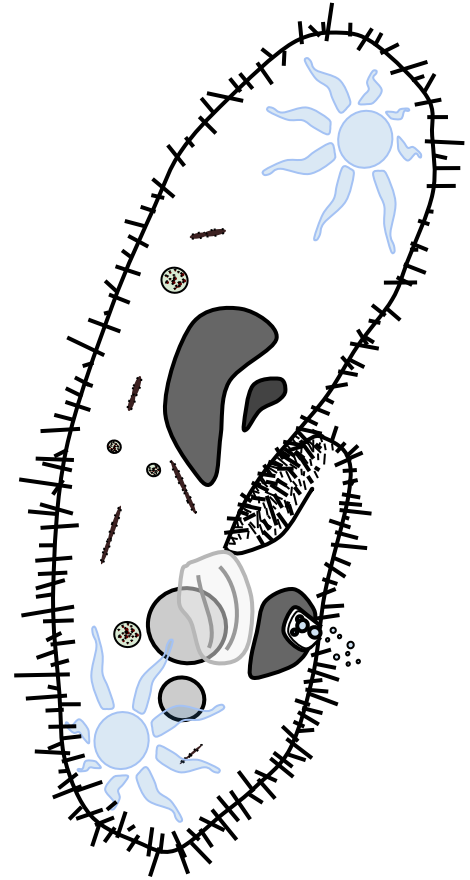
**Bacterium**



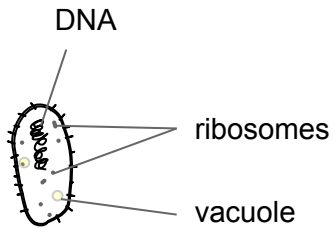
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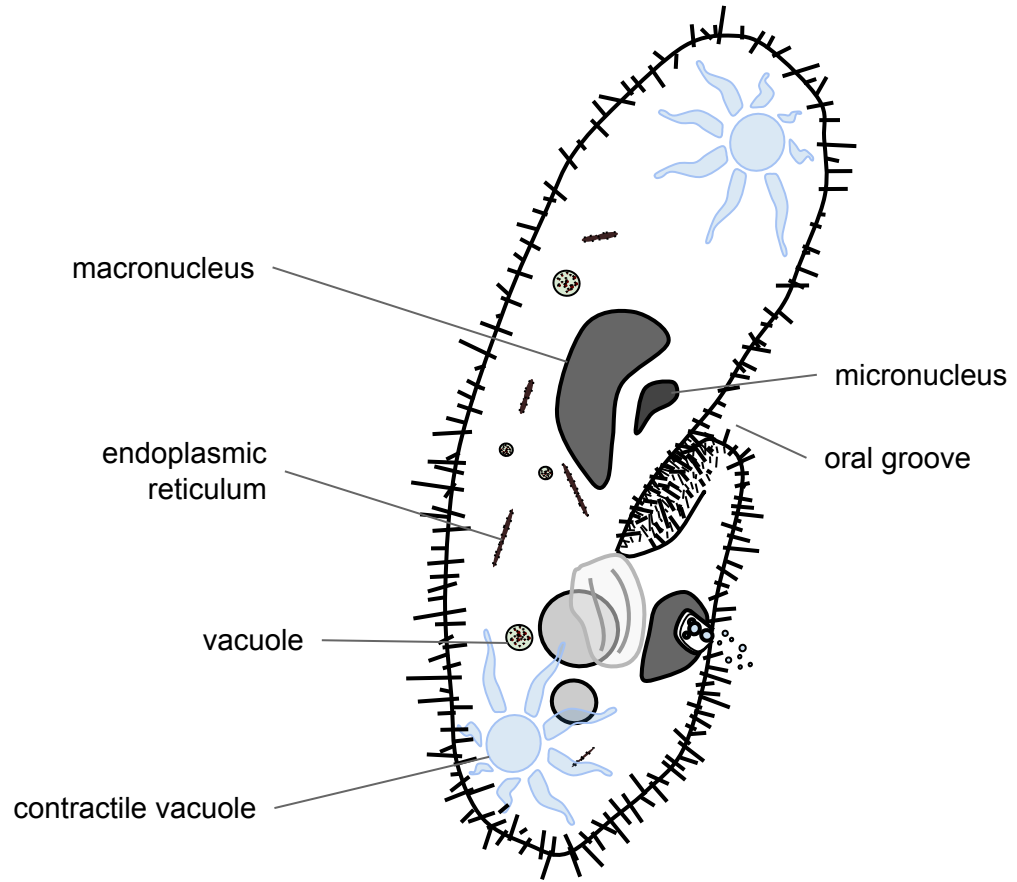
**Bacterium**



**Paramecium**



**Bacterium**



**Paramecium**



**Bacterium**



**Paramecium**







Dunbar's number: ~150



**Bacterium**



**Paramecium**

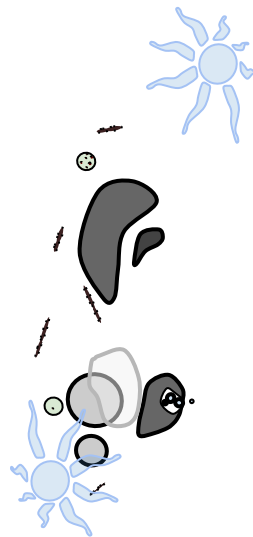




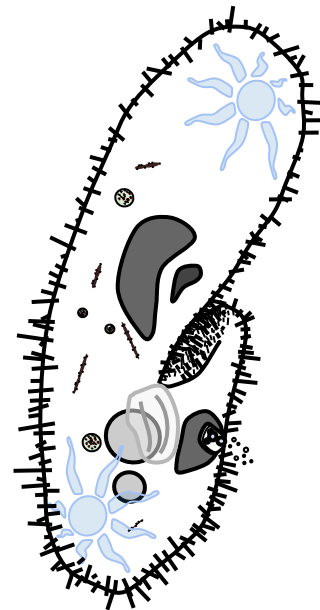
**Bacterium**



**Bare-amecium**



**Organelles**



**Paramecium**

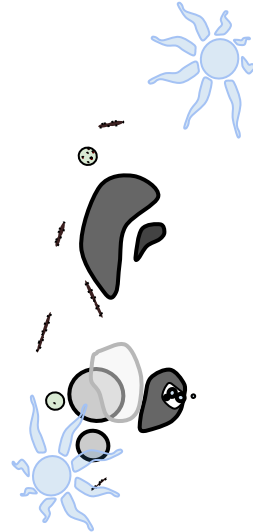
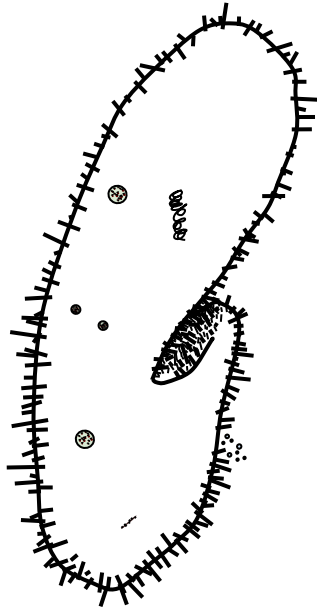


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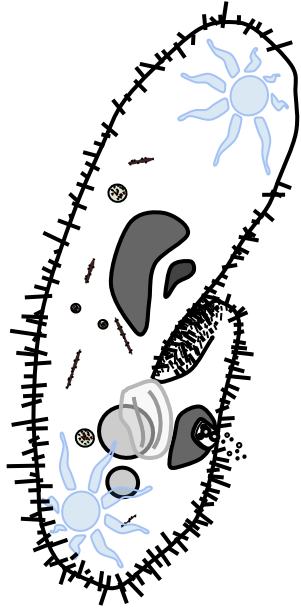


# socio - technical

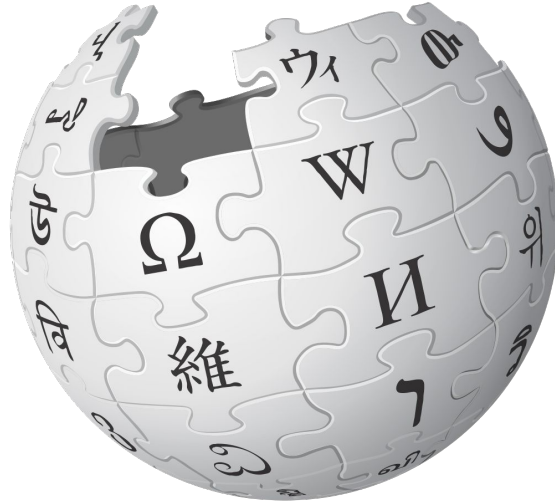


# socio-technical

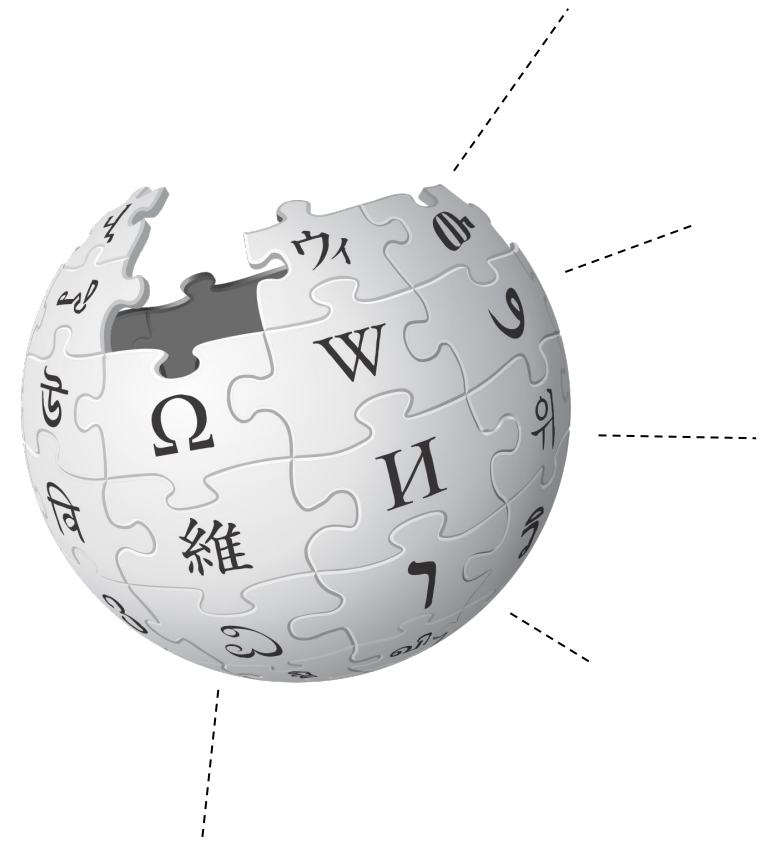




System with specialized  
**sub-systems**

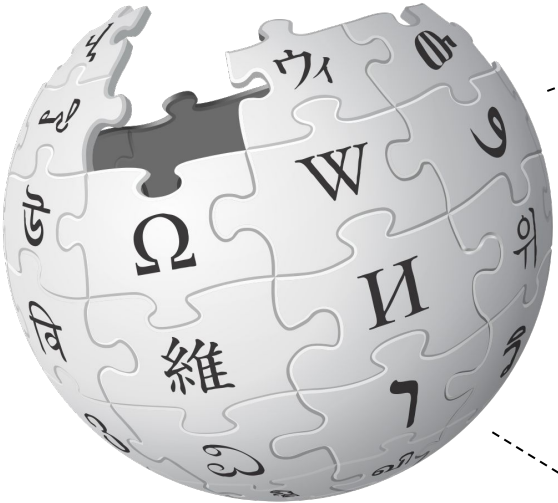


System with specialized  
**sub-systems**



# Work allocation

- Identify, prioritize and assign tasks



# Work allocation

- Largely for free due to Linus' Law



# Linus's Law?



# Linus's Law?



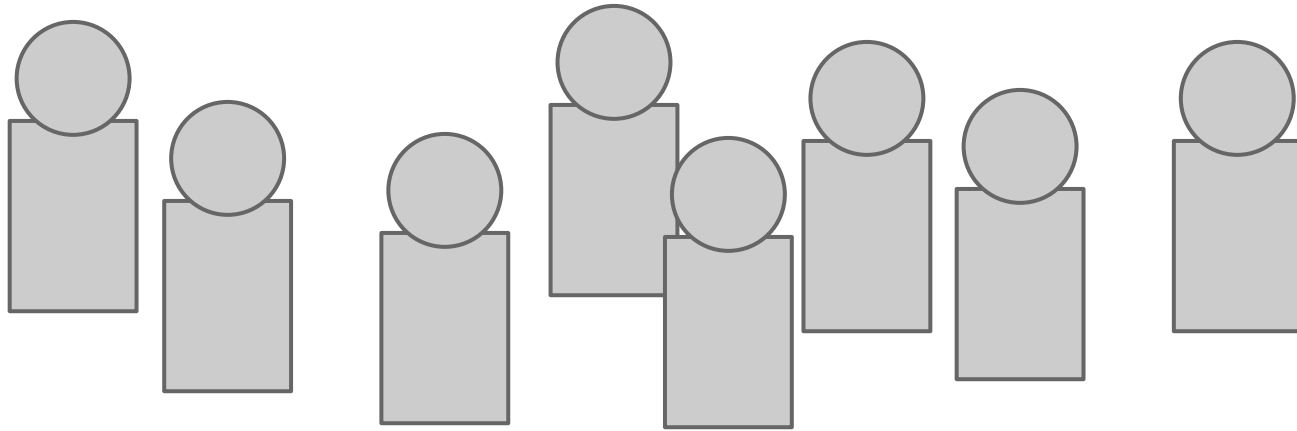
Eric  
Raymond

# Linus's Law?

*“given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow”*

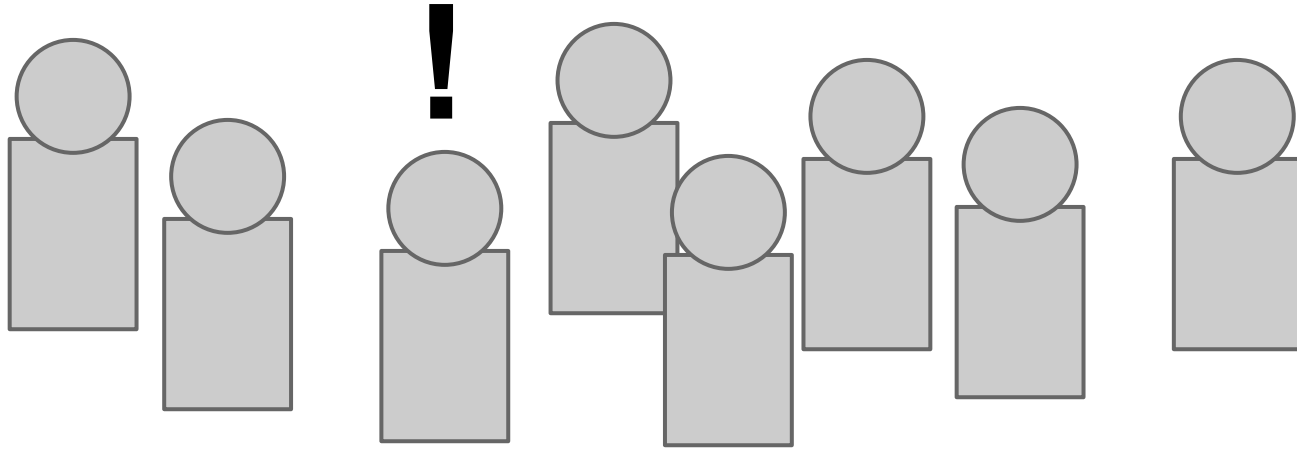
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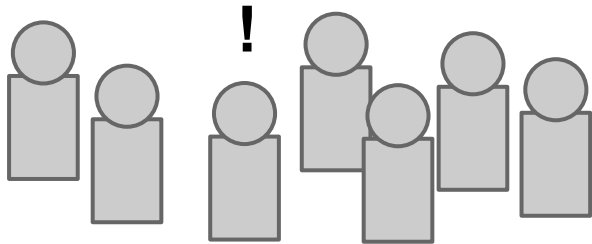


# Linus's Law?

visibility is critical to **open** collaboration

# A corollary for Wikipedia

Given that enough people see an incomplete article, all potential contributions to that article will be easy for someone.



**Works in theory** -- Stvilia, B., et al. (2008). Information quality work organization in Wikipedia. *JASIST*, 59(6), 983-1001.

**Part of becoming a Wikipedian** -- Bryant, S. L., Forte, A., & Bruckman, A. (2005, November). Becoming Wikipedian. *GROUP* (pp. 1-10). ACM.

**We can support visibility with technology** -- Cosley, D., et al. (2007, January). SuggestBot: using intelligent task routing to help people find work in wikipedia. *IUI* (pp. 32-41). ACM.

**Bad things happen when we take it away** -- Schneider, J., et al. (2014, August). Accept, decline, postpone. *OpenSym*(p. 26). ACM.

## Work allocation

- Identify, prioritize and assign tasks

## Regulation of behavior

- Norm formation, propagation and enforcement





wikipedia governance



About 37,400 results (0.07 sec)

### [Decentralization in Wikipedia governance](#)

[A Forte](#), [V Larco](#), [A Bruckman](#) - *Journal of Management Information ...*, 2009 - ME Sharpe

How does "self-governance" happen in **Wikipedia**? Through in-depth interviews with 20 individuals who have held a variety of responsibilities in the English-language **Wikipedia**, we obtained rich descriptions of how various forces produce and regulate social structures ...

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[A Aaltonen](#), [GF Lanzara](#) - *LAEMOS, Buenos Aires. http://www.egosnet.org/jart/ ...*, 2010

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### [Governance, organization, and democracy on the Internet: The iron law and the evolution of Wikipedia](#)

[P Konieczny](#) - *Sociological Forum*, 2009 - *Wiley Online Library*

This study examines whether the Iron Law of Oligarchy exists in **Wikipedia** by analyzing how a key policy of the website regarding verifiability evolved into its current form. The study describes the decision-making processes of **Wikipedia** and shows that there are many ...

[PDF] from [andreatorte.net](#)

[Coordination and beyond: social functions of groups in open content production](#)

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[A Forte](#), [N Kittur](#), [V Larco](#), [H Zhu](#), [A Bruckman](#)... - *Proceedings of the ...*, 2012 - dl.acm.org

... In our first round of interviews, we sought to understand **governance** in **Wikipedia** as a site-wide phenomenon. As such, we interviewed eleven individuals who had been involved in the site for many years, in many different capacities ...

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[L Schoeman](#), [DJ Fourie](#) - *Journal of Public Administration: ...*, 2008 - reference.sabinet.co.za

... **Wikipedia**. 2008. **Governance**. Encyclopaedia **Wikipedia**. Available online: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/governance> [Accessed 25 February 2008]. **Wikipedia**. 2008. Treaty. Encyclopaedia **Wikipedia**. Available online: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/treaty> [Accessed 25 February 2008]. ...

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[Changing governance of local economies: Responses of European local production systems](#)

[C Crouch](#), [P Le Galès](#), [C Trigilia](#), [H Voelzkow](#) - *OUP Catalogue*, 2004 - ideas.repec.org

... specialized manufacturing among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, the authors find patterns of economic **governance** far more ... This item is not listed on **Wikipedia**, on a reading list or among the top items on IDEAS. ...

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[H Katzan](#) - *Journal of Service Science (JSS)*, 2011 - journals.cluteonline.com

... The development of a service context involves the asking of tough questions to examine the strategic goal and objectives of a service organization in order 9 Adapted from the **Wikipedia** articles on strategy and corporate **governance**. Page 9. ...

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[P Wang](#), [C Domeniconi](#) - *Proceedings of the 14th ACM SIGKDD ...*, 2008 - dl.acm.org

... Chief executive officer Shareholder Fiduciary Corporate **governance** Corporation Boards of directors Build Thesaurus from **Wikipedia** Ambiguous Concepts: Puma Puma (Car) "Felidae" Category "Puma" "Cougar" "Mountain Lion" "Ford Vehicles" Category "Puma (Car)" ...

