Project Management
Best Practices for WikiProjects

Wikimania 2010, Jul 9-11

Arjuna Rao Chavala
Arjunaraoc@gmail.com

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Agenda

- Overview of WikiProjects
- Project Management best practices
  - PMI's PMBOK
  - Agile concepts
- Practices assessment
WikiProjects - Overview

Goal: To produce excellent articles systematically rather than incidentally.

A WikiProject is
- a collection of pages devoted to the management of a specific topic or family of topics within Wikipedia;
- a resource to help coordinate and organize the writing and editing of those articles.
- useful for a group of editors who use those pages to collaborate on encyclopedic work.
- a convenient forum for those interested through the discussion pages attached to a project page

A WikiProject is
- not a place to write encyclopedia articles directly,
Welcome to Wikipedia's portal on music. Music is an art form and a cultural activity involving the performance of sounds with or without musical instruments. It is one of the universal cultural expressions that can span a wide range of social contexts. Music is a sonic art form that combines melody, harmony, rhythm, and other elements. It is a powerful medium for creating emotion in the listener. Music is considered to be a means to communicate, a performing art, a fine art, and an academic field of study.

More about music...

Explore:

Music categories:
- Analysis
- Awards

Music genres and forms:
- Blues

Musicans:
- Drums

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Shortcut: P:MUS
Telugu WikiProjects Status

Average team size: 4, Duration : 2 years
Most project articles quality not assessed
Role of WikiProjects in Wikipedia's success -research findings

Production relation with Coordination

Group Coordination:
- Project coordination correlates strongly with production, When Project leader and article contributor is same, production peaks

Directed Coordination:
- Project leader and article contributors are different and production happens

Quality through Coordination
- When many editors contribute, Implicit coordination is more helpful to improve quality.
- When less number of editors contribute, explicit coordination is useful.

PM in wikipedia community. Hang Ung et al, wikisym 2010, Harnessing the wisdom of crowds in wikipedia, quality through coordination-Aniket Kittur etal, wikisym 2008
Issues with current WikiProjects?

- Inadequate team size
- Limited project management knowledge of the leader
- Need for templates, bots to manage the project
- Work on project not of interest compared to creation of article
- No critical need is felt
- .....
A project consists of a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service or end result.

- Temporary: Time
- Unique: Different in one or more parameters of the result or development process and team

Is WikiProject a project as per PMBOK?
Agile Manifesto

We value..

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan
WikiProjects General Assessment (My perspective)

- **Well Done**
  - Making the project visible through other media
    - Portal/Newsletter
  - Communicating the progress

- **Adequately done**
  - Defining Vision

- **Poorly done**
  - Definite duration
  - Definite scope
  - Regular meetings
  - Closure
Summary

- WikiProjects are a great way to coordinate by Editors to improve Wikipedia article quality, but they are not effective most of the time.
- PMI's PMBOK, Agile are popular methodologies in the commercial world.
- PM best practices can be useful to improve the effectiveness of WikiProjects:
  - Defining iteration duration
  - Defining scope
  - Building Team, Using wiki ads for publicity
  - Ensuring team motivation through updates on status, quality and communication wiki signpost and virtual/physical meetings

My Sample Wiki Project:  [http://tinyurl.com/2u4ymje](http://tinyurl.com/2u4ymje) (in Telugu)

Can we start practicing the improvements?
Project Management Best practices for WikiProjects
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