

# 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

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**“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

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**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.



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# 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

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# 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

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# 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

# Group work / Discussion

If a hub was formed, which projects should it prioritize in year one?