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**Prescriptive**

Idea for a Norm

**Descriptive**

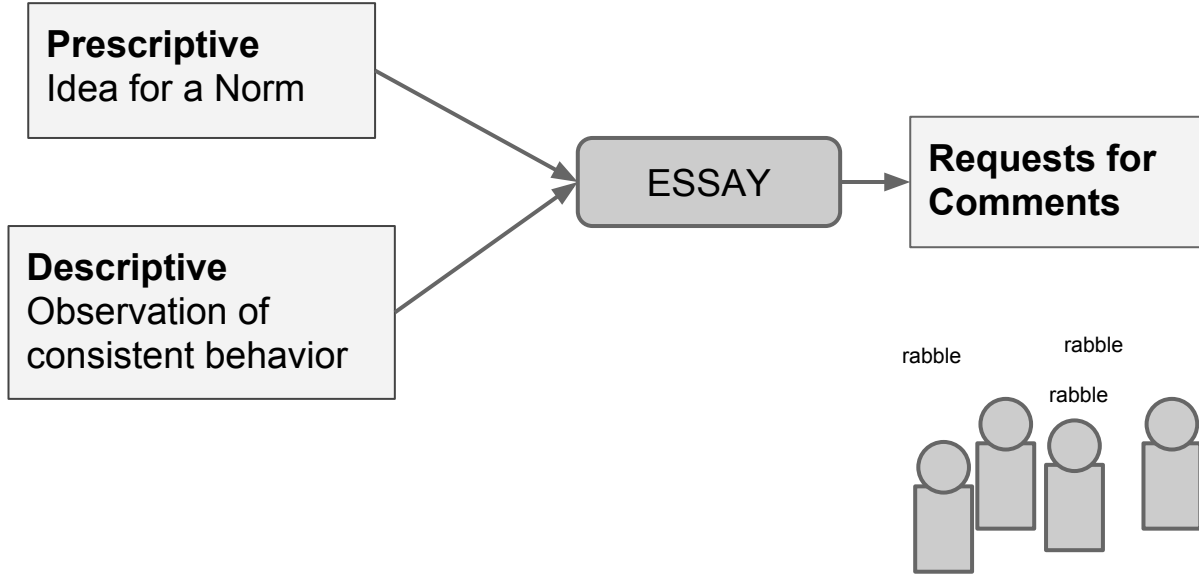
Observation of  
consistent behavior

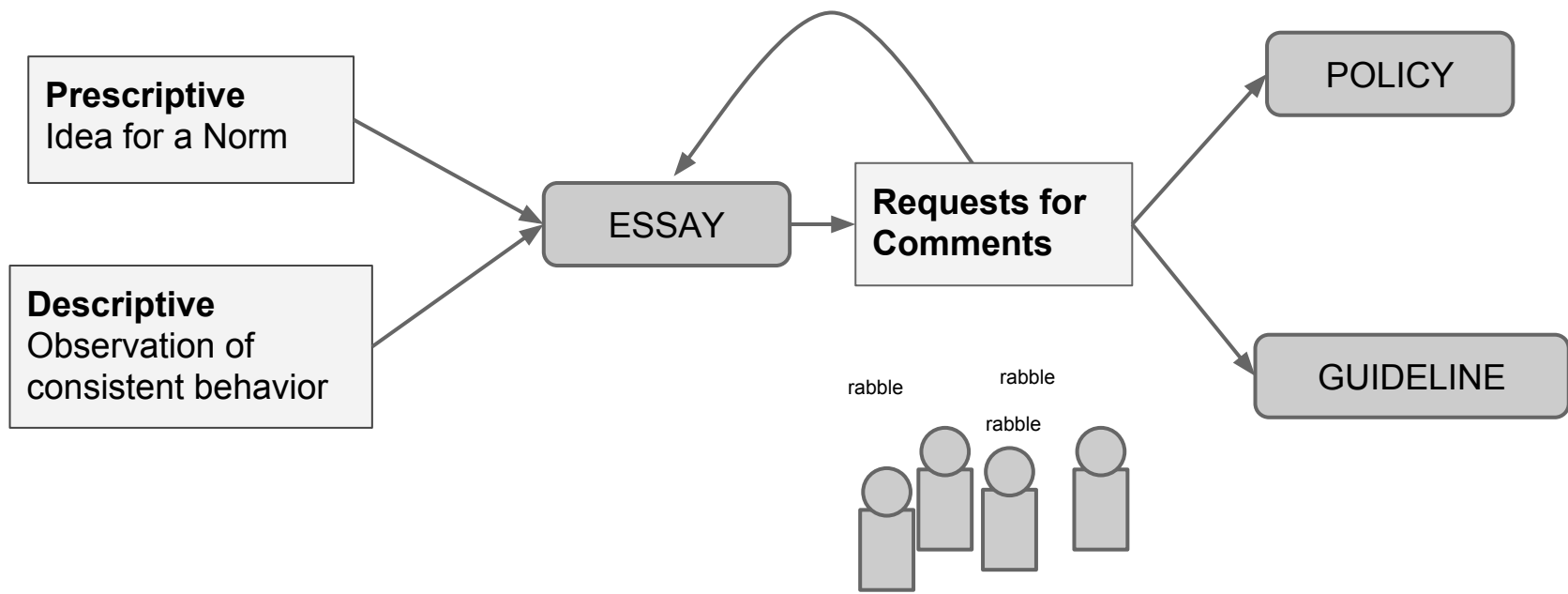
**Prescriptive**  
Idea for a Norm

**Descriptive**  
Observation of  
consistent behavior

ESSAY

```
graph LR; A[Prescriptive  
Idea for a Norm] --> C(ESSAY); B[Descriptive  
Observation of  
consistent behavior] --> C;
```





## Informal

Morgan, J. T., & Zachry, M. (2010, November). Negotiating with angry mastodons: the wikipedia policy environment as genre ecology. In *Proceedings of the 16th ACM international conference on Supporting group work* (pp. 165-168). ACM.

Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2012). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0002764212469365.

ESSAY

## Formalized

POLICY

GUIDELINE

## Informal



### Wikipedia:Don't stuff beans up your nose

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This [essay](#) contains the advice or opinions of one or more Wikipedia contributors on Wikipedia:Behavioral policy. Essays are *not* [Wikipedia policies or guidelines](#). Some essays represent widespread norms; others only represent minority viewpoints.

## Formalized

### Wikipedia:Verifiability

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

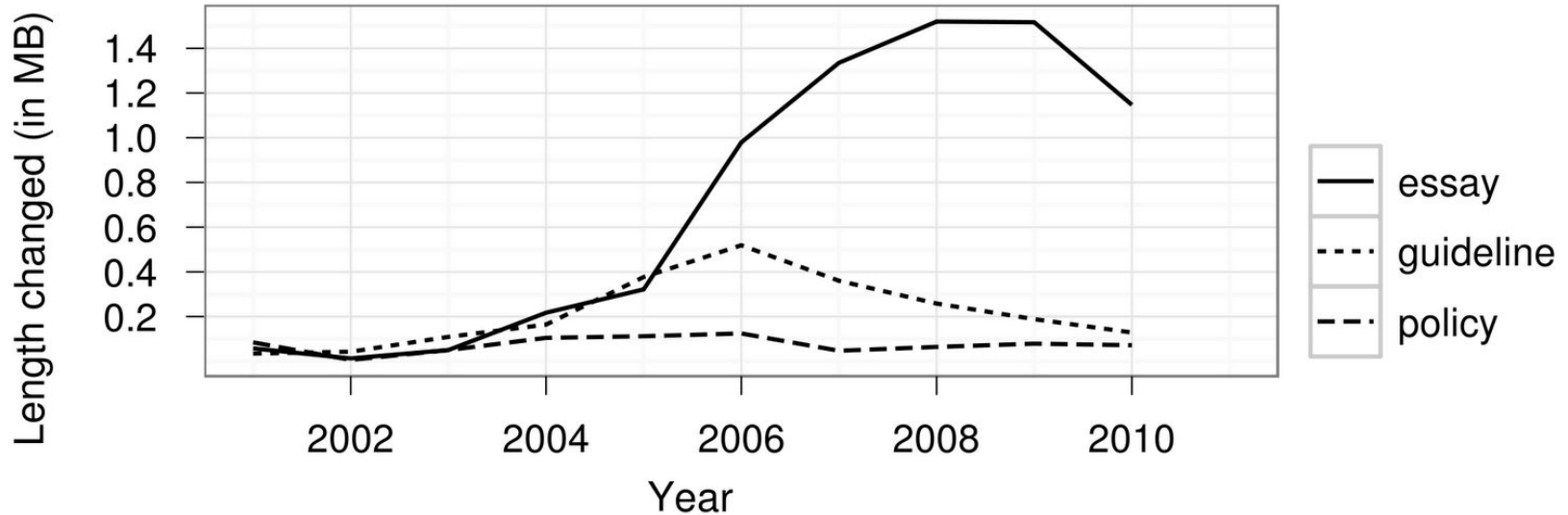
*To discuss particular sources, see the [reliable sources](#) / see [WP:VAND](#). For the default Wikipedia skin, see [WP:](#)*



This page documents an English Wikipedia [policy](#), a widely accepted standard that all editors should [normally](#) follow. Changes made to it should reflect [consensus](#).

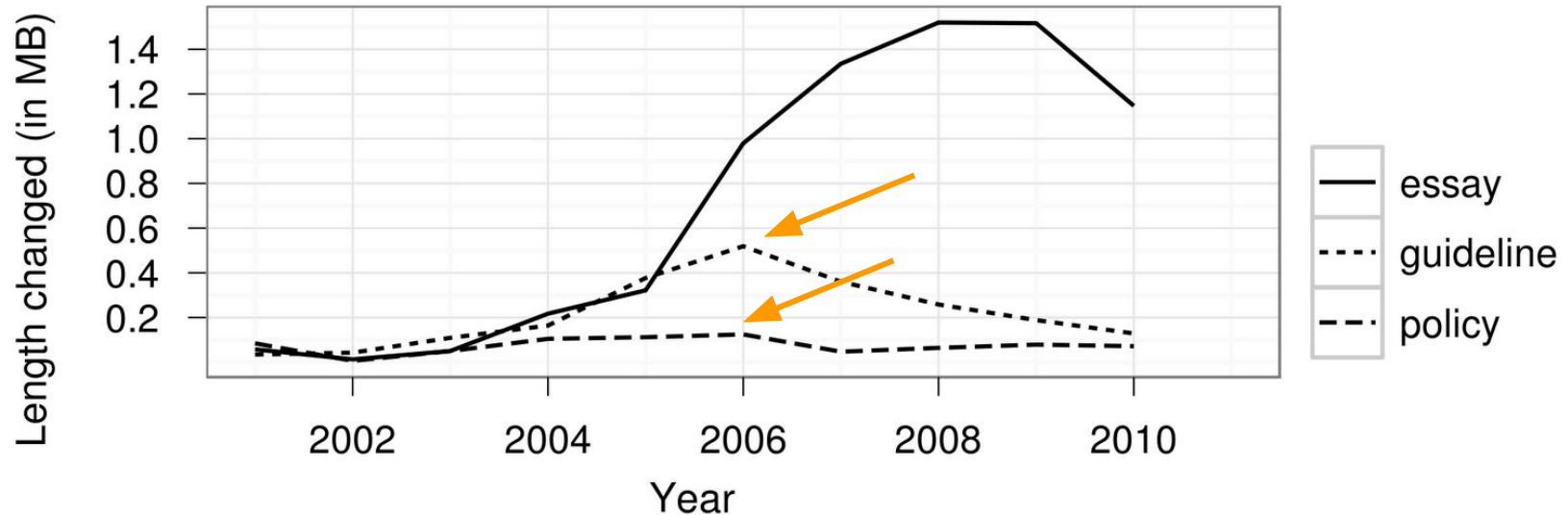


# Growth of regulations



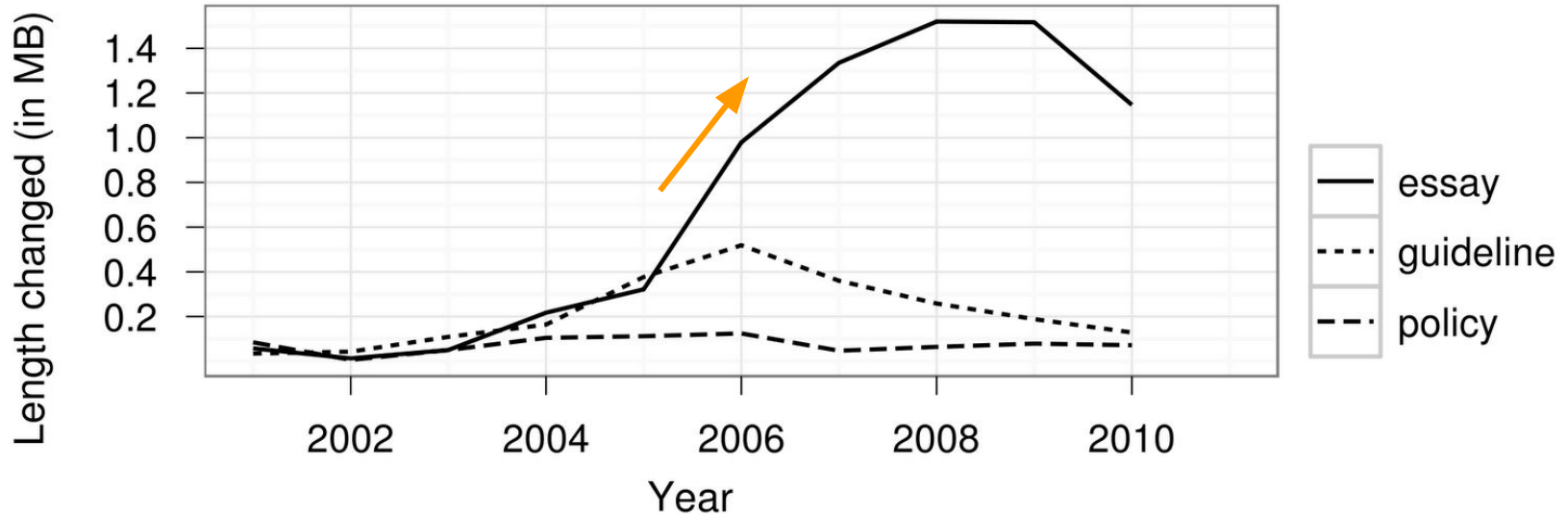
Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2012). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0002764212469365.

# Growth of regulations



Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2012). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0002764212469365.

# Growth of regulations



Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2012). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0002764212469365.

# Citation distribution

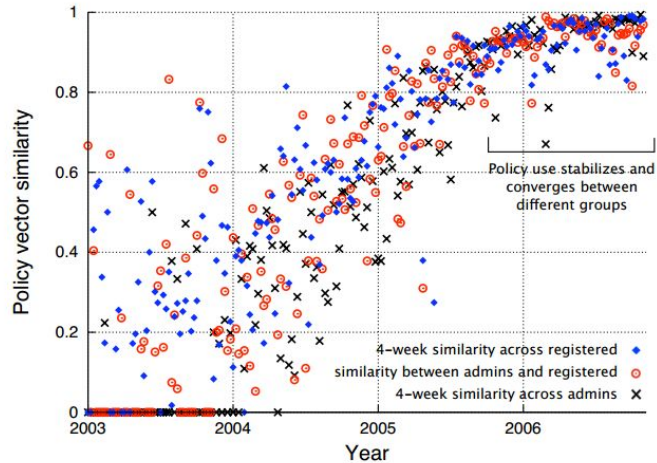


Figure 8: Policy vector similarities for admin and registered users are converging to 1, indicating that the two user groups are becoming similar in their policy citations. The convergence of similarities of policy vectors 4 weeks apart within each population indicates stability within user classes.

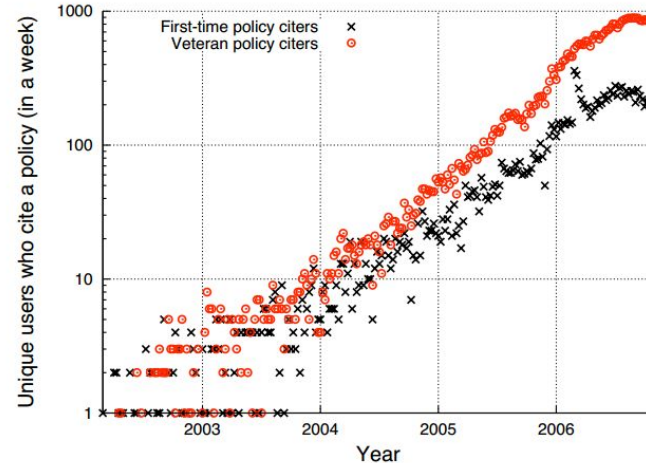


Figure 9: On average, unique users who cite policy for the first time account for over 10% of all unique users who cite a policy in a week. The high percentage indicates that participation in Wikipedia's governance structure is inclusionary.

# Citation distribution

“Wikipedia’s governance structure is inclusionary”

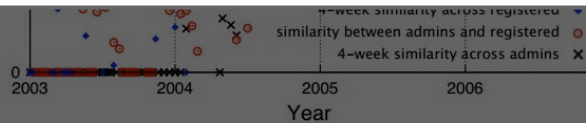


Figure 8: Policy vector similarities for admin and registered users are converging to 1, indicating that the two user groups are becoming similar in their policy citations. The convergence of similarities of policy vectors 4 weeks apart within each population indicates stability within user classes.

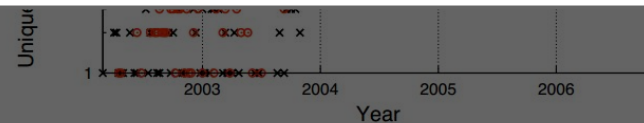


Figure 9: On average, unique users who cite policy for the first time account for over 10% of all unique users who cite a policy in a week. The high percentage indicates that participation in Wikipedia’s governance structure is inclusionary.

## Work allocation

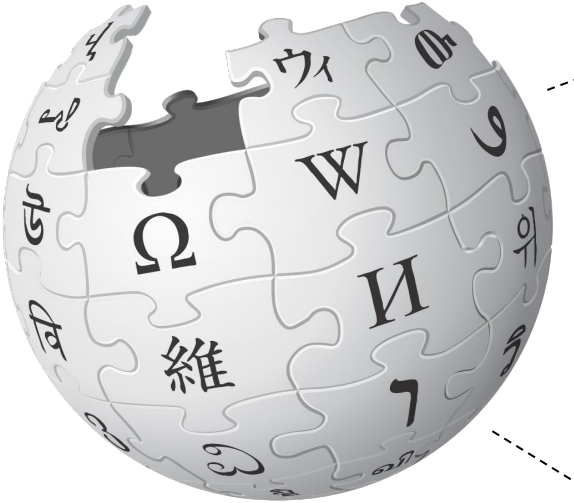
- Identify, prioritize and assign tasks

## Regulation of behavior

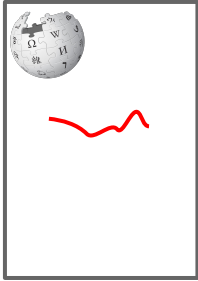
- Norm formation, propagation and enforcement

## Quality control

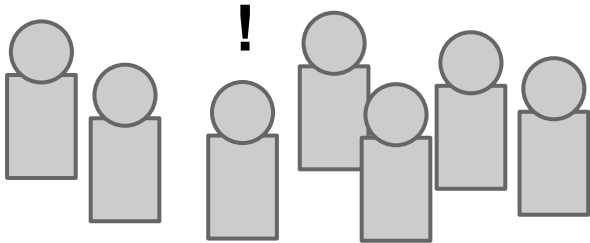
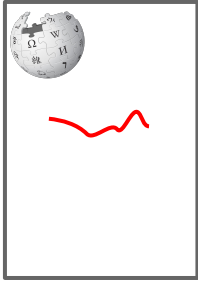
- Identify and remove damage



# Quality control

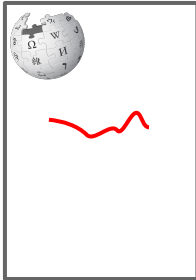


# Quality control

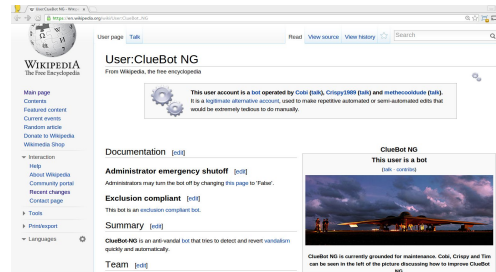




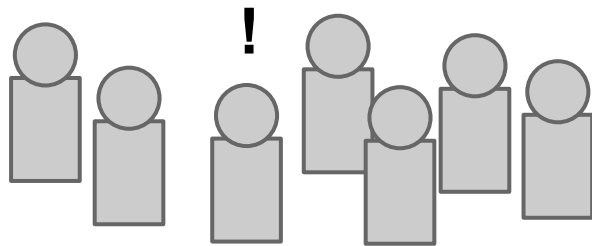
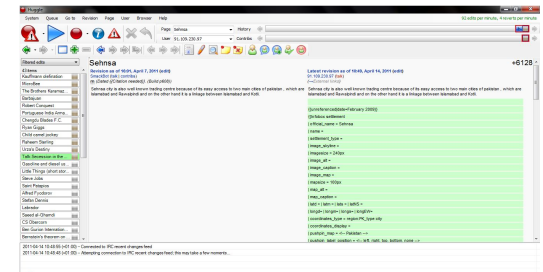
# Quality control



