User(s) Talk(ing)

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Collaboration Team
Wikimedia Foundation

Danny Horn + Roan Kattouw
Pau Giner + Nick Wilson
Workflows
Workflows

A multi-step community process that involves discussion and ends with a decision.
Workflows on English WP

Administrator’s noticeboards • Articles for creation • Articles for deletion • Bots/Requests for approval • Categories for discussion • Conflict of interest/Noticeboard • Dispute resolution • Edit filter/Requested • Editor assistance/Requests • Featured article candidates • Featured article review • Featured list candidates • Featured picture candidates • Files for deletion • Good article nominations • Good article review • Miscellany for deletion • Non-free content review • Possibly unfree files • Redirects for discussion • Requested edits • Requested moves • Requests for adminship • Requests for arbitration • Requests for closure • Requests for comment • Requests for history move • Requests for mediation • Requests for page protection • Requests for unblock • Requests for undeletion • Sockpuppet investigations • Template talk: Did you know nominations • Templates for discussion ...
Workarounds for Workflows

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With limited software support, wiki communities have been very creative at using workarounds to get important work done.

There are helpful community-created tools like Twinkle, but only for a few processes, only on some wikis, and they rely upon user-discovery in the preferences pages.
Manually Nominating an Article for Deletion on ENwiki:

Put the deletion tag {{subst:afd1}} at the top of the article page. Include in the edit summary: “AFD: Nominated for deletion; see [[Wikipedia:Articles for deletion/PageName]], with the name of the page filled in. When the page is saved, click on the redlink for “this article’s entry” in the instructions box. That takes you to the edit window for “Wikipedia:Articles for deletion/PageName”. Insert this template: {{subst:afd2 | pg=PageName | cat=Category | text =Why the page should be deleted.}}. The categories include: cat=M (Media and music), cat=O (Organization, corporation or product), cat=B (Biographical), cat=S (Society), cat=W (Web or internet), cat=G (Games or sports), cat=T (Science and technology), cat=F (Fiction and the arts), cat=P (Places and transportation), cat=I (Indiscernible or unclassifiable topic), cat=U (Debate not yet sorted). Include in the edit summary: “Creating deletion discussion for [[PageName]]”. Watch the page to follow the discussion. Go to Wikipedia:Articles for deletion/Log/Today’s Date (using the form Year Month Day). At the top of the list, add a template: {{subst:afd3 | pg = PageName}}.
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And then you can begin the discussion.
Workarounds for Workflows

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Where is the next generation of experienced people going to come from?

What’s the path for people who are currently active content editors that helps them learn to use and maintain these increasingly complex tools?
The AfD workflow uses templates, subpages and transclusion because those workarounds enable structured discussions.
You can watch the subpage to get notifications about this specific discussion.

Template:afd2 puts all of the important links at the top.

Templates add categories that populate the backlog.
The subpage is transcluded onto the log or noticeboard. This board page is just a collection of transcluded topics.

Many workflows on enwiki use this workaround, including Peer review, Copyright problems and Featured article candidates.
Structured discussions

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As the Collaboration team builds structured discussions, we want to use the power of that model to make workflows more efficient, and help more people understand and focus on the processes and the discussions that matter the most to them.
You can watch the topic to get notifications about that specific discussion.

The board is a collection of topics, which can be sorted, searched and filtered in many different ways.
Building workflows as software

It would be relatively simple to build ENwiki’s Articles for Deletion as software. You create an entry point, and a form that asks for three things:

- Article name
- Reason for deletion
- Choose a category

Hit “submit”, and the software adds all the relevant templates in all the relevant places, and creates the discussion topic.
But we’d have to build workflows for every language and every project.
For example, French WP’s workflows are different:

