

# hr Wikipedia

(wiki on Croatian language)

Beograd, December 2008.



Usually when talking about some Wikipedia project, people talk about number of articles. I won't be completely different, I will mention it, all kind of users/editors (on hr wiki we call them contributors - *suradnici*)

Emphasis is on Wikipedia

**quality  
&  
community**

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I suppose you all know that in beginning there was no categories and references, basic guidelines were:

- **NPOV**
- **assume good faith (be kind)**
- **be bold**

But in time we got categories (to replace, or to be complement to boring lists) -> and with that Wikipedia got 1 element of semantic system (which is further implemented in semantic wiki)

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Category is ontologic class - without attributes, relations and other stuff which belongs to ontologies when we want to define them, but which would tend to make writing new articles to Wikipedia not boring, but demanding – every user writing new article in new category should clearly define new class (new category), its attributes and relations to existing categories.

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We are not demanding, users write new articles, sometimes put them in some category, sometimes don't, and **admins** (new term - short for administrators as you all well know that) take care of that (or experienced contributors).

Almost same situation we had for references: Wikipedia model at first (to be different from total flop of *nupedia*) had almost no criteria for article (we all know that plain text to be counted for article have to have one link, and thats that).

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After wide success of Wikipedia (lets say after en wiki reached 1mil articles, lot of them *shiny*, full of pics, links, well formatted (titles and subtitles), categories, well written etc, question of quality of Wikipedia articles came forward, or in other words:

**“how can we trust Wikipedia?”**

How to ensure that all that shiny content is true and verifiable, and not some kind of propaganda (POV), regardless which *pov* it represents?

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Answer is simple, **references!**

Principles of writing seminars/scientific papers apply, so users are not confronted with some new paradigm which they can not understand, *rationale* for references is obvious:

- references (almost) eliminate original research
- references make task of verifying facts mentioned in articles easy
- references (almost) remove emotional/biased sentenced/paragraphs, because we can put *{{fact}}* template on every such outburst

Of course, references are not omnipotent, they can be non-existent (for URL-s 404 - Not Found), or books of non-existing authors, or non-existing books of existing authors, that's one kind of invalidation of references, other kind is using non-valid references (blogs, *samizdat* books of people non-recognized by scientific community, or works by pseudoscientist working on semiofficial universities etc)

Good example of latter is Mart Bax and Međugorje massacre on de wiki, where admins of de wiki was so hard in not trusting/believing

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admins of hr wiki, that case was resolved only when mentioned imagination came to German press (Frankfurter Rundschau)

[http://www.fr-online.de/in\\_und\\_ausland/kultur\\_und\\_medien/feuilleton/1584941\\_Die-Toten-die-es-nicht-gab.html](http://www.fr-online.de/in_und_ausland/kultur_und_medien/feuilleton/1584941_Die-Toten-die-es-nicht-gab.html)

Here again we come to recognize importance of good admins and experienced contributors – in other words – good community.

I have to thank here Filip (dungo/dungodung) who helped me in my first steps on irc, which ultimately led to my realization of necessity of communication between admins, be it electronic – irc/Skype/email/ mailing lists, or more personal (phone talks – live meetings)

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So today we have a little community (compared to en or de wiki), but big enough that Wikimedia chapter in Croatia now has sense (hi Miloš! 😊 )

Up to now I talked (wrote) about problems/issues which all Wikipedias have, and now something particular:

- how we resolve issues in articles with our contributors? How we resolve issues between admins?

We talk. A lot. There is always ill-intended users with whom you can not reach common ground,

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such cases are resolved with lock&block policy, but if possible at all, we try hard to not send away any contributor, regardless of age, color or any other trait.

To me indicative was case about 1 year ago when some admin from en wiki came to our irc channel (one female user of hr wiki called him), to try to mediate an issue between her and some admin, and he was impressed that all admins which were present on our channel were unilateral, all of them presented the case as it was, opposing to picture that female contributor had....

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Is it always so perfect?

Not at all, but if your community have admins/bureaucrats/(or even stewards) which are patient enough, have well developed social skills, and enough time/patience to listen somebodies problems, regardless on wiki or in real life, you will gain happy community which works for free making Wikipedia as good as it can be!

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hr.wikipedia.org facts (it's time for number of articles and such :-))

- 52.500 articles (50k day was 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008)
  - 22k registered contributors
  - areas like indigenous people or autochthonous people of all continents, astronomy or football (in Croatia) are extremely well covered
  - 21 administrator
  - 20 patrollers
  - lot of good things to come :-)
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Thank you on your patience.

Questions?

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(slide will be uploaded on meta on Monday)

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