## Fully automated



## Semi automated



## Machine learning

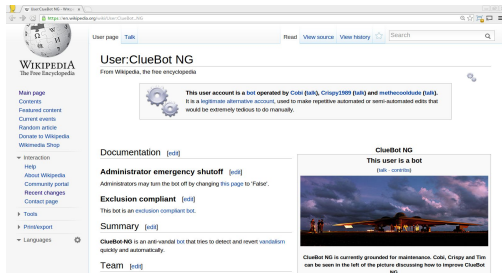
- Fast (~ 5 seconds)[1]
- No human effort
- *Only obvious vandalism*

## Human computation

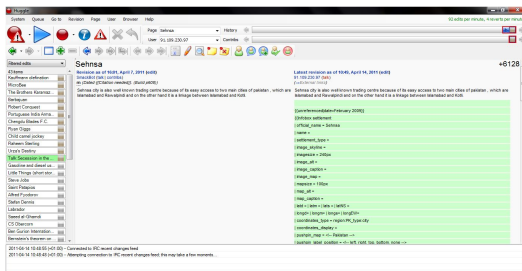
- Still pretty fast (~ 30 seconds)[1]
- Minimizes human effort
- Humans catch most vandalism at a glance

# Quality control

## Fully automated



## Semi automated



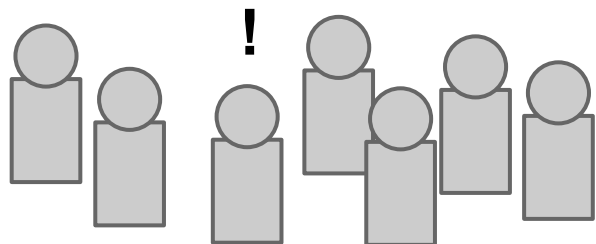
## Banning (Admins)

### Wikipedia:Administrator intervention against vandalism

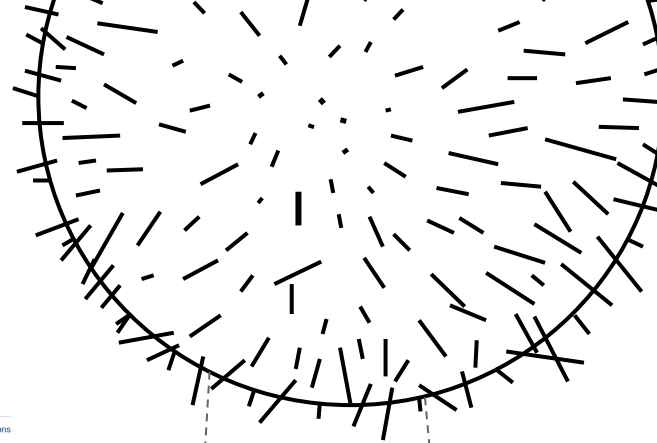
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia [Administrator instructions](#)  
(Redirected from Wikipedia:AV)

*"WP:RVAN" redirects here. For information on how to respond to vandalism, see [Wikipedia:Vandalism § How to respond to vandalism](#).*

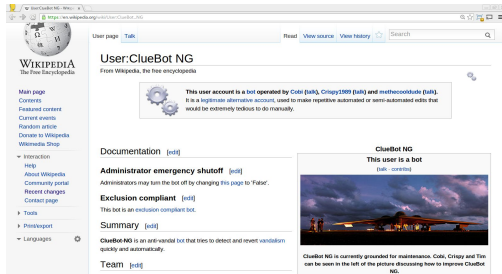
<b>Noticeboards, etc.</b> <span>[hide]</span>
Wikipedia's centralized discussion, request, and help venues. See the dashboard for an expanded listing.
<b>General</b> <span>[hide]</span>
Administrators' noticeboard (main · incidents) · Bot owners · Closure · Education (main · incidents) · Importing pages · Main Page errors · Open proxies · OTRS · Oversight · Page protection



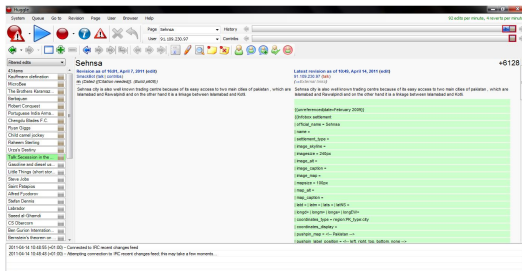
# Quality control



## Fully automated



## Semi automated



## Banning (Admins)

### Wikipedia:Administrator intervention against vandalism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia [Administrator instructions](#)  
(Redirected from Wikipedia:AV)

*"WP:RVAN" redirects here. For information on how to respond to vandalism, see Wikipedia:Vandalism § How to respond to vandalism.*

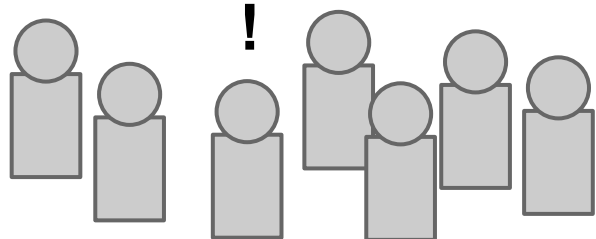
<b>Noticeboards, etc.</b> <span style="float: right;">[hide]</span>	
Wikipedia's centralized discussion, request, and help venues. See the dashboard for an expanded listing.	
<b>General</b>	Administrators' noticeboard (main · incidents) · Bot owners · Closure · Education (main · incidents) · Importing pages · Main Page errors · Open proxies · OTRS · Oversight · Page protection

## Innate

- Fast
- General
- Local

## Adaptive

- Slow
- Specific
- Global



Halfaker, A. & Riedl, J. (2012) Bots and Cyborgs, *IEEE Computing* 45(3) (p. 79-82)

Geiger, R. S., & Ribes, D. (2010, February). The work of sustaining order in wikipedia: the banning of a vandal. *CSCW* (pp. 117-126). ACM.

## Work allocation

- Identify, prioritize and assign tasks

## Regulation of behavior

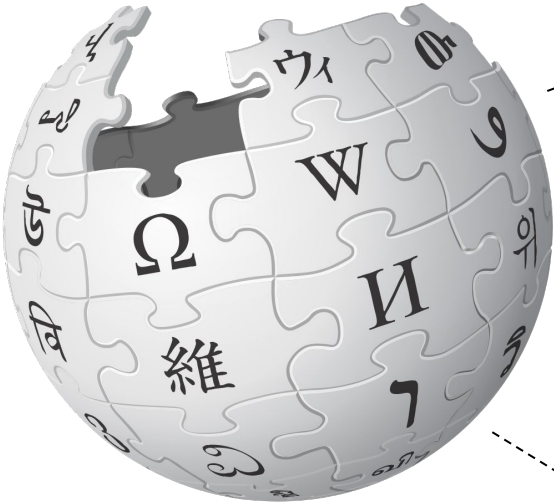
- Norm formation, propagation and enforcement

## Quality control

- Identify and remove damage

## Community management

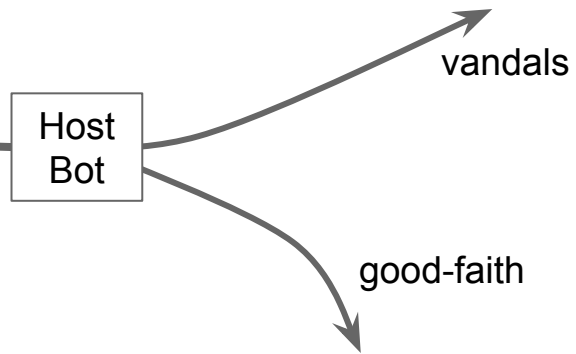
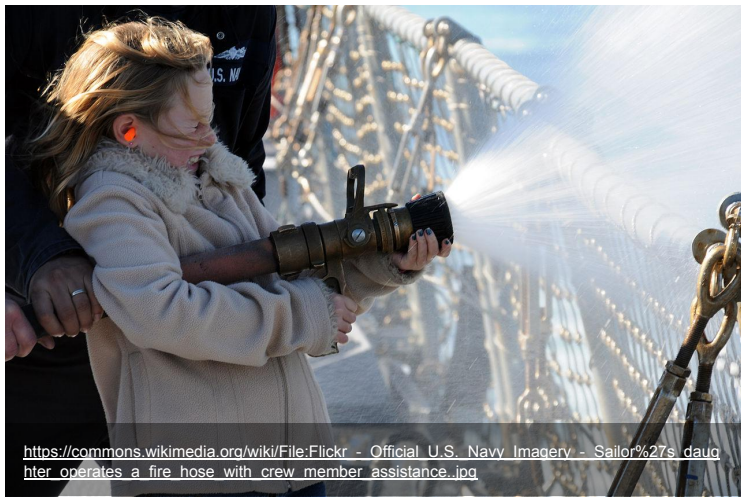
- Newcomer socialization, dispute mediation & training



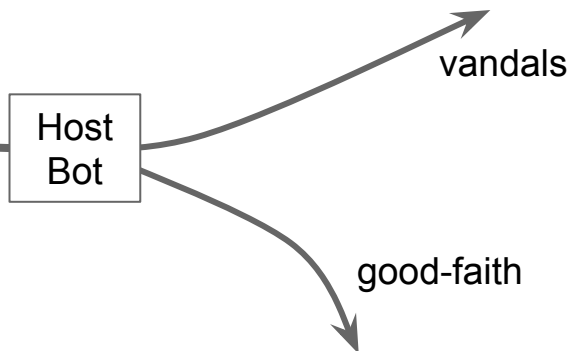


[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr - Official U.S. Navy Imagery - Sailor%27s daughter operates a fire hose with crew member assistance.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Official_U.S._Navy_Imagery_-_Sailor%27s_daughter_operates_a_fire_hose_with_crew_member_assistance.jpg)

6,000 newcomers per day



6,000 newcomers per day



6,000 newcomers per day

Question forum >> Host profiles >> Guest profiles >>

**teahouse**  
• Learn more

Experienced editor?  
Become a host...

Ask a question

## Work allocation

- Identify, prioritize and assign tasks

## Regulation of behavior

- Form, propagate and enforce norms

## Quality control

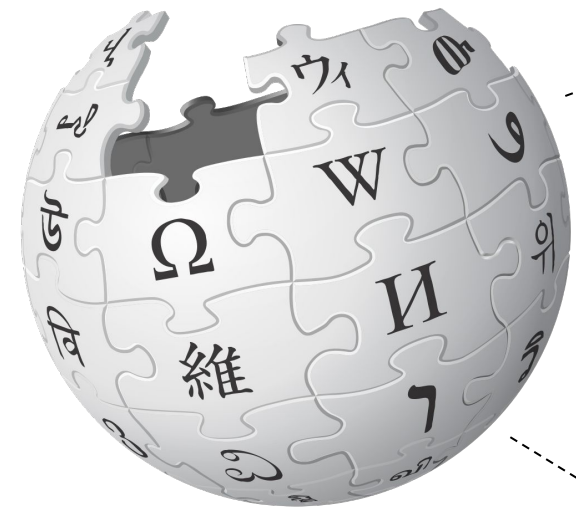
- Identify and remove damage

## Community management

- Socialize & train newcomers; mediate disputes

## Reflection (Adaptation)

- Where are we going? Where do we want to go? How do we want to get there?



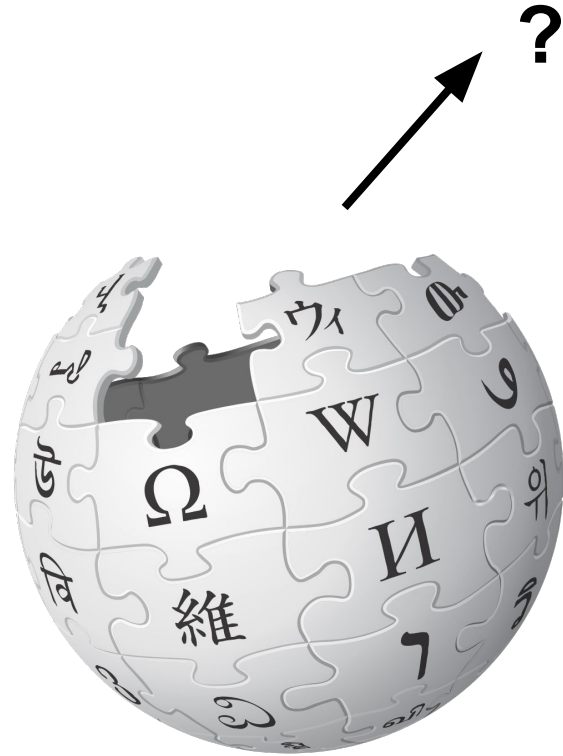


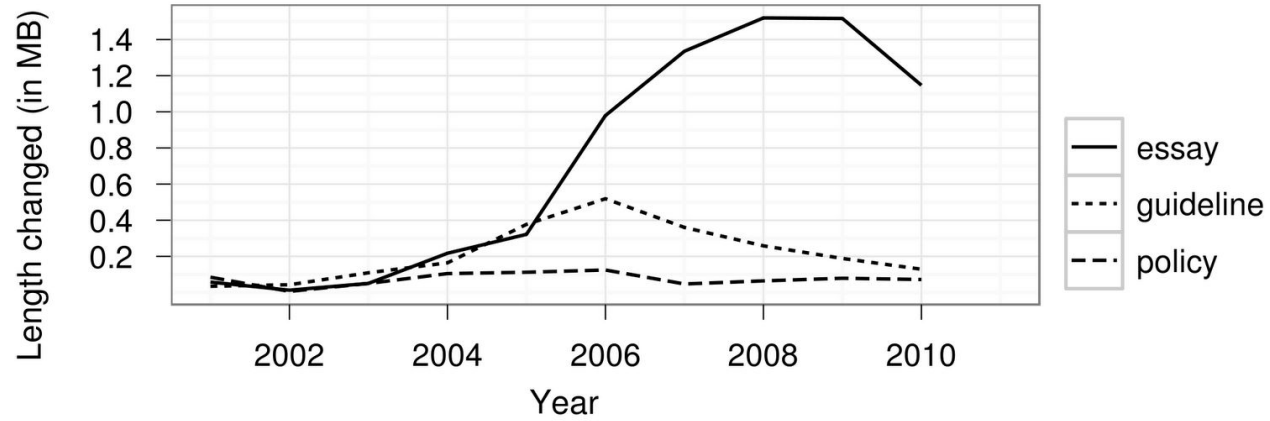
# Reflection (Adaptation)

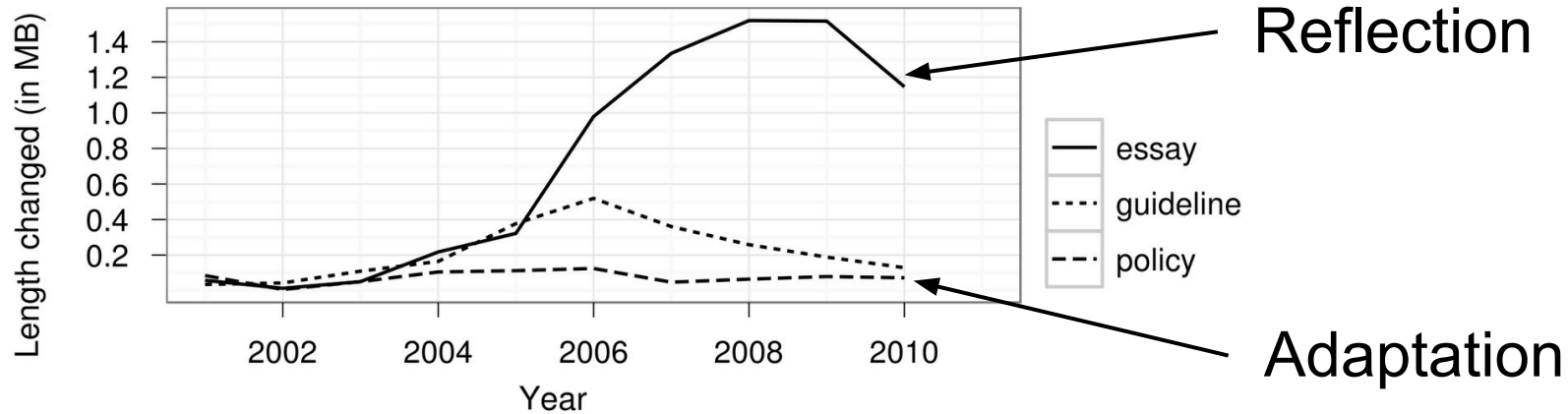
Where *are* we going?

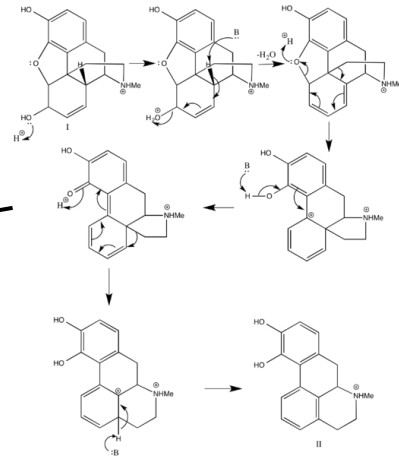
Where do we *want* to go?

*How* do we get there?

