

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE BASES AND PLATFORMS VIA MASS

COLLABORATION ON THE INTERNET

Institute on Internet and Society

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THE internet
CENTRE FOR & SOCIETY



What was a “Knowledge Platform”
like..... in

2000

1950

1850

1650

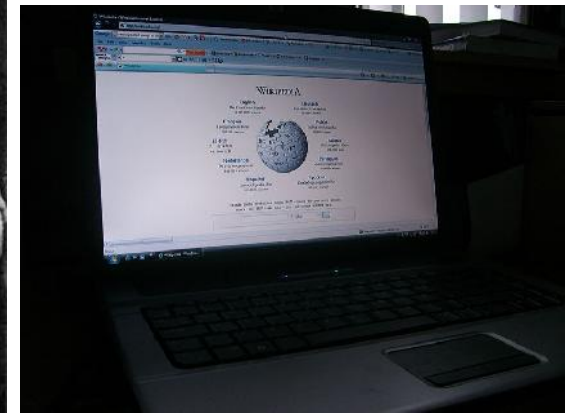
1450

2050 ? ? ? ? ?

- What does Print Technology tell us?
- Techno-sociality of Knowledge production
- Tectonic Shifts in the Knowledge domain

Production-Dissemination-Distribution-Constitution

- What are the changes that we see?



Caxton Showing the First Specimen of His Printing to King Edward IV at the Almonry, Westminster circa 1471.

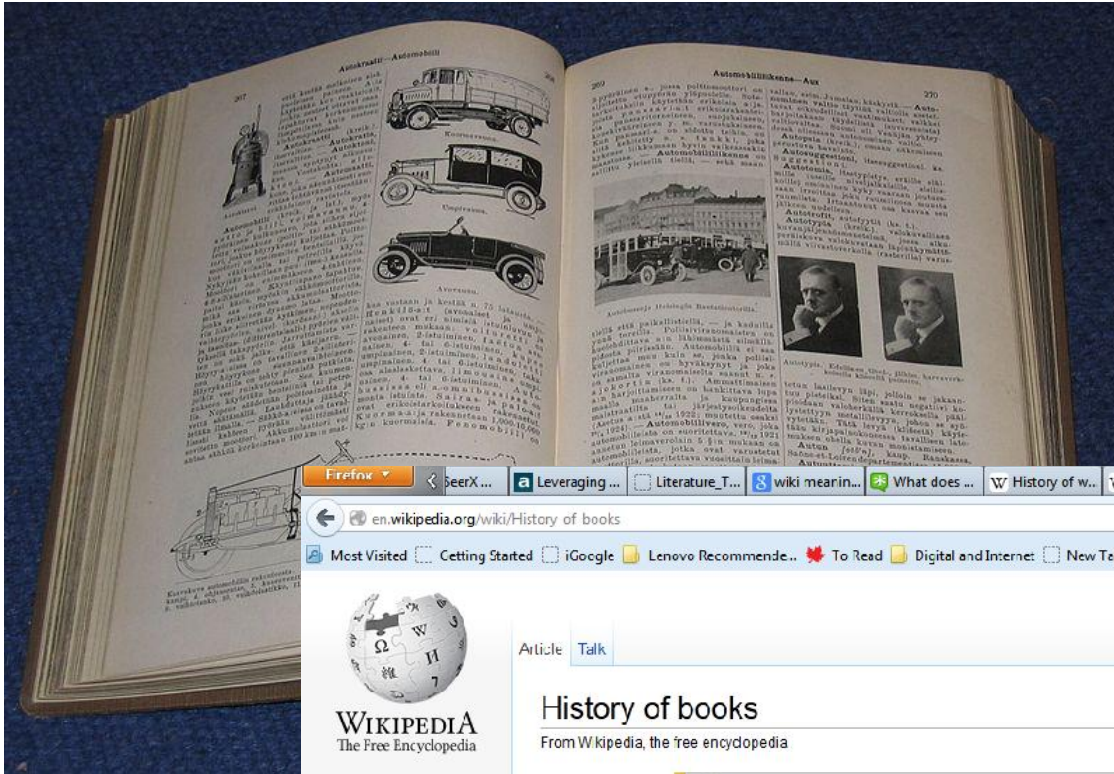
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Firefox browser window showing the Wikipedia article for "History of books".

