The Future of Wiki in Education

What we’ve learned from the Research and the EduWiki Conference 2023

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Research Project

Needs assessment for the global Wikimedia & Education community, as a possible first step in creating a thematic hub
About the project

- May 1 – June 30, 2023
- 30 interviews with Education program leaders and 2 community discussions at EduWiki Conference
- Undertaken by Cornelius Kibelka on behalf of Wiki Education Foundation
“Education” needs a clearer definition
Definition of “Education”

- No shared understanding or definition of “Education”
- Overlap with simple outreach/promotion activities, and GLAM labeled activities
- Clear definition essential for the scope of a future hub
Coordination, Knowledge, Support needed
Coordination, Knowledge, Support

- Education programmatic activities are very diverse in their nature
- Challenges and needs differ depending on the context
  - Affiliate vs. individual (volunteer) program organizer
  - Education program size & educational context (Global North / Global South)
- Existing support structures are limited in capacity and resources
Coordination, Knowledge, Support (cont.)

- Coordination: A structure in which Wikimedia organizations, groups and program leaders engaged in “Education” coordinate, connect and network.

- Sharing Knowledge: A central, accessible structure through which knowledge, experiences and advice around education-related programmatic activities can be shared.

- Direct Support / Capacity building: A structure for direct, adapted support, mentoring / peer-to-peer support, and capacity building.
Tech maintenance & advocacy for tech
Tech maintenance

- Existing tool set incomplete; existing tools not always reliable; lack of tutorials and guidance
- Data analysis for metrics currently insufficient
- Commons has technical limitations
Advocacy for tech

Need for upgrading/development of new tools, future structures as away to advocate (better) for technical development according to programmatic needs.

- Learning platform
- Tools for video editing and closed captioning
- Specific file formats on Commons

Technological trends require (fast) development of Wikimedia’s tech infrastructure
Program size and context determine further specific needs
Collaborating for ‘Innovation’

Large, established, long running programs challenged by global trends and developments in technology, society, etc. affecting the entire Movement / all platforms

- Need for joint Movement-wide strategies
- Collaborating for ‘innovation’
Against programmatic loneliness

Established mid-size/growing affiliate programs may have 1 staff member responsible for Education, in order to grow and scale programs

- Need for (multi-year) funding, partnerships, resources, reliable tech infrastructure
- Peer-to-peer-support
Emerging communities

Education programs organizers in emerging communities encounter besides Wikimedia-related challenges a variety of external socio-economic difficulties:

- Huge groundwork to do; promotion of Wikipedia itself; ITC literacy
- Need for funding, direct organizational support, knowledge sharing
- Support in establishing partnerships with authorities needed
Opportunities for collaboration
Opportunities for collaboration

- Joint space for collaboration and emerging partnerships within the Movement
- International collaboration as a source for motivation
- Advocating for more recognition for Education programs within Wikimedia itself
- Platform to connect with external like-minded organizations and movements
Emerging patterns for a future structure
Emerging patterns

- Clear wish to develop existing structures toward a “global service provider”
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion must be built in right from the start
- No exclusive role, but complementary to and collaborating with existing/upcoming structures (e.g. Regional Hubs)
EduWiki Conference 2023

Learnings from the EduWiki Conference 2023 in Belgrade
What is a highlight of your Education program? What works well?

- Education programs in universities with the program developed by the Wikipedia Educational Foundation
- Reading Wikipedia in the classroom
- Wikiclubs
- Wikicamps
- Wikipedia training for teachers
What are the challenges faced by Education programs?

- Finances
- Awareness
- Lack of interest among professionals
- Lack of government support
What kind of support do you need?

- Events for teachers: camps, conferences, campaigns
- Wikipedia handbooks
- Newsletter
- Database
What do we want to achieve with an education program?

- Permanent self-education for teachers
- Creative learning for students
- Wikipedia needs to be included in the school curriculum, or at least be part of the subject of informatics.
What kind of support (or type of resource) is needed that doesn’t exist yet?

- Database of education programs around the world.
- Wikipedia textbooks
- Research and monitoring of the area
- Publishing and advertising achievements, in order to enhance awareness about "the creative education through Wikipedia"
- Teachers camp for Wikipedia and Wikipedia teaching training
- Enhance the status of Wikipedia & Education Hub as an Educational institution.
- Create monthly (once in a year scientific) journal on Wikipedia & Education
If a hub was formed, which projects should it prioritize in year one?