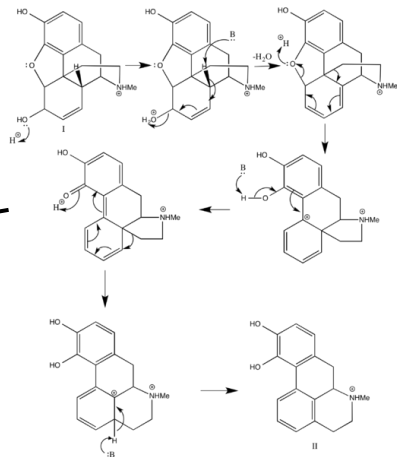




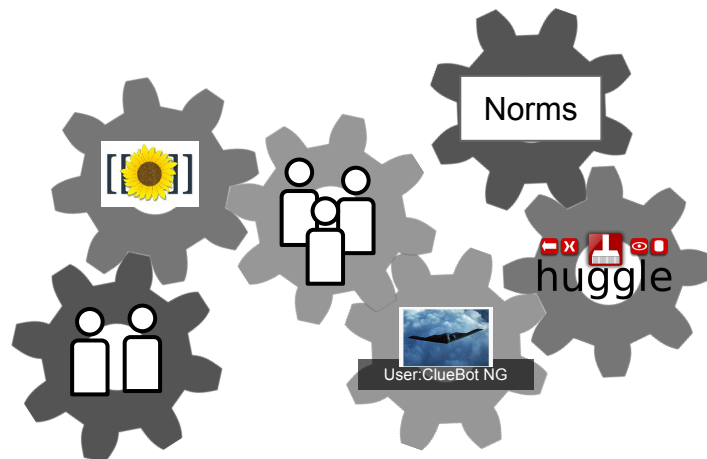




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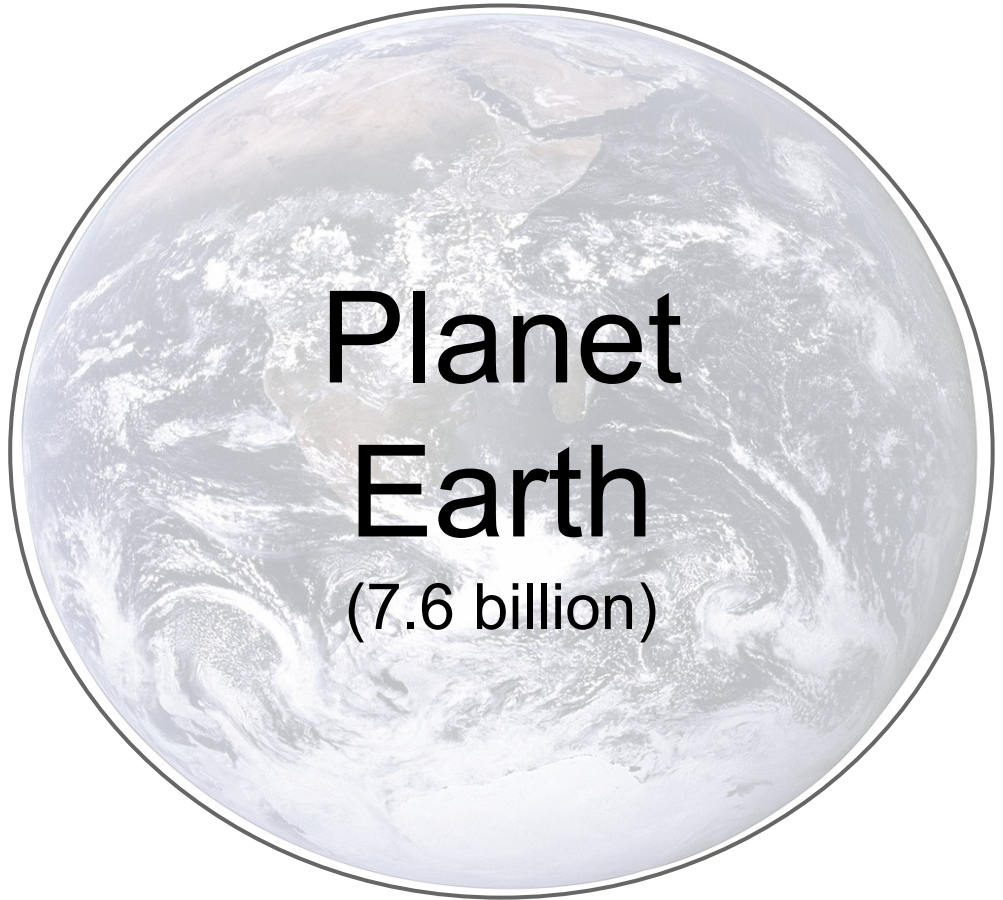
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# Part 2: Open data and scholarship

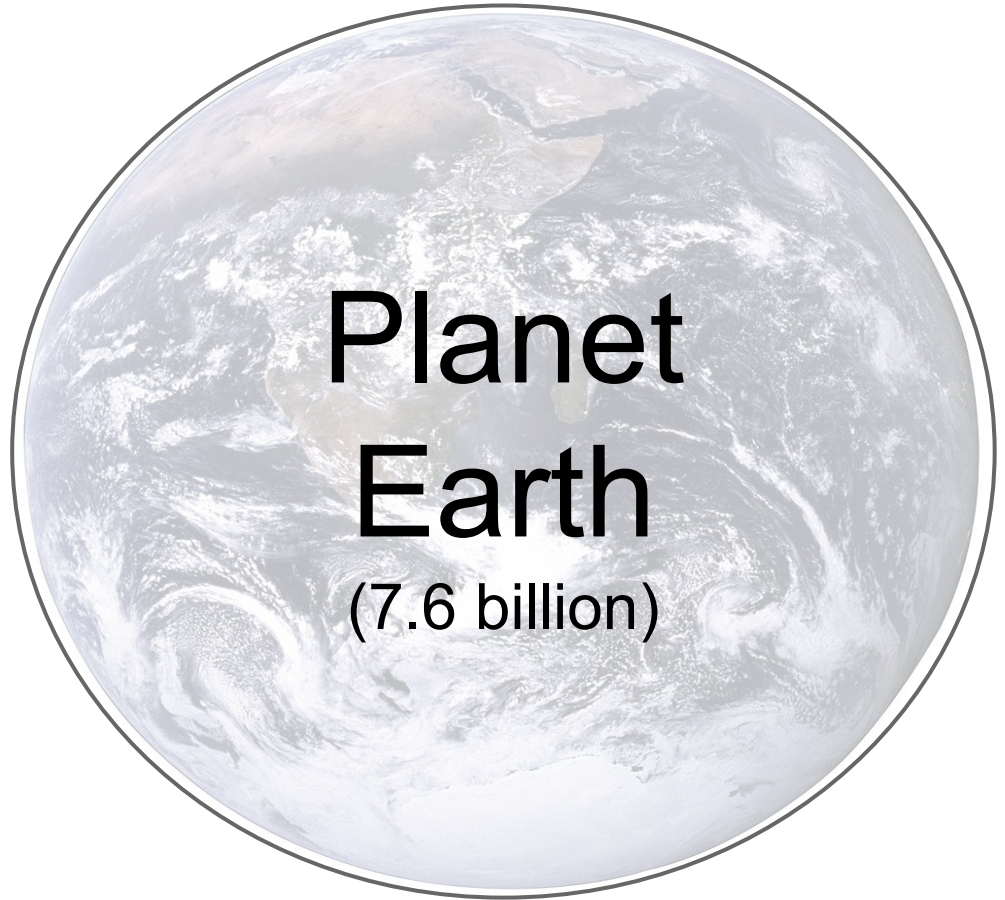


# Planet Earth

(7.6 billion)



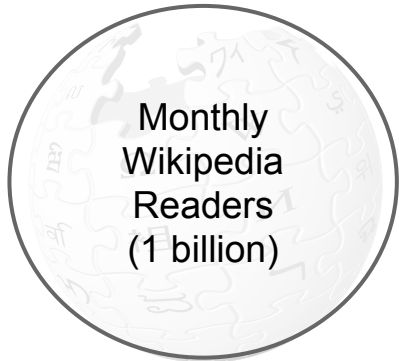
1:10





**Planet  
Earth**  
(7.6 billion)

1:10



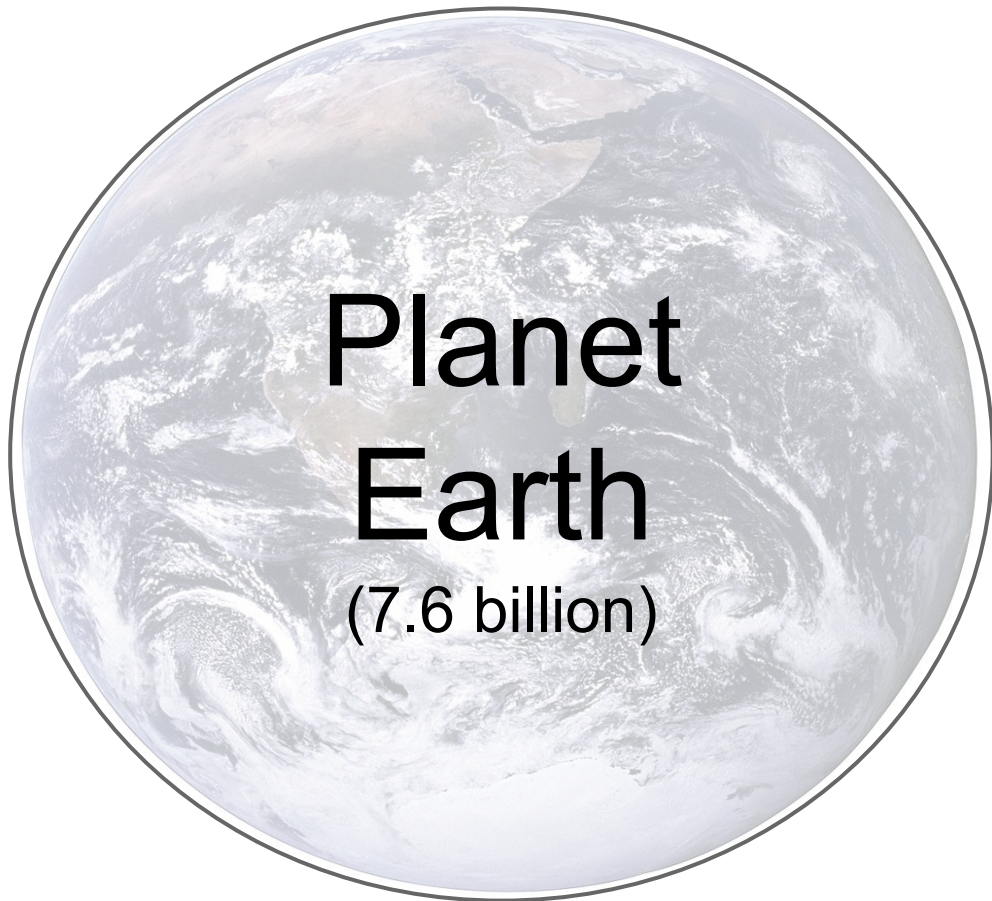
Monthly  
Wikipedia  
Readers  
(1 billion)

1:10000

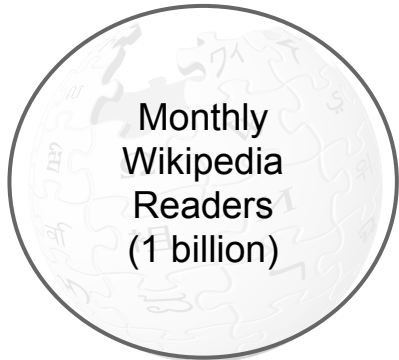


Monthly Wikipedia Editors  
(113,304)

1:10

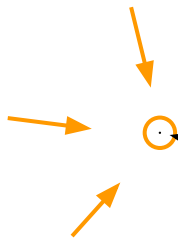


Planet  
Earth  
(7.6 billion)



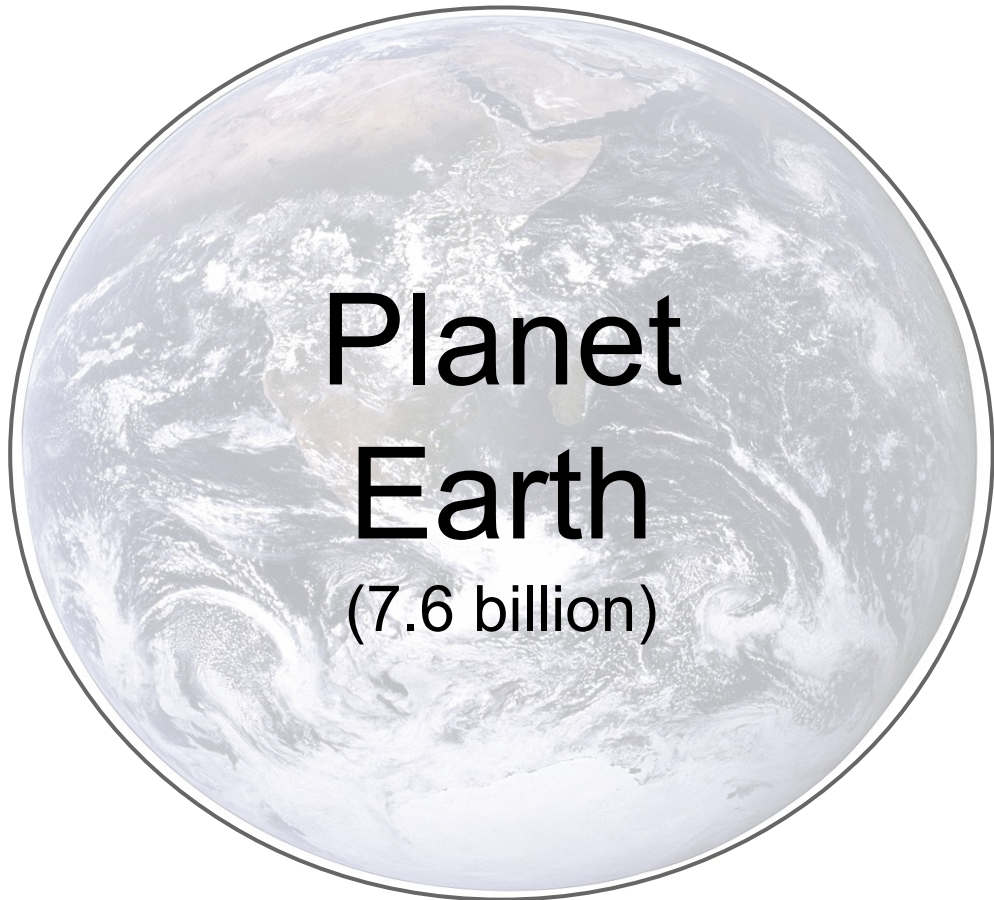
Monthly  
Wikipedia  
Readers  
(1 billion)

1:10000

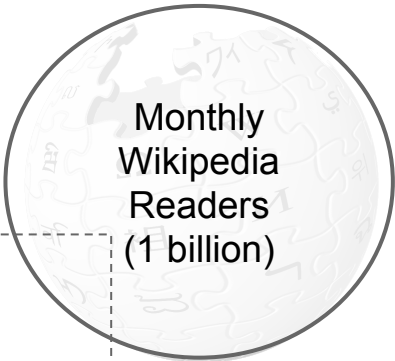


Monthly Wikipedia Editors  
(113,304)





1:10



1:10000

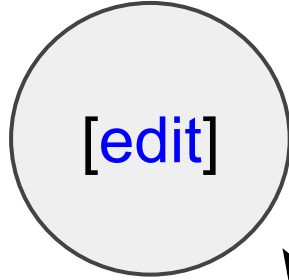
Monthly Wikipedia Editors  
(113,304)



Wikimedia Foundation Staff  
(~225)



1:1000



1:10,000

Monthly Wikipedia  
Readers (1B)

Monthly Wikipedia Editors  
(100,000)



**Jonathan Morgan**  
Senior Design  
Researcher



**Miriam Redi**  
Research Scientist



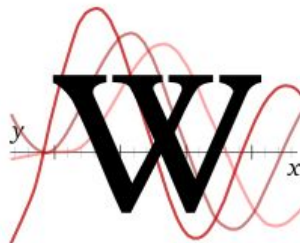
**Diego Saez-Trumper**  
Research Scientist



**Dario Taraborelli**  
Director, Head of  
Research



**Leila Zia**  
Senior Research  
Scientist



**Wikimedia  
Research**

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Senior Design  
Researcher



**Miriam Redi**  
Research Scientist



**Diego Saez-Trumper**  
Research Scientist



**Wikimedia  
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**SCORING  
PLATFORM  
TEAM**



**Dario Taraborelli**  
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Research



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Rif A. Saurous



RESEARCH AREA(S)

[Machine Intelligence](#)

Martin Abadi



RESEARCH AREA(S)

[Algorithms and Theory](#)



D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 - 60 of 1953 researchers

Saurous



RESEARCH AREA(S)

Intelligence

Martín Abadi

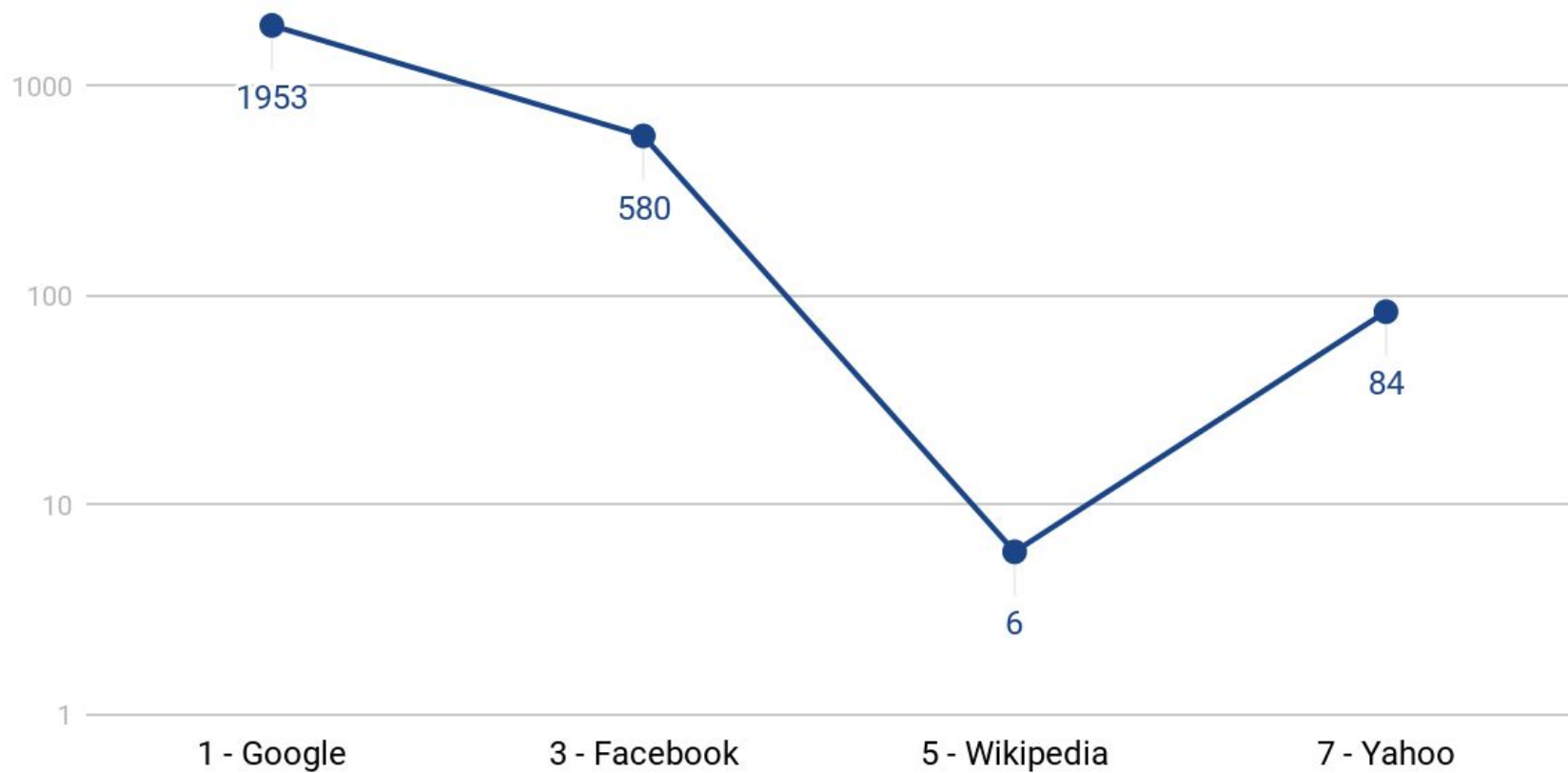


RESEARCH AREA(S)

Algorithms and Theory

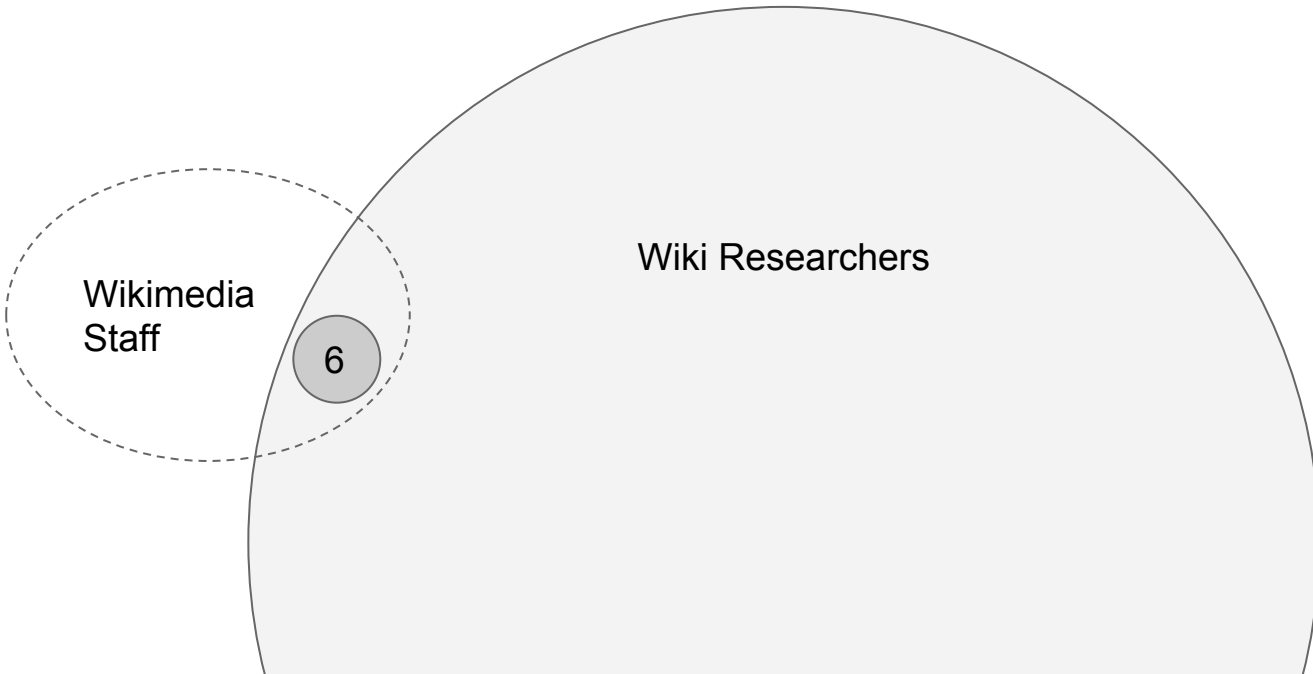
- Google research: 1953 (Alexa #1)
- Facebook research: 580 (Alexa #3)
- **Wikimedia research: 6** (Alexa #5)
- Yahoo Research: 84 (Alexa #7)

## Researchers per alexa rank



... but Wikipedia is a volunteer organization.