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_books

Most Visited | Getting Started | iGoogle | Lenovo Recommended | To Read | Digital and Internet | New Tab

History of books

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article may require cleanup to meet Wikipedia's quality standards. No cleanup reason has been specified. Please help improve this article if you can. (January 2009)

The **history of books** follows a suite of technological innovations for books. These improved the quality of text conservation, the access to information, portability, and the cost of production. This history has been linked to political and economic contingencies, the history of ideas, and the history of religion.

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- 1 Origins and antiquity
- 2 Clay tablets
- 3 Papyrus
- 4 East Asia
- 5 Pre-columbian codices of the Americas
- 6 Wax tablets
- 7 Parchment
 - 7.1 Greece and Rome
 - 7.2 Description
 - 7.3 Book culture
 - 7.4 Proliferation and conservation of books in Greece
 - 7.5 Book production in Rome
- 8 Paper
- 9 Middle Ages
 - 9.1 Books in monasteries
 - 9.2 Copying and conserving books

"Modern Book Printing" sculpture, showing a pile of modern codex books.

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Some Massive Knowledge Platforms

- Baidu Baike
- English Wikipedia
- Hudong
- Catawiki
- WikiEducator
- Open Street Map
- Pad.ma
- Sahapedia
- Internet Archive
- JSTOR
- DSAL
- DLI



- The spread of the internet has made possible the building of knowledge bases by seamless and mass collaboration. But **HOW?**

WIKI

- 2 minute History
 - 1994 - Ward Cunningham
 - WikiWikiWeb – Wikipedia – Mainstream



- Simple Video on Wiki
- Browser based editing & version history

- 286 Language Wikipedias
- 334 Language Wikipedias in incubation
- Total Articles – 2,60,00,000
- Articles in English Wikipedia – 42,00,000
- 16,43,063 Editors/Contributors
- 73,049 Active Editors/Contributors
- 36,50,00,0000 Page Views per month
- No. of paid employees.....173

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Top 5 Indian Wikipedias have 2,56,160 Articles

Total Indian Contributors – 5514

Very Active Editors – 467

2,75,79,239 page views per month

Wikipedia

286 Language Wikipedias
334 Language Wikipedias in incubation
Total Articles – 2,60,00,000
Articles in English Wikipedia – 42,00,000
16,43,063 Editors/Contributors
73,049 Active Editors/Contributors
36,50,00,000 Page Views per month

Indian Language Wikipedia - Factsheet

Indian Language Wikipedia Statistics - as on March 31, 2013

	Hindi	Bengali	Punjabi	Marathi	Telugu	Tamil	Urdu	Kannada	Gujarati	Malayalam	Oriya	Assamese	Kashmiri	Sanskrit
Page Views per Month	5,926,278	3,028,411	344,503	2,913,713	1,456,140	3,434,075	1,291,857	891,997	666,853	2,294,413	292,777	349,024	54,421	383,750
Article Count	97,151	25,725	5,690	39,313	52,522	52,431	23,670	14,255	22,611	30,250	3,690	1,990	113	10,272
New Articles per Day	7	7	7	9	8	21	13	11	2	23	6	2	0	1
Edits per Month	33,874	29,531	5,720	8,758	16,239	47,551	25,450	10,113	12,632	29,077	4,142	2,485	132	6,306
Active Editors	44	61	10	29	36	86	26	25	20	124	13	14	0	13
Very Active Editors	9	8	3	8	12	20	5	6	2	26	4	2	0	0
New Editors	14	17	3	8	6	20	4	12	3	19	1	0	0	5
Speakers	550,000,000	230,000,000	104,000,000	90,000,000	80,000,000	66,000,000	60,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	37,000,000	31,000,000	13,000,000	4,600,000	50,000
Editors per Million Speakers	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	1	0.4	0.5	0.4	3	0.4	1	0	

- Let's simplify this through a Video.....