- Articles de qualité/Propositions
- Articles de qualité/Propositions/Contestations
- Bons contenus/Propositions
- Bons contenus/Propositions/Contestations
- Bons articles/Propositions
- Bons articles/Propositions/Contestations
- Bot/Requêtes
- Bot/Statut
- Contenus de qualité/Propositions
- Contenus de qualité/Propositions/Contestations
- Demande de protection de page
- Demande d’intervention sur un message système
- Demande d’intervention sur une page protégée
- Demande de purge d’historique
- Demande de fusion d’historiques
- Demande de restauration de page
- Demande d’intervention sur un filtre
- Forum des nouveaux
- Forum des nouveaux/relecture
- Le saviez-vous?/Anecdotes proposées
- Pages à créer
- Pages à supprimer
- Pages à fusionner
- Questions techniques
- Requête aux administrateurs
- Signalement d’un faux positif
- Vérificateur d'adresses IP/Requêtes
- Vandalisme en cours ...
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We need to break workflows down to their common components, and create a Workflow Pattern Builder that will help experienced users create and maintain the discussion patterns.
The next few slides show a draft wireframe that the Collaboration team is currently working on, as a model for how we could approach this phase of the project. The wireframe shows an on-wiki form that an experienced user would fill out, creating a new Workflow Pattern that other people would use.
Workflow Pattern Builder

Name of pattern: 

Where it's used: 
- Specific page
- Any article talk page
- Any user talk page
- Any talk page

Starting the discussion (Form Creator)
Set up how a user will begin this workflow

Instructions for the user starting the discussion: 

Field 1: 
- User name
- Article name
- Custom field 

Field 2: 
- User name
- Article name
- Custom field

Will this pattern be available on any talk page, or only in specific places?

What information will the user need to provide to start the discussion?
When this kind of discussion starts, is there a standard template or text posted at the top of the thread?

Does this pattern need a specific set of subheadings?

Does the person opening the discussion need to come up with relevant subheadings when the discussion starts?

Does this type of discussion need a bullet-point checklist, with small sub-threads under each item?
Does this process use voting options like Support/Oppose or Keep/Delete?

Should it just display each vote with the comment, or tally up the votes?

Are there logs where the discussion needs to be listed?
Is there a specific time limit on this type of discussion?

Should there be a special Echo notification that alerts people a day before the time expires?

Do you need special user rights to close a discussion, or can anyone do it?

If the person closing the discussion writes a summary of the decision, should that be at the top or the bottom of the thread?
Supporting workflows: Beyond transclusion
Structured discussions don’t have to be tied to one page. They can be moved around and remixed to create useful tools.

For example: a personal feed on a Special page that shows all of the discussions that you’re currently watching.

You could use this as your inbox, or as a to-do list, checking off or and dismissing topics from the page.

(Note: This isn’t built yet, but we’ve started work on it.)
Supporting Workflows: Search and filter discussions
On Talk:Earth, if you're looking for all of the previous discussions about the planet’s orbit, you can do a **keyword search for “orbit”** in the header template.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Earth
You get search results like this, which shows the relevant archive pages, with a discussion title that matches the keyword.

You’re looking for all of the discussions about the orbit, so from here you’ll probably open a bunch of pages in separate tabs, and use ctrl-F to look for the keyword.
With structured discussions, we can display all of the matches on the same page, no matter how old the discussion is.

How The Moai Moved

Cronopio

There has not been a fresh idea on how this worked since like ’98. Luckily, TRUtv has shown the way Moai moved.

Long story short, the core investigation that needs to place is this: Did the inhabitants of Easter Island use sails to move the Moai from central

(Note: This isn’t built yet, but we’re working on it now.)
We can also show the search results as a **mini-Table of Contents**, displaying the number of times the keyword is used in that thread, and whether you’re watching or have participated in that thread or not.
Advanced filters can provide many options to help you find the discussions you're looking for:

- whether the discussion is open or closed
- who participated in the discussion
- whether it happened yesterday or six months ago
Collaborating with the Collaboration team

There’s a lot of work ahead to turn these ideas into features! We need to work with experienced editors to design and build workflow supports that people really need.

The project’s main talk page: https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Talk:Flow

You can reach us through our Mediawiki.org talk pages:
- Danny Horn, product manager - [[User talk:DannyH (WMF)]]
- Roan Kattouw, tech lead - [[User talk:Roan Kattouw (WMF)]]
- Pau Giner, UX design - [[User talk:Pginer-WMF]]
- Nick Wilson, community lead - [[User talk:Quiddity (WMF)]]

Sign up at https://wikimedia.org/research to participate in research sessions for this and other projects!