... but Wikipedia is a volunteer organization.





About 6,870 results (0.05 sec)



## Robert E. Kraut

Human-Computer Interaction Institute, [Carnegie Mellon University](#)

Verified email at cmu.edu - [Homepage](#)

[Social computing](#) [computer-supported cooper...](#) [Human-Computer Inte](#)

[Online communities](#) [Interpersonal communicat](#)

### Harnessing the wisdom of crowds in **wikipedia**: quality through coordination

[A Kittur](#), [RE Kraut](#) - [Proceedings of the 2008 ACM conference on ...](#), 2008 - [dl.acm.org](#)

Wikipedia's success is often attributed to the large numbers of contributors who improve the accuracy, completeness and clarity of articles while reducing bias. However, because of the coordination needed to write an article collaboratively, adding contributors is costly. We ...

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### Mopping up: modeling **wikipedia** promotion decisions

[M Burke](#), [R Kraut](#) - [Proceedings of the 2008 ACM conference on ...](#), 2008 - [dl.acm.org](#)

This paper presents a model of the behavior of candidates for promotion to administrator status in Wikipedia. It uses a policy capture framework to highlight similarities and differences in the community's stated criteria for promotion decisions to those criteria actually ...

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### Beyond **Wikipedia**: coordination and conflict in online production groups

[A Kittur](#), [RE Kraut](#) - [Proceedings of the 2010 ACM conference on ...](#), 2010 - [dl.acm.org](#)

Online production groups have the potential to transform the way that knowledge is produced and disseminated. One of the most widely used forms of online production is the wiki, which has been used in domains ranging from science to education to enterprise. We ...

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### Socialization tactics in **wikipedia** and their effects

B Choi, K Alexander, [RE Kraut](#), JM Levine - [Proceedings of the 2010 ...](#), 2010 - [dl.acm.org](#)

Socialization of newcomers is critical both for conventional groups. It helps groups perform effectively and the newcomers develop commitment. However, little empirical research has investigated the impact of specific socialization tactics on newcomers' commitment to online ...

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### Decentralization in **Wikipedia** governance

[A Forte](#), [V Larco](#), [A Bruckman](#) - *Journal of Management Information ...*, 2009 - Taylor & Francis

How does "self-governance" happen in Wikipedia? Through in-depth interviews with 20 individuals who have held a variety of responsibilities in the English-language Wikipedia, we obtained rich descriptions of how various forces produce and regulate social structures ...

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### From **Wikipedia** to the classroom: Exploring online publication and learning

[A Forte](#), [A Bruckman](#) - *Proceedings of the 7th international conference on ...*, 2006 - dl.acm.org

Wikipedia represents an intriguing new publishing paradigm---can it be used to engage students in authentic collaborative writing activities? How can we design wiki publishing tools and curricula to support learning among student authors? We suggest that wiki ...

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### Scaling consensus: Increasing decentralization in **Wikipedia** governance

[A Forte](#), [A Bruckman](#) - *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Hawaii ...*, 2008 - ieeexplore.ieee.org

How does "self-governance" happen in Wikipedia? Through in-depth interviews with eleven individuals who have held a variety of responsibilities in the English Wikipedia, we obtained rich descriptions of how various forces produce and regulate social structures on the site ...

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### Constructing text: **Wiki** as a toolkit for (collaborative?) learning

[A Forte](#), [A Bruckman](#) - *Proceedings of the 2007 international symposium ...*, 2007 - dl.acm.org

Writing a book from which others can learn is itself a powerful learning experience. Based on this proposition, we have launched Science Online, a wiki to support learning in high school science classrooms through the collaborative production of an online science ...

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### On the inequality of contributions to **Wikipedia**

[F Ortega](#), [JM Gonzalez-Barahona](#)... - Proceedings of the 41st ..., 2008 - [ieeexplore.ieee.org](#)

Wikipedia is one of the most successful examples of massive collaborative content development. However, many of the mechanisms and procedures that it uses are still unknown in detail. For instance, how equal (or unequal) are the contributions to it has been ...

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### [PDF] **Wikipedia: A quantitative analysis**

[F Ortega](#) - 2009 - [researchgate.net](#)

In this doctoral thesis, we undertake a quantitative analysis of the top-ten language editions of Wikipedia, from different perspectives. Our main goal has been to trace the evolution in time of key descriptive and organizational parameters of Wikipedia and its community of ...

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### Functional roles and career paths in **Wikipedia**

[O Arazy](#), [F Ortega](#), [O Nov](#), [L Yeo](#), [A Balila](#) - Proceedings of the 18th ACM ..., 2015 - [dl.acm.org](#)

An understanding of participation dynamics within online production communities requires an examination of the roles assumed by participants. Recent studies have established that the organizational structure of such communities is not flat; rather, participants can take on a ...

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### The [**Wikipedia**] World is Not Flat: on the organizational structure of online production communities

[O Arazy](#), [O Nov](#), [F Ortega](#) - 2014 - [aisel.aisnet.org](#)

The creation and maintenance of online production communities depend on the complex ecology created by the interaction of social roles, and these roles are essential for the governance of the community. This study investigates the organizational structure of one of ...

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**[PDF] Computing semantic relatedness using wikipedia-based explicit semantic analysis.** [\[PDF\] aaai.org](#)  
[E Gabrilovich, S Markovitch](#) - IJCAI, 2007 - aaai.org  
Computing semantic relatedness of natural language texts requires access to vast amounts of common-sense and domain-specific world knowledge. We propose Explicit Semantic Analysis (ESA), a novel method that represents the meaning of texts in a high-dimensional ...  
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**Learning to link with wikipedia** [\[PDF\] waikato.ac.nz](#)  
[D Milne, IH Witten](#) - Proceedings of the 17th ACM conference on ..., 2008 - dl.acm.org  
This paper describes how to automatically cross-reference documents with **Wikipedia**: the largest knowledge base ever known. It explains how machine learning can be used to identify significant terms within unstructured text, and enrich it with links to the appropriate ...  
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**[book] Blogs, Wikipedia, Second Life, and beyond: From production to produsage**  
[A Bruns](#) - 2008 - books.google.com

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1. **Huge.** Alexa #5. Read by 1/10th of the planet. Trusted source of information.

# Why is Wikipedia so interesting?

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2. **Weird.** Flips publication model. Decentralized governance. Shouldn't have worked at all.

# Why is Wikipedia so interesting?

1. **Huge.** Alexa #5. Read by 1/10th of the planet. Trusted source of information.
2. **Weird.** Flips publication model. Decentralized governance. Shouldn't have worked at all.
3. **Open.** Datasets, proposals, and initiatives are made freely available.



# Story time

Why isn't anyone looking at Google Plus?

# Google to close Google+ after 7 years: A look back at the impact it once had on Google search

This should come as no surprise, Google is closing down Google+ over lack of use and security issues.

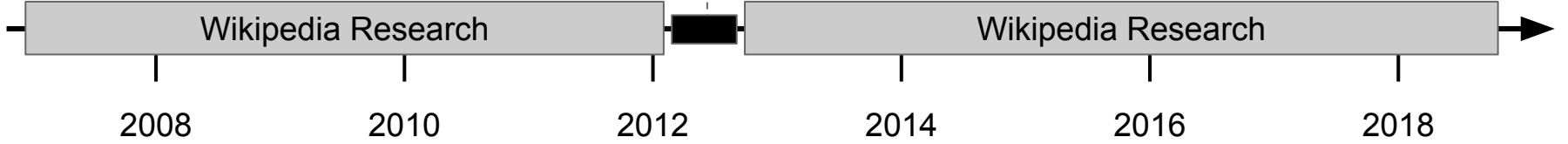
Barry Schwartz on October 8, 2018 at 2:48 pm



Just about seven years ago, Google launched its own social networking site named [Google+](#). On Monday, Google [announced](#) it will be closing down the consumer version of Google+ in the coming months as it [disclosed a privacy bug](#).

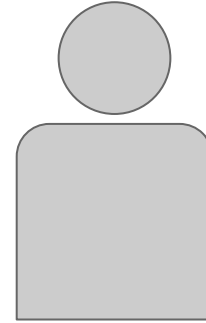


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Wikipedia

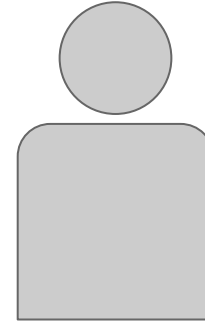


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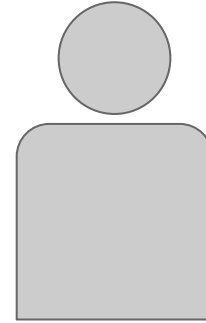


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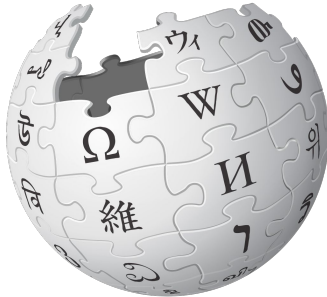
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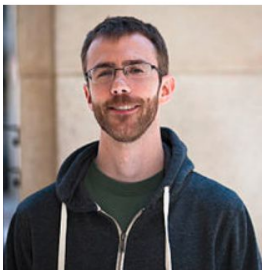


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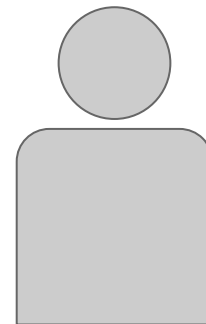
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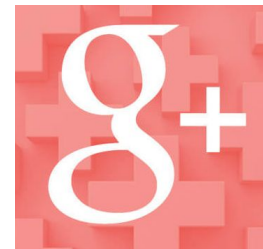
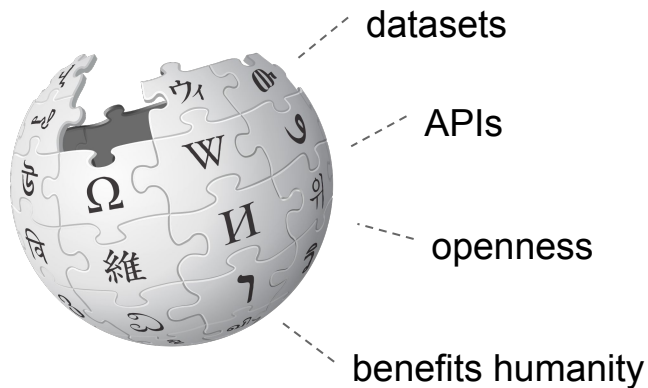


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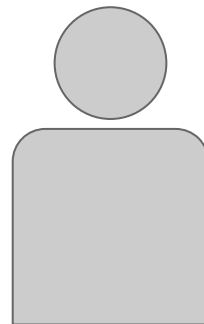
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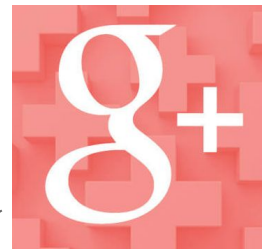
openness

benefits humanity

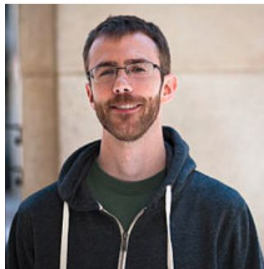
walled garden

publishing  
embargo

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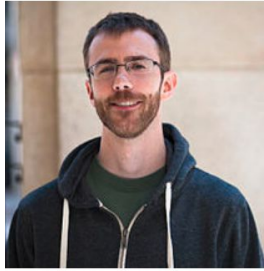




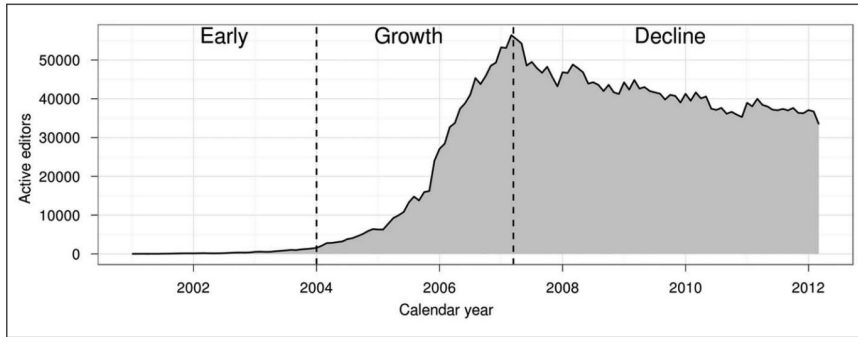
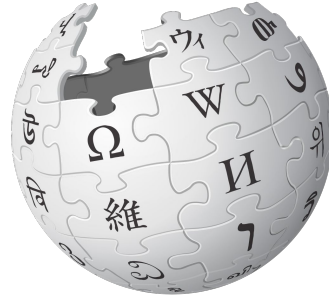


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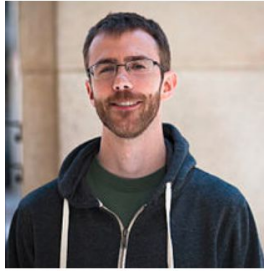
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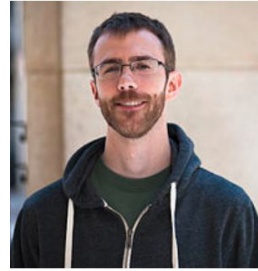
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The number of active, registered editors ( $\geq 5$  edits per month) is plotted over time.

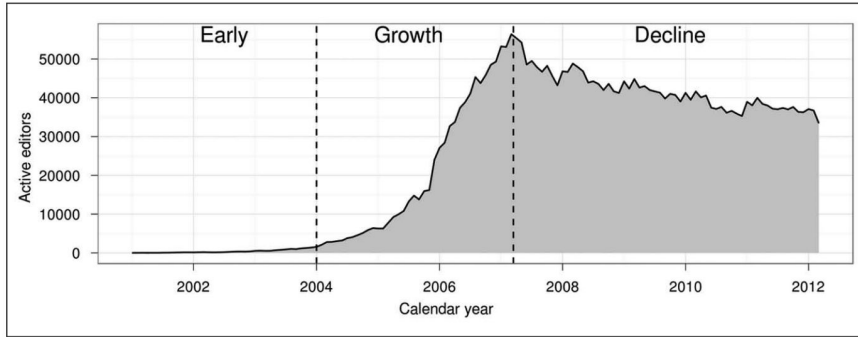
Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2013). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57(5), 664-688.



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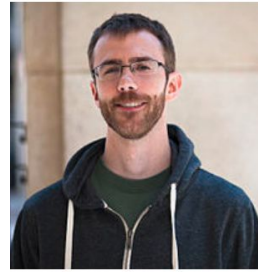
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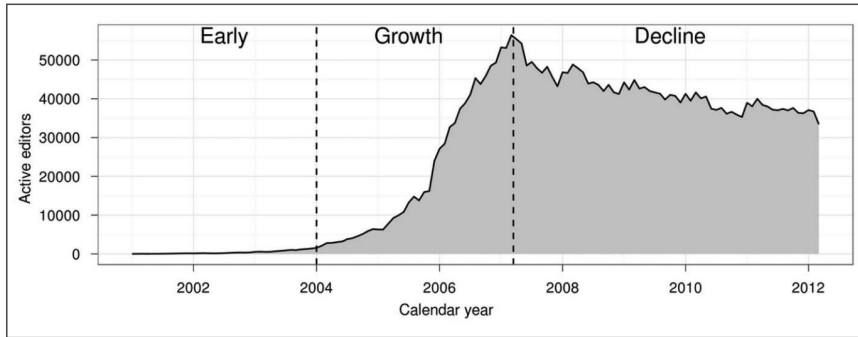
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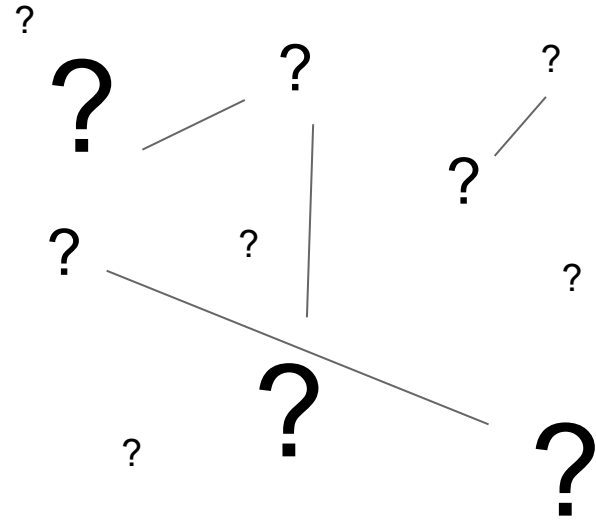
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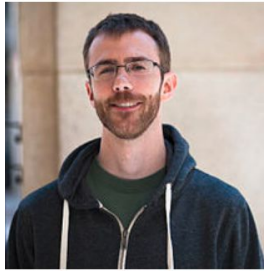


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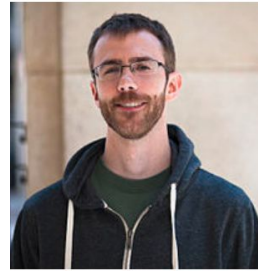
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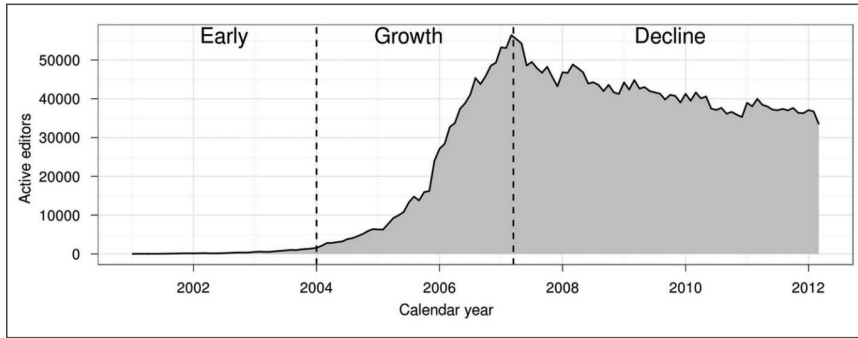
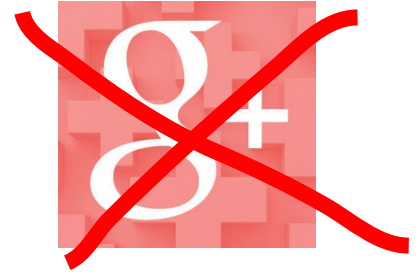




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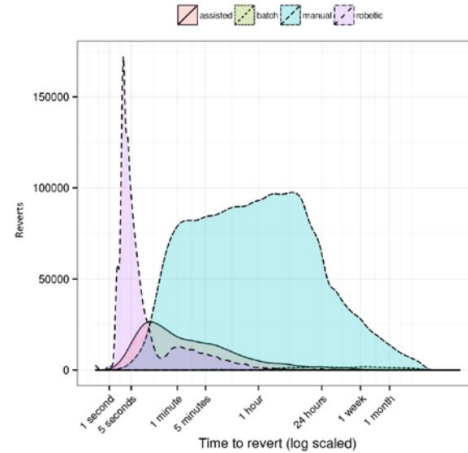


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Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2013). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57(5), 664-688.




**Figure 2:** Histogram of time-to-revert during a normal month (January 2011), separated by different editing technologies.