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Generic Challenges



- There are three issues which should be taken into account:
 - a) quality,
 - b) relevance
 - c) consistency of knowledge
- Suitable motivation of the contributors.
- Another issue is the scalability



India Specific Challenges for Building Knowledge Platforms on the Internet

- Technical infrastructure for Indian Languages
 - Typing a major challenge
 - OCR – complexity of Indian Language scripts
 - Various other technical troubles like browser compatibility, font display, etc. which deter new users
- Dearth of quality content available in digital format
- Different standards/formats/generations (Gov.in/DLI)
- Relative lack of research/academic standards, which is transferred on to Indic Wikipedias.
- Lack of Knowledge Sharing Culture
- Insularity – Niche Communities



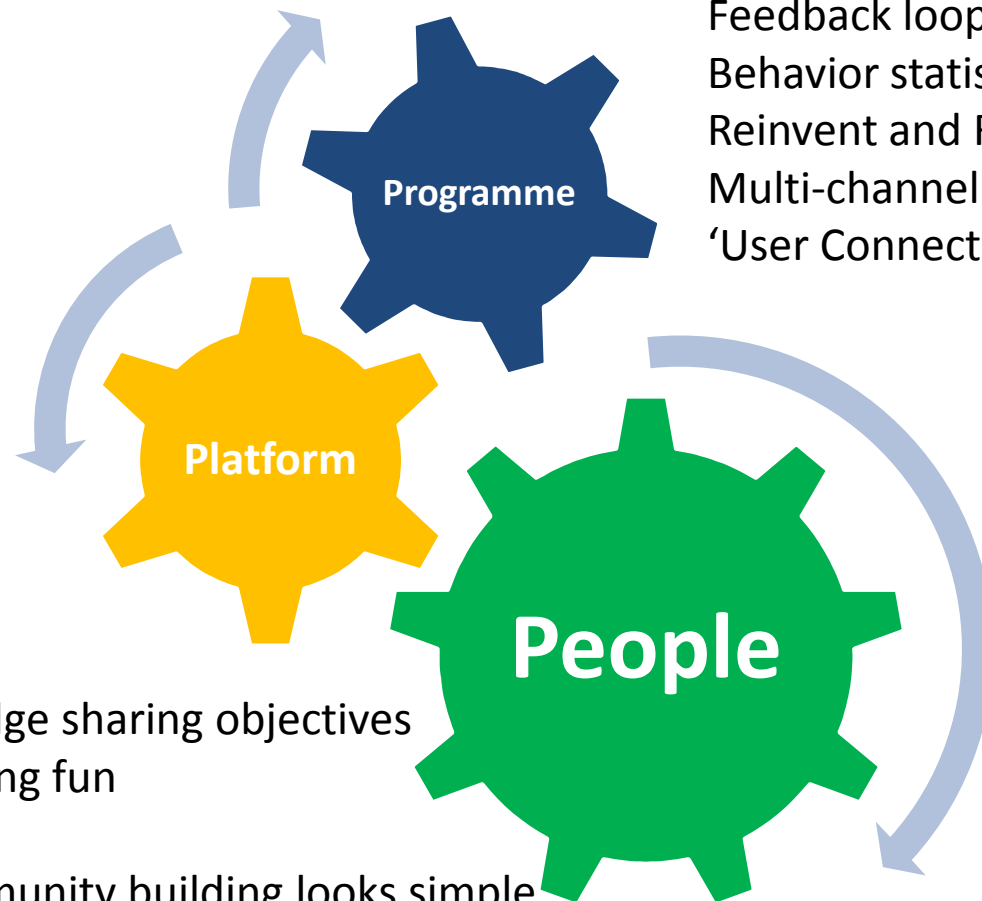
Building a Mass Knowledge Platform

Platform:

- User friendly
- Easily available and adoptable
- Offline outreach is key to effective use of online platforms

Programme:

- Feedback loop is key
- Behavior statistics data
- Reinvent and Replicate the Prg.
- Multi-channel awareness
- 'User Connect' programmes



People

- Communicate knowledge sharing objectives
- Make knowledge sharing fun
- Appoint Ambassadors
- Virtual volunteer community building looks simple but complex - Failure

Image Sources

- Slide No. 4:
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The Caxton Celebration - William Caxton showing specimens of his printing to King Edward I V and his Queen.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Caxton_Celebration_-_William_Caxton_showing_specimens_of_his_printing_to_King_Edward_I_V_and_his_Queen.jpg)
- <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WikipediaLaptop.JPG>
- Slide No. 5:
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Low Memorial Library Columbia University NYC.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Low_Memorial_Library_Columbia_University_NYC.jpg)
- <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikimedia-servers.jpg>
- Slide No. 6: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pieni2.jpg>



Welcome to accessing and building Knowledge platforms in Digital Era

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