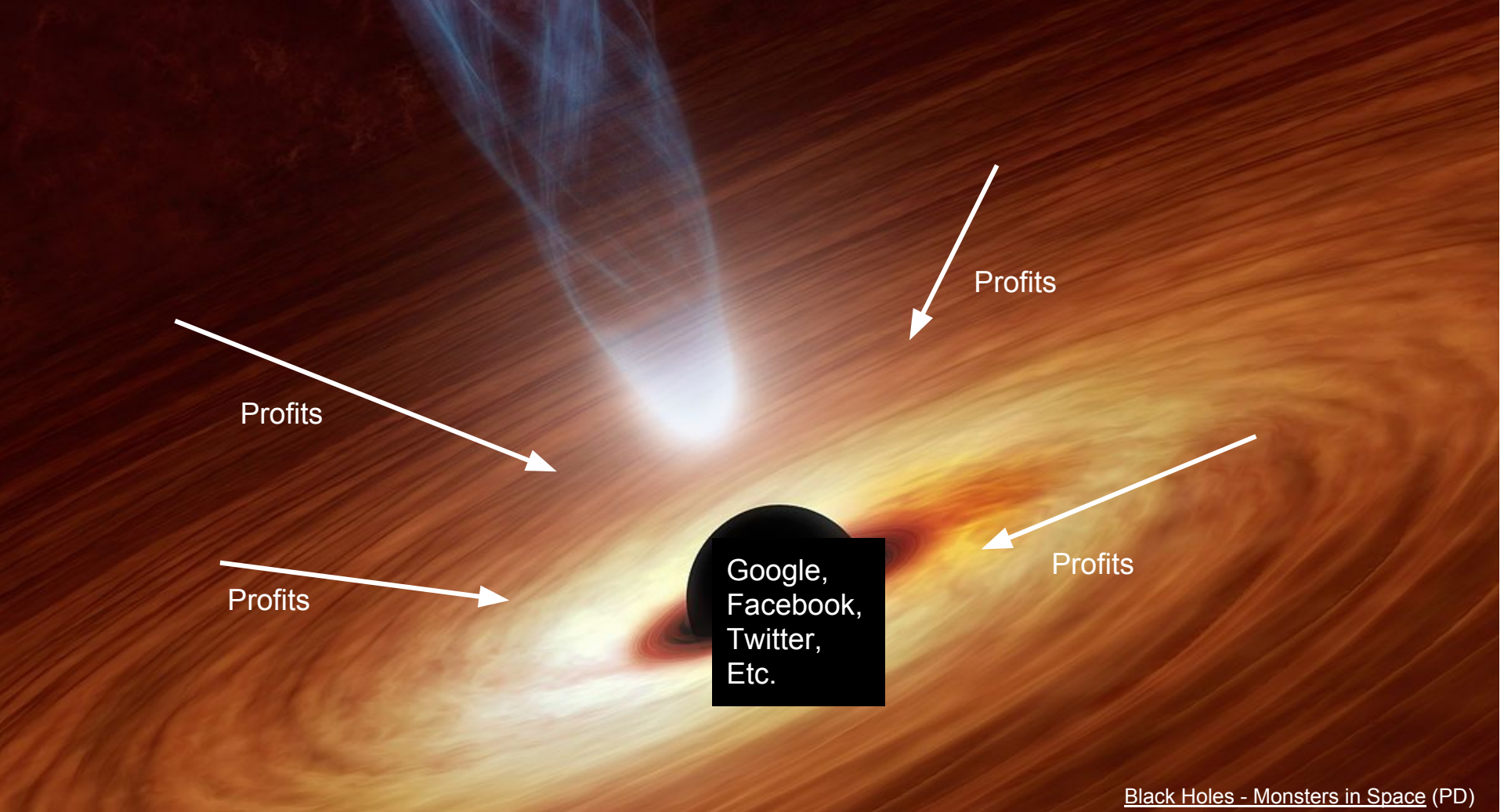
Geiger, R. S., & Halfaker, A. (2013, August). When the levee breaks: without bots, what happens to Wikipedia's quality control processes? **OpenSym** (p. 6). ACM.





A visualization of a black hole's gravitational well. The background is a dark brown, swirling pattern representing spacetime curvature. A bright blue, comet-like object is falling from the top left towards a central black circular region representing the event horizon. The object is surrounded by a bright white and yellow glow. A black circular area is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

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# Breaking News: Google's Social Site is Dying!



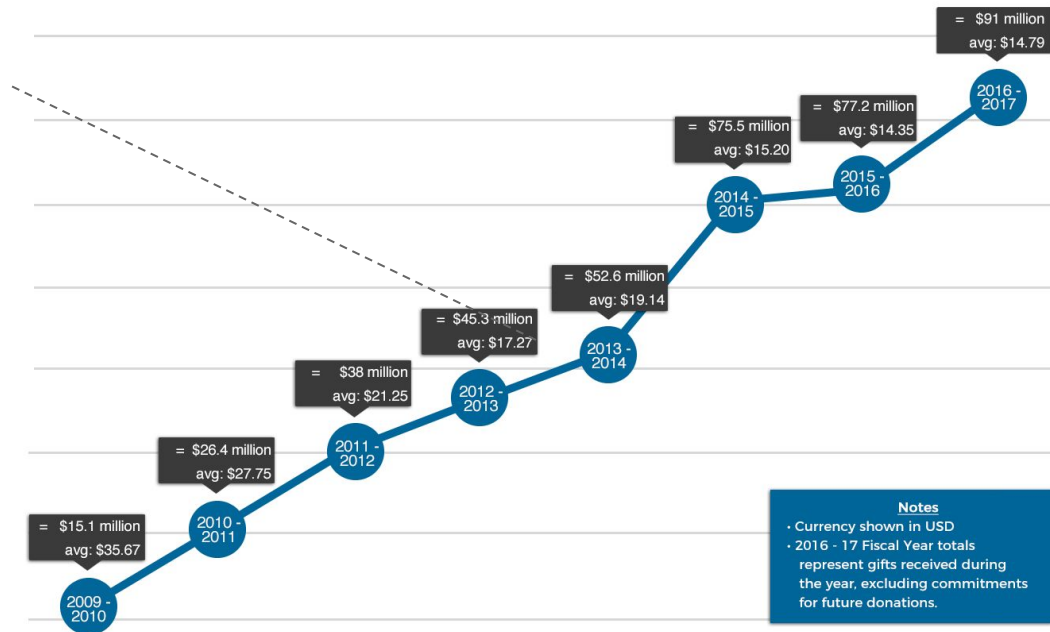
Intelligent Machines

# The Decline of Wikipedia

The community that built the largest encyclopedia in history is shrinking, even as more people and Internet services depend on it than ever. Can it be revived, or is this the end of the Web's idealistic era?

by Tom Simonite    October 22, 2013

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# Part 3: Strategic new research directions

# 3 key areas

- Gaps in representation and content
- Growth in newcomer retention
- 3rd party re-use



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# Who does contribute to Wikipedia?

Further information: [Wikipedia community](#) and [Wikipedia:Wikipedians](#)

The English Wikipedia currently has **35,863,255 users** who have registered a username. An unknown but relatively large number of **unregistered Wikipedians** also contribute to the site. About 250,000 new accounts are created every month. About 300,000 editors have edited Wikipedia more than 10 times. 140,065 have performed an edit within the last 30 days.

The type of people who were drawn to writing an encyclopedia for fun tend to be pretty smart people.

— [Jimmy Wales](#) · Founder of Wikipedia, [July 2005 -TEDGlobal conference](#)

Contributions come from diverse demographic and ethnographic segments:

- **Mid-20s males** and **retired males** - are the largest demographics<sup>*[citation needed]*</sup>
- **10% - 20% women of various ages** - significant underrepresentation acknowledged by [Gender bias on Wikipedia](#) and [Gender gap](#)
- **Students** (e.g., in the context of a course)
- **Enthusiasts** (e.g., people with interest in a particular subject, like butterflies)
- **Insiders** (e.g., people who work for an organization, such as the Sierra Club)
- **Dabblers** (e.g., people who see some problem with an article and want to help)
- **Scholars** (e.g., researchers who want to use Wikipedia as an additional dissemination platform)
- **Archivists** (e.g., people who work or volunteer at a museum, archive, or library wanting to contribute artifacts, like 18th-century paintings)
- **Marketers** (e.g., individuals, staff, members, or a PR firm seeking to promote a product, service or brand)
- **Evildoers** (e.g., spammers, vandals).

Many people in the Wikipedia community are conscious that the demographics of who edits the site can lead to **systemic bias** in the content of the site and there are efforts to [remedy these biases](#).

## Gender

84 / 100

The 2013 study [The Wikipedia Gender Gap Revisited](#) measured gender bias in survey completion and estimated that as of 2008, 84% of English Wikipedia editors were male. In the worldwide [Wikipedia Editor Survey 2011](#) of all the Wikipedias, 91% of respondents were male.

## Nationality



The greatest number, or **plurality**, of editors (20%) reside in the [United States](#), followed by [Germany](#) (12%) and [Russia](#) (7%). The only country not in [Europe](#) or [North America](#) in the top 10, is [India](#) (3%).

## Age distribution

13 / 100

# Gaps in representation

- Mostly Male
- Mostly from North America and Western Europe
- Mostly citing English Language sources

Sen, S. W., Ford, H., Musicant, D. R., Graham, M., Keyes, O. S., & Hecht, B. (2015, April). Barriers to the localness of volunteered geographic information. In *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 197-206). ACM. [pdf](#)

### Arabic Wikipedia

### French Wikipedia

Editor prevalence



Source prevalence



0%

2%

5%

10%

15%

25%

40%

65%



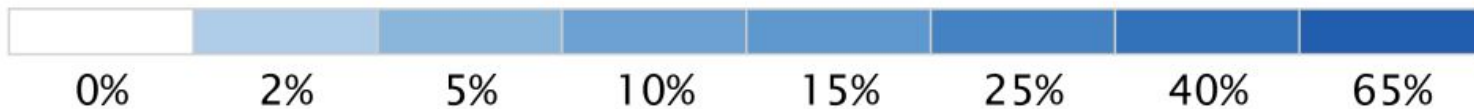
## Arabic Wikipedia

## French Wikipedia

Editor  
prevalence



Source  
prevalence

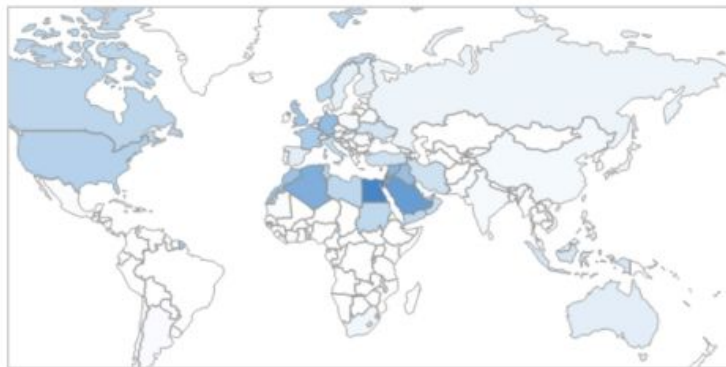




## Arabic Wikipedia

## French Wikipedia

Editor  
prevalence



Source  
prevalence



0%

2%

5%

10%

15%

25%

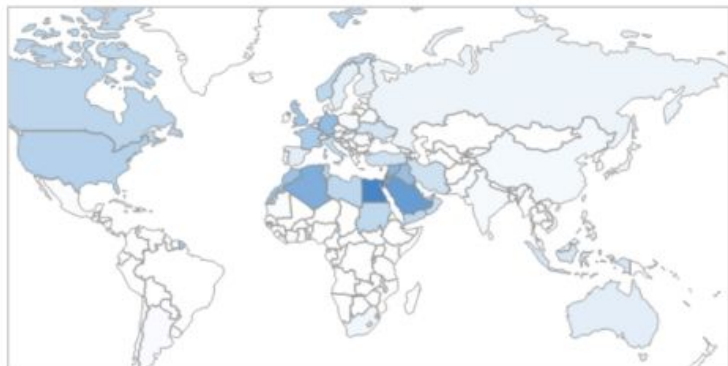
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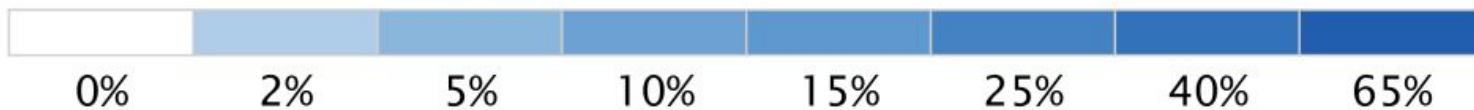
## Arabic Wikipedia

## French Wikipedia

Editor  
prevalence



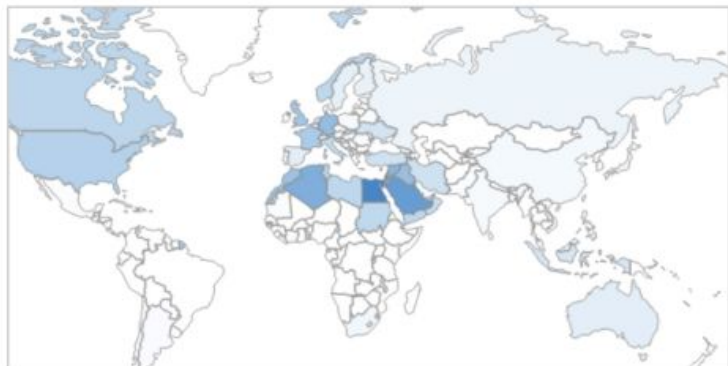
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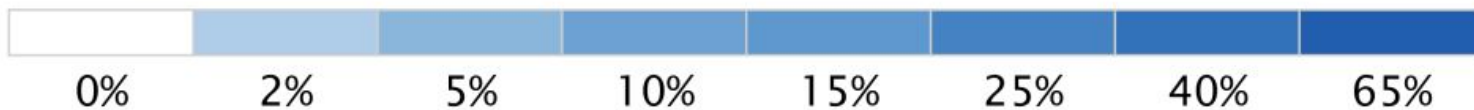
### Arabic Wikipedia

### French Wikipedia

Editor prevalence



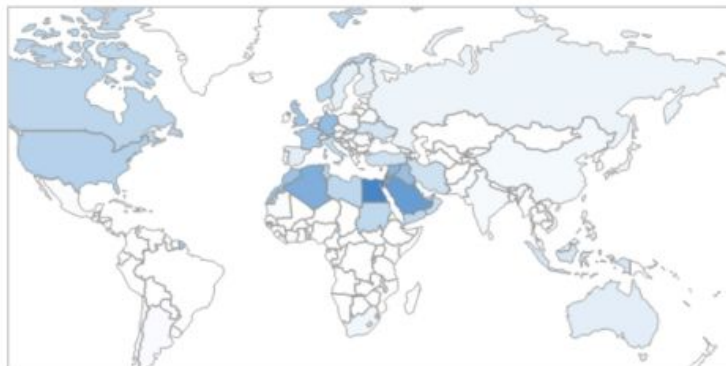
Source prevalence



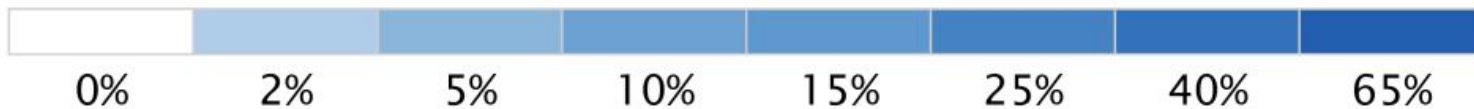
### Arabic Wikipedia

### French Wikipedia

Editor prevalence



Source prevalence





# How a feminist stood up to trolls and measurably changed Wikipedia's coverage of women scientists

By Jeff Elder, Wikimedia Foundation

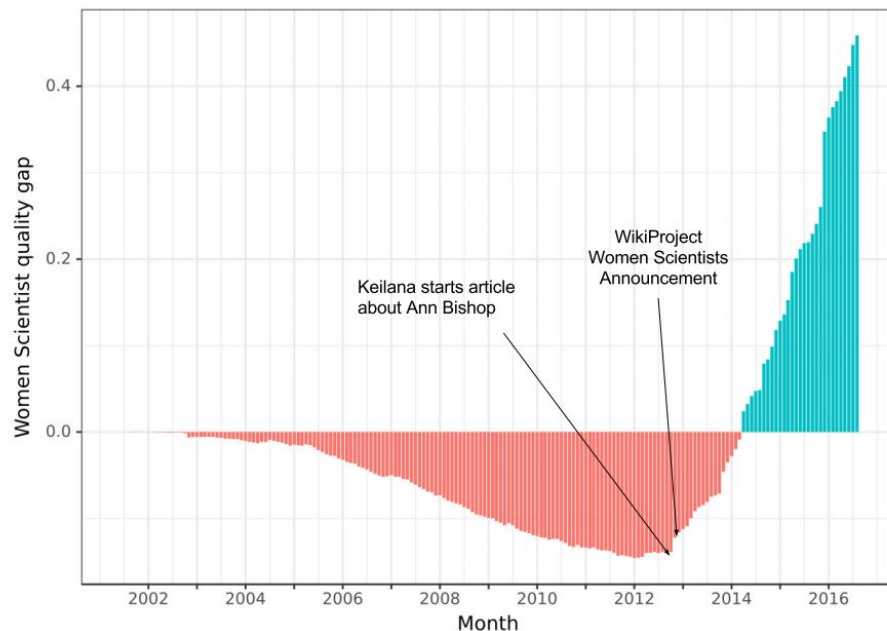
Ed Erhart, Wikimedia Foundation

March 7th, 2017

Did the efforts of Emily Temple-Wood (“Keilana”) and other editors really make a difference in Wikipedia’s coverage of women scientists—especially given the vast expanse of an encyclopedia that has 5.4 million articles in English alone? The answer, one year after the headlines, is an unequivocal yes.



Emily Temple-Wood. Photo by Victor Grigas/Wikimedia Foundation, CC BY-SA 3.0.

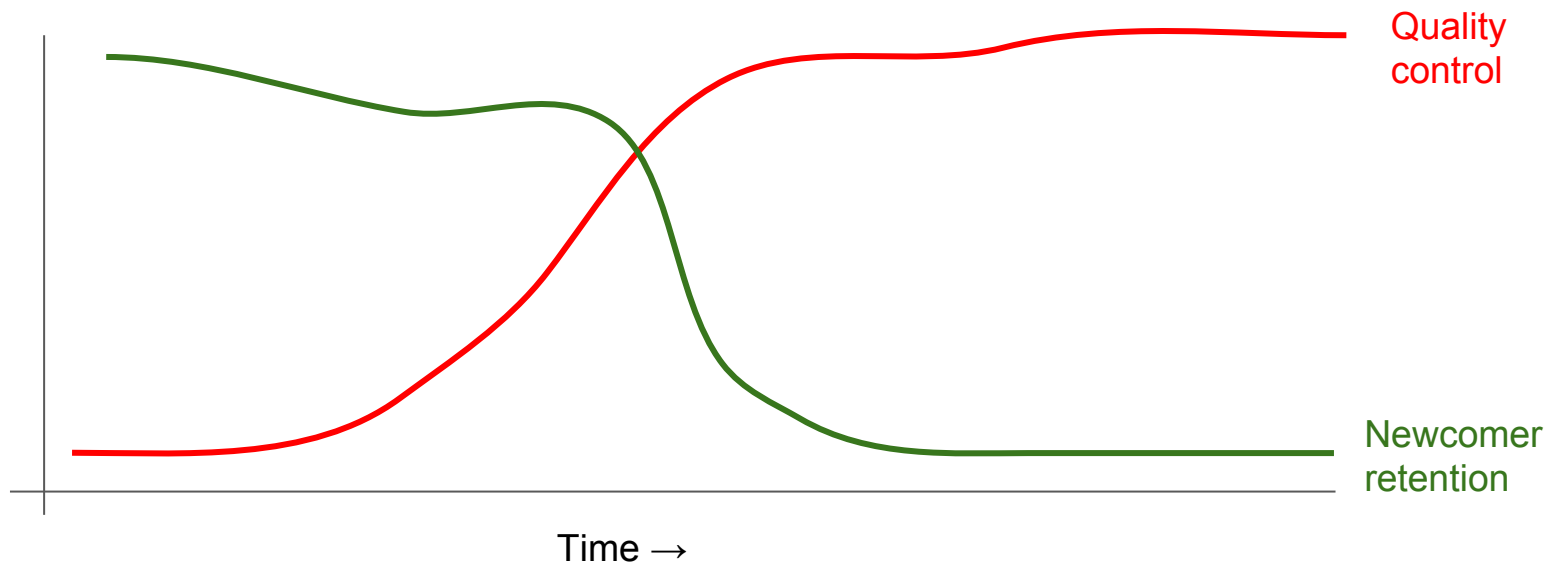


(a) The difference in *mean weighted sum* quality predictions for all wiki and articles about Women Scientists is plotted over time. Note the transition from red to blue represents the switch from a gap to a surplus. Important dates for User:Keilana’s initiatives are annotated with arrows.

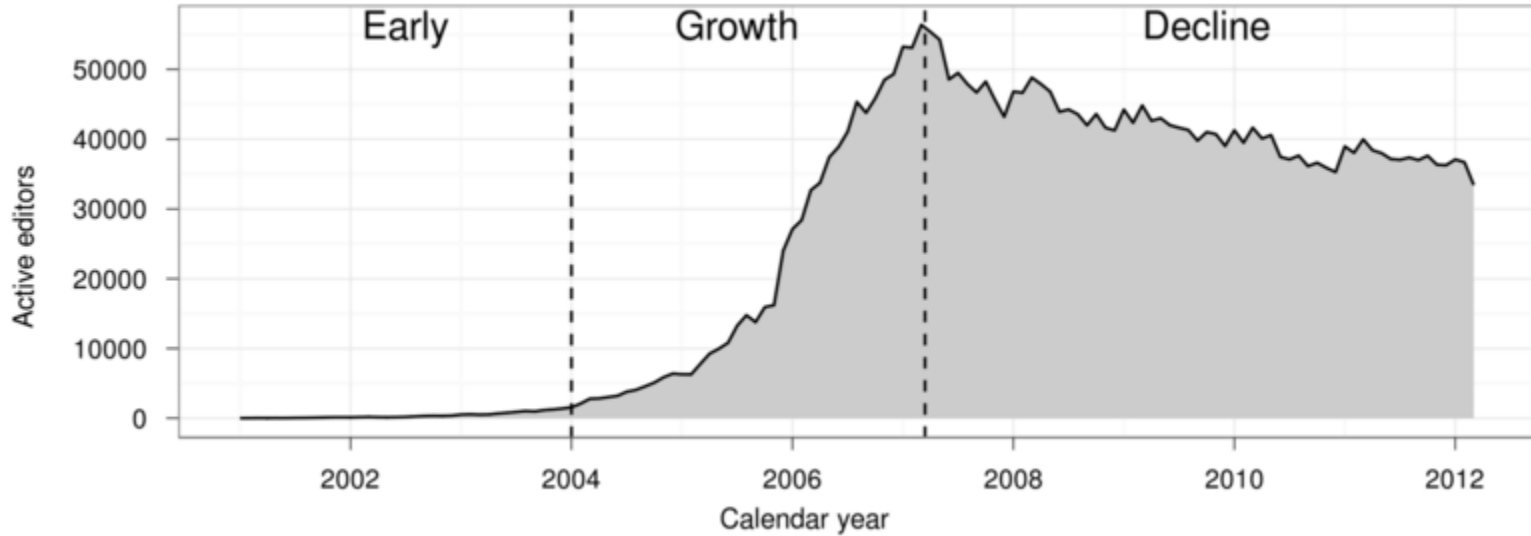
Halfaker, A. (2017, August). Interpolating quality dynamics in wikipedia and demonstrating the keilana effect. In *Proceedings of the 13th International Symposium on Open Collaboration* (p. 19). ACM.

What other content areas are under-developed?

# Newcomer retention

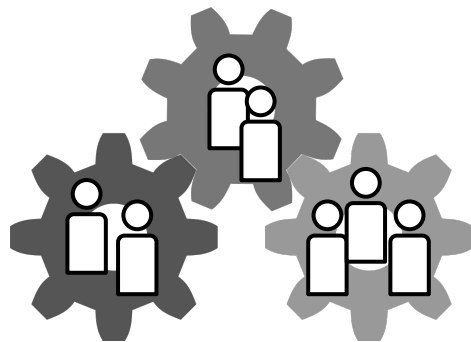
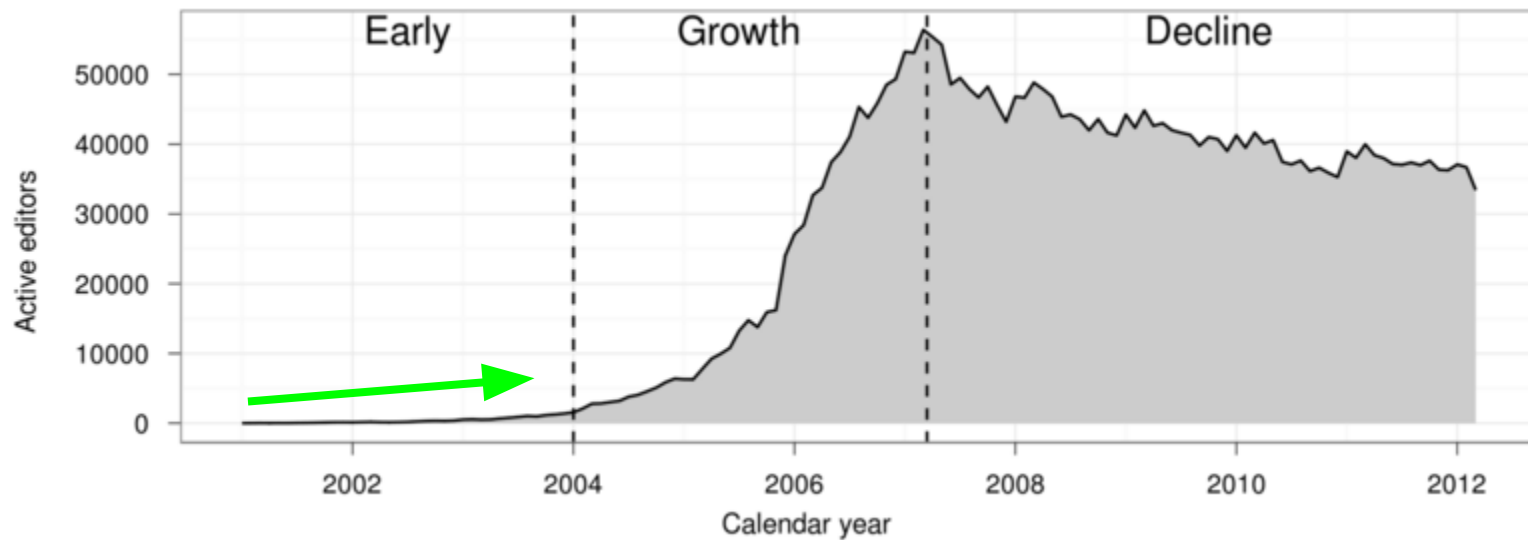


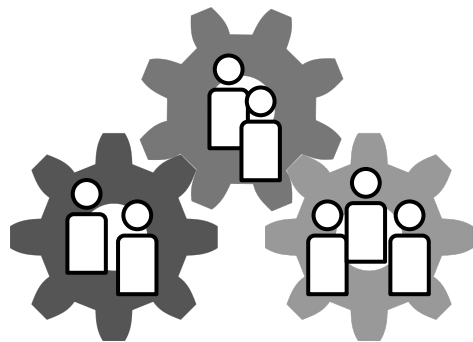
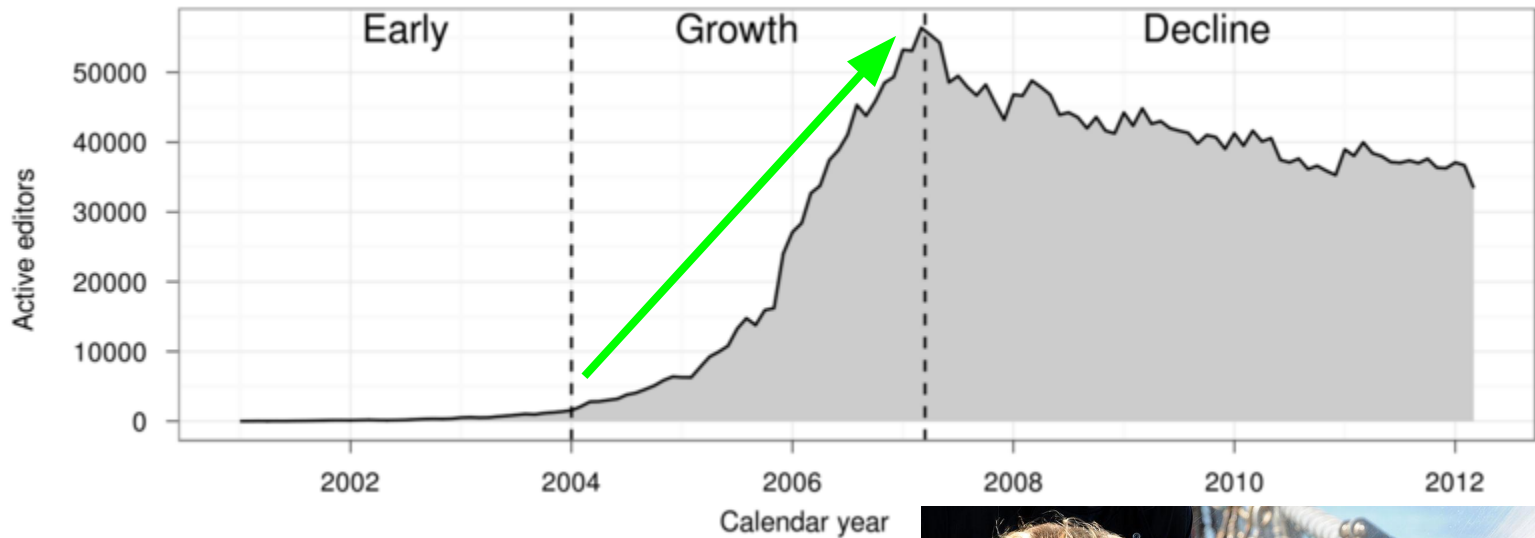
TeBlunthuis, N., Shaw, A., & Hill, B. M. (2018, April). Revisiting The Rise and Decline in a Population of Peer Production Projects. In *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (p. 355). ACM.



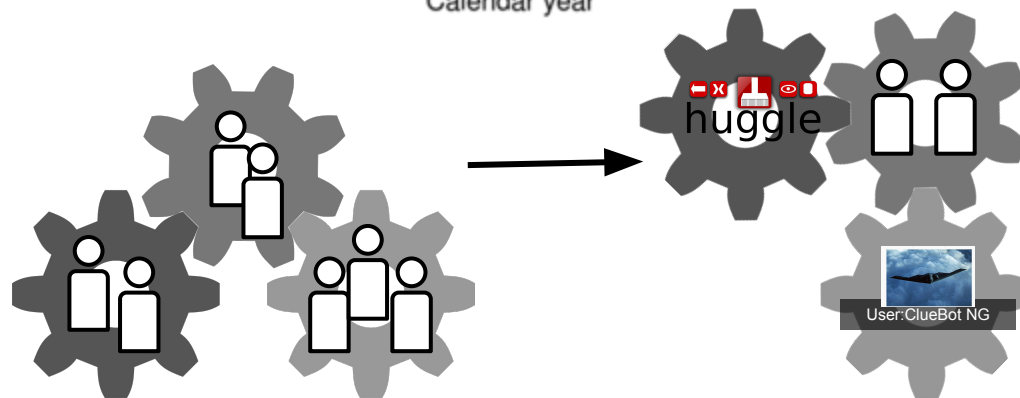
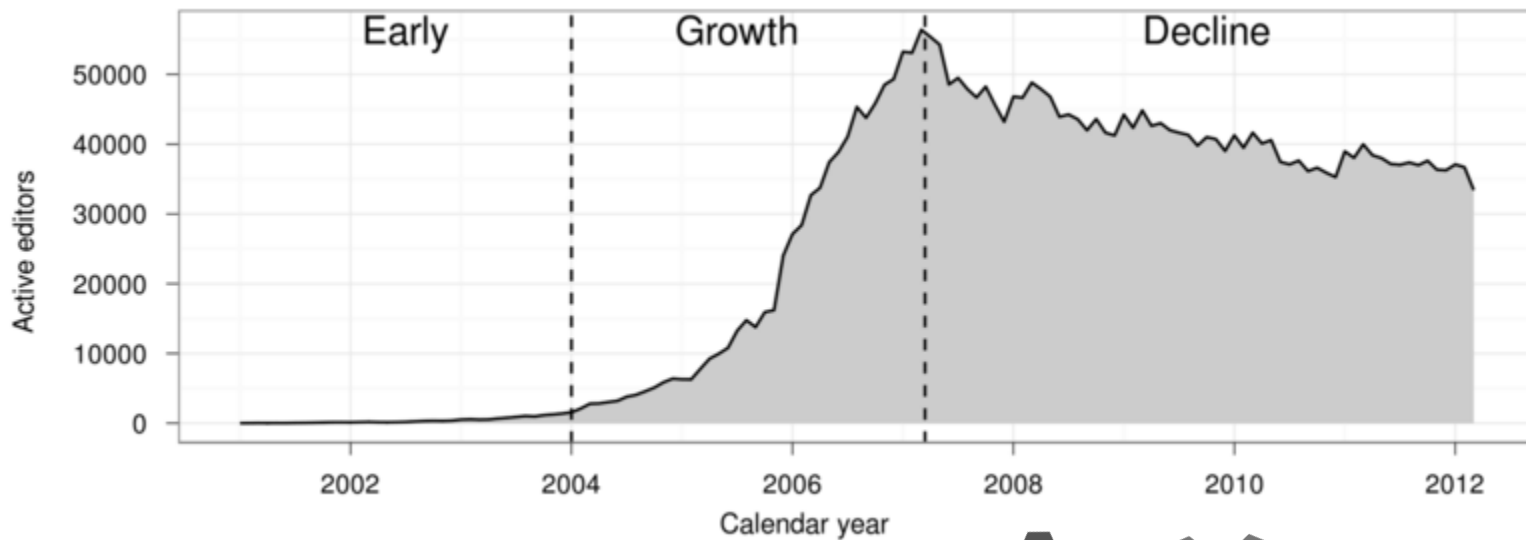
- [:m:Research:The Rise and Decline](#)
- Halfaker, A., Geiger, R. S., Morgan, J. T., & Riedl, J. (2012). The rise and decline of an open collaboration system: How Wikipedia's reaction to popularity is causing its decline. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0002764212469365.

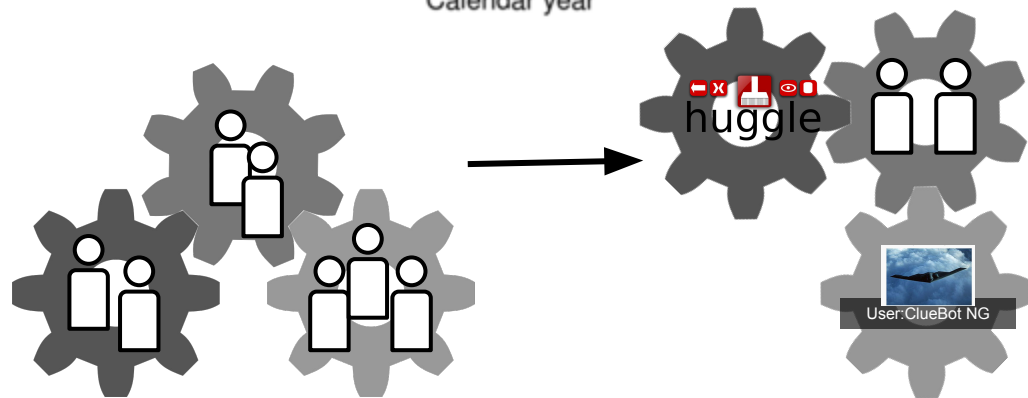
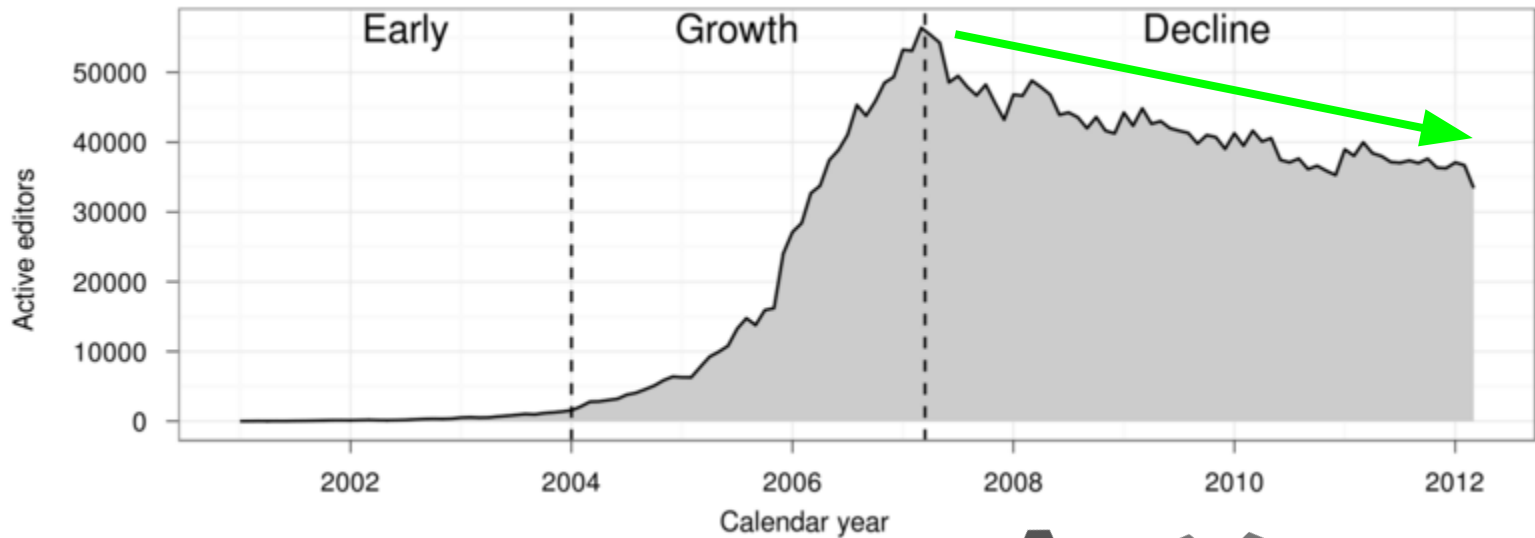




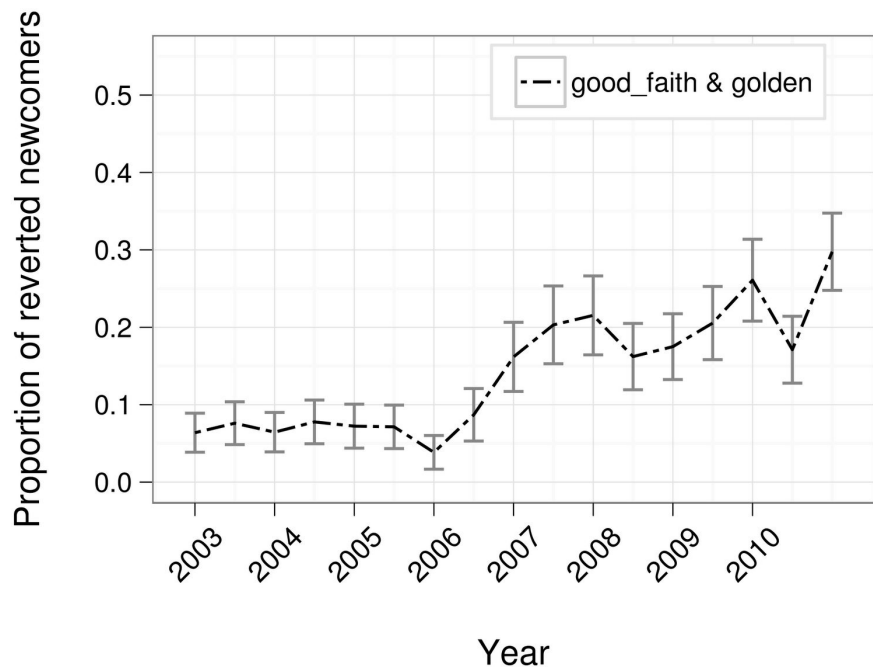


[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr - Official U.S. Navy Imagery - Sailor%27s\\_daughter\\_operates\\_a\\_fire\\_hose\\_with\\_crew\\_member\\_assistance.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Official_U.S._Navy_Imagery_-_Sailor%27s_daughter_operates_a_fire_hose_with_crew_member_assistance.jpg)

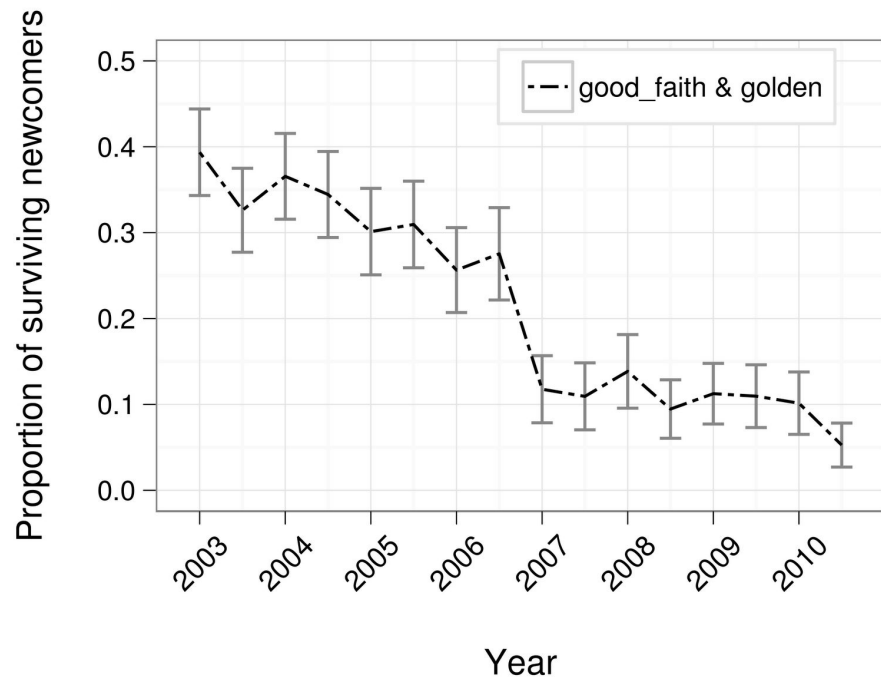




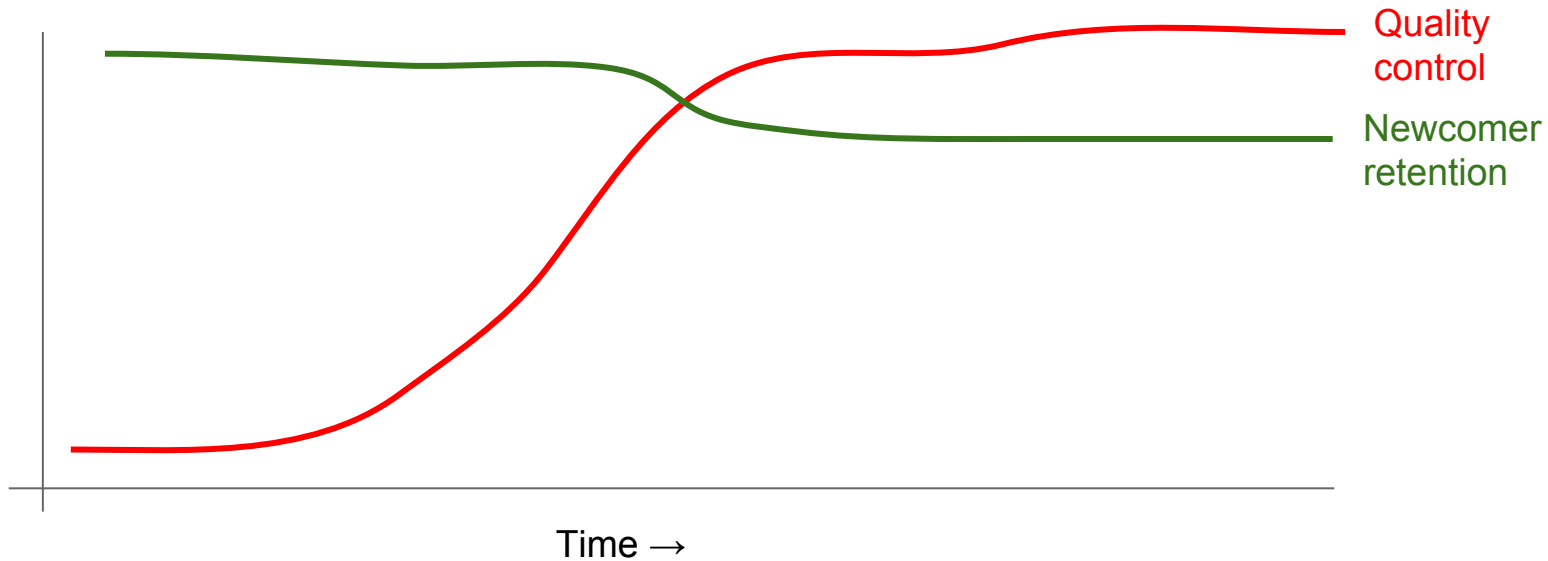
## Quality control



## Newcomer retention



# How do we have both?



# 3rd party re-use



## Harrods ★

Website

Directions

4.4 ★★★★★ 1,311 Google reviews

Department store company

Harrods is an upmarket department store located on Brompton Road in Knightsbridge, in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London. [Wikipedia](#)

Address: 87-135 Brompton Rd, London SW1X 7XL

Hours: **Closing soon** · 10am–9pm ▾

Sales: 0333 300 1000

Founder: Charles Henry Harrod

Founded: 1834, East End of London, London

CEO: Michael Ward

Parent organization: [Qatar Investment Authority](#)



How long do goats live



All Images News Videos Maps More Settings Tools

About 77,900,000 results (0.59 seconds)

Goat / Lifespan

15 – 18 years



People also search for



Cattle  
18 – 22 years



Sheep  
10 – 12 years



Horse  
25 – 30 years

Feedback

People also ask

## Goat



Animal

The domestic goat or simply goat is a subspecies of *C. aegagrus* domesticated from the wild goat of Southwest Asia and Eastern Europe. The goat is a member of the animal family Bovidae and the goat—antelope subfamily Caprinae, meaning it is closely related to the sheep. There are over 300 distinct breeds of goat. [Wikipedia](#)

**Gestation period:** 150 days

**Mass:** 20 – 140 kg (Adult)

**Height:** 41 – 58 cm (Adult, At Shoulder)

**Order:** Artiodactyla

**Family:** [Bovidae](#)

**Did you know:** Official statistics on goat meat and milk greatly underestimate production since many goats are raised for personal family use. [encyclopedia.com](#)



How long do goats live



All Images News Videos Maps More Settings Tools

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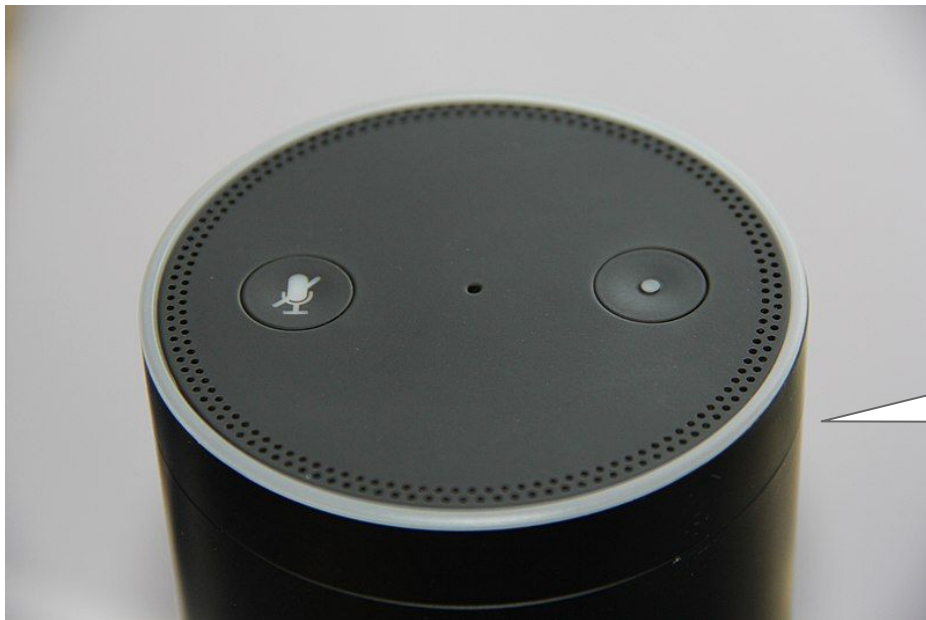
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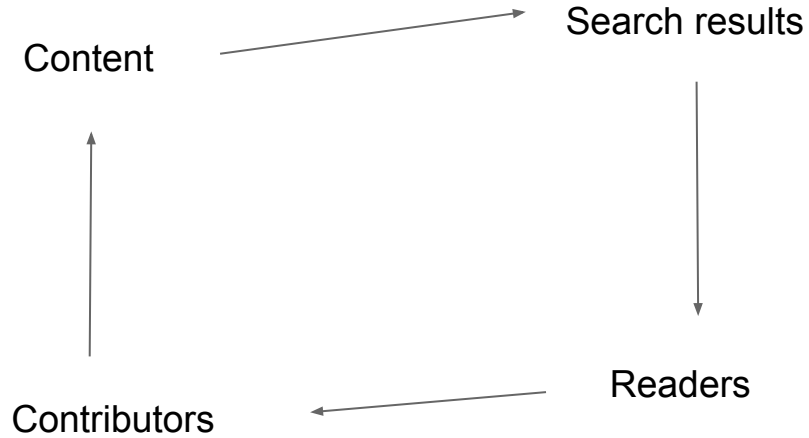
How long do goats live?

According to  
Wikipedia, goats  
can live 15 - 18  
years

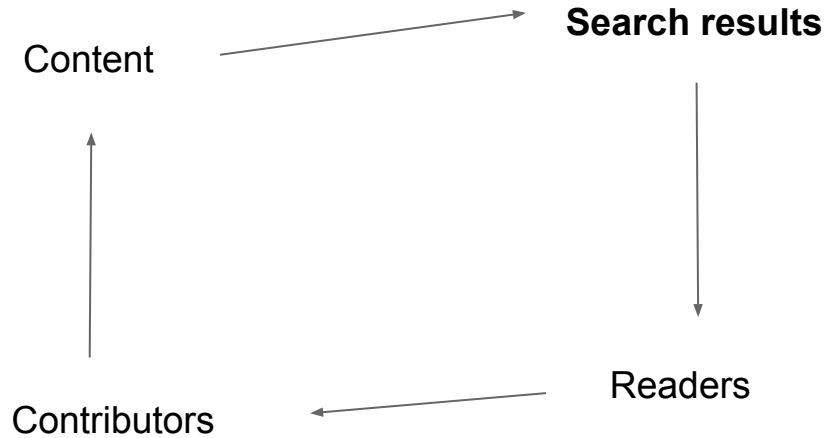
- Amazing! Wikipedia is *open licensed* for exactly this reason.

- Amazing! Wikipedia is *open licensed* for exactly this reason.
- But! 2 problems:
  - Ecosystem
  - Tracking usage

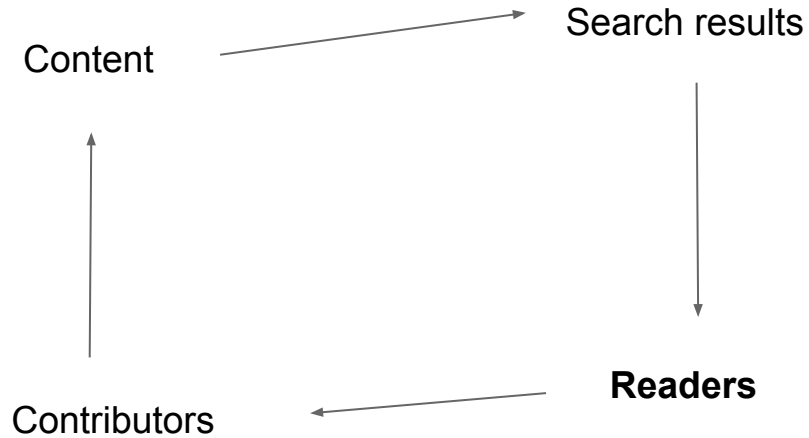
# Eco system



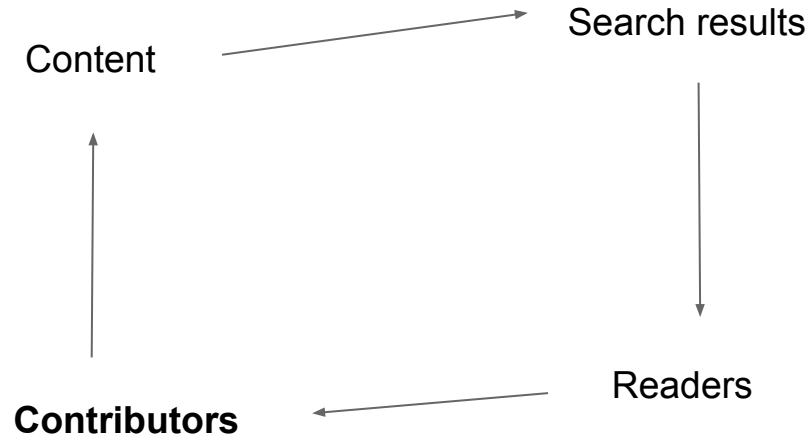
# Eco system



# Eco system

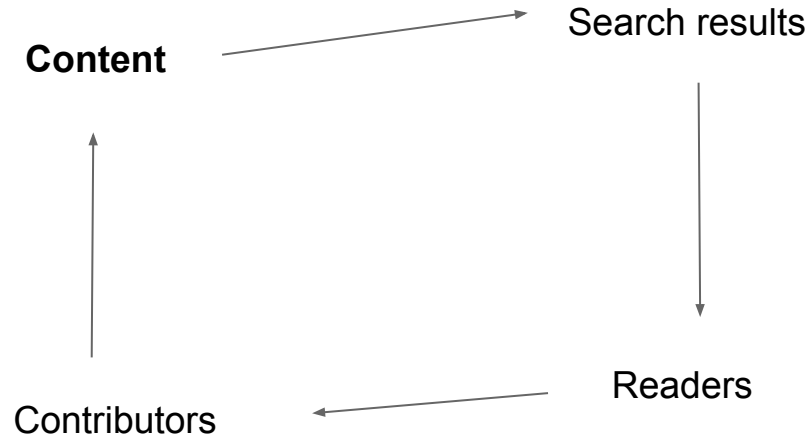


# Eco system

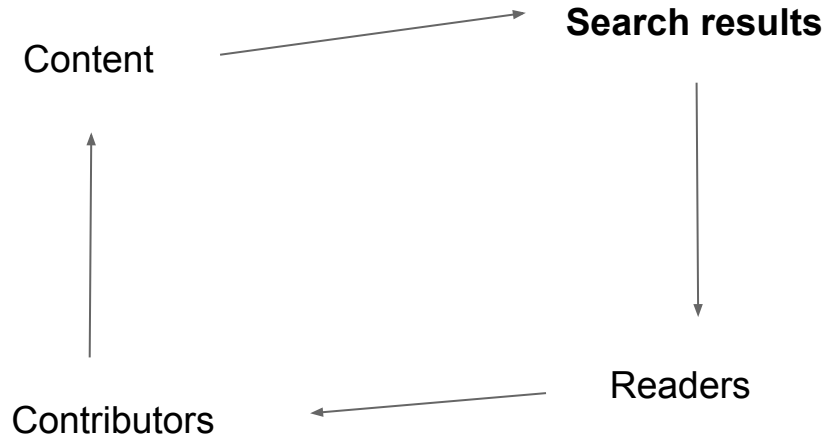




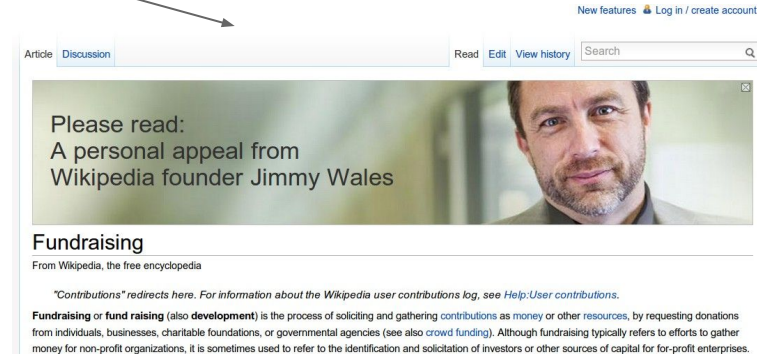
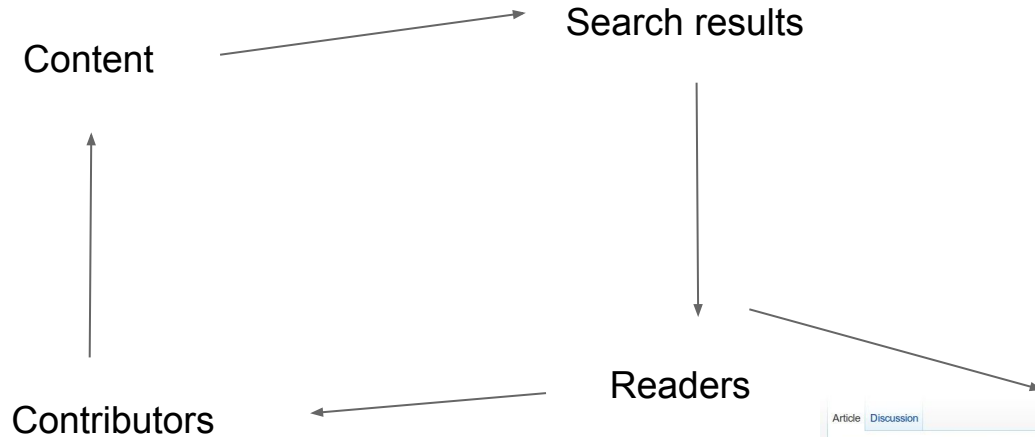
# Eco system



# Eco system



# Eco system



# Eco system

Content

Search results



The screenshot shows a Google search result for Harrods. It includes the Harrods logo, a map of the store's location in Knightsbridge, London, and detailed information such as the address (87-135 Brompton Rd, London SW1X 7XL), hours (Closing soon, 10am-9pm), sales phone number (0333 300 1000), founder (Charles Henry Harrod), founded date (1834), CEO (Michael Ward), and parent organization (Qatar Investment Authority).



account  
Q  
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prises.

# With the Knowledge panel

- Users are 50% less likely to click a Wikipedia link
- Users are 5X as likely to assume the information \*comes from\* Google.

# Tracking usage

Views/Day ↕	Quality ↕	Title ↕	Content ↕	Headings ↕	Images ↕	Links ↕	Sources ↕	Tagged with... ↕
37	★☆☆	<a href="#">Eltham College</a> (talk)	✗		✗		✗	Add sources
19	★☆☆	<a href="#">Good to See You Again, Alice Cooper</a> (talk)	✗	✗			✗	Add sources
388	★☆☆	<a href="#">Fender Jazzmaster</a> (talk)	✗		✗		✗	Add sources
18	★☆☆	<a href="#">School's Out and Other Hits</a> (talk)	✗	✗	✗		✗	Add sources
47	★☆☆	<a href="#">Live at Montreux (Alice Cooper album)</a> (talk)	✗	✗			✗	Add sources
12	★☆☆	<a href="#">I Am the Future</a> (talk)	✗	✗			✗	Add sources
16,246	★★★★	<a href="#">Bob Marley</a> (talk)						Cleanup
1,987	★★★★	<a href="#">Eddie Van Halen</a> (talk)					✗	Cleanup
468	★★★★	<a href="#">Dorian mode</a> (talk)	✗				✗	Cleanup
187	★☆☆	<a href="#">Teisco</a> (talk)	✗			✗	✗	Expand
2,174	★★★☆☆	<a href="#">Kon-Tiki</a> (talk)	✗				✗	Expand
15	★☆☆	<a href="#">Ibanez PGM</a> (talk)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Expand

# Tracking usage

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37	★☆☆	<a href="#">Eltham College</a> (talk)	×		×		×	Add sources
19	★☆☆	<a href="#">Good to See You Again, Alice Cooper</a> (talk)	×	×			×	Add sources
388	★☆☆	<a href="#">Fender Jazzmaster</a> (talk)	×		×		×	Add sources
18	★☆☆	<a href="#">School's Out and Other Hits</a> (talk)	×	×	×		×	Add sources
47	★☆☆	<a href="#">Live at Montreux (Alice Cooper album)</a> (talk)	×	×			×	Add sources
12	★☆☆	<a href="#">I Am the Future</a> (talk)	×	×			×	Add sources
16,246	★★★★	<a href="#">Bob Marley</a> (talk)						Cleanup
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468	★★★★	<a href="#">Dorian mode</a> (talk)	×				×	Cleanup
187	★☆☆	<a href="#">Teisco</a> (talk)	×			×	×	Expand
2,174	★★★☆☆	<a href="#">Kon-Tiki</a> (talk)	×				×	Expand
15	★☆☆	<a href="#">Ibanez PGM</a> (talk)	×	×	×	×	×	Expand

# Resources



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Wikimedia\\_Public\\_Research\\_Resources.pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Wikimedia_Public_Research_Resources.pdf)

<https://quarry.wmflabs.org>

<https://paws.wmflabs.org>

<https://ores.wikimedia.org/v3/scores/enwiki/518733419/articlequality>

<https://github.com/wikimedia-research/iwsc-2017-workshop>