Wikiversity: learning the "wiki way"

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Presentation overview

- Introduction to Wikiversity (background, scope)
- Wikiversity and Wikimedia
- Wikiversity in practice

(Please stop me if I'm talking too fast, or too much crap!)

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Introduction

- Officially launched in August 2006

- (Had been previously "incubated" in Wikibooks for 2-3 years)

- Lengthy process of defining project - conflicting views

Wikiversity scope

- Educational materials and activities
- Both a repository and a learning space
- Research included (within policies and guidelines)
- All learner levels and languages

project page · discussion · view source · history

Election results for the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees.

Wikiversity:Main Page

navigation
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community
- Portal
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search

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toolbox
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Welcome to Wikiversity

Set learning free

About · Browse · **Community**
Editing · Help · Questions · Tour
We take requests!

Browse our schools and subject areas:
Humanities · Physical Sciences · Life
Sciences · Practical Arts and Sciences ·
Mathematics · Engineering and Technology ·
Interdisciplinary Studies · Social Sciences ·
Education · Media · Professions · Other portals

What is Wikiversity?

Welcome, newcomers!

Wikiversity is a community for the creation and
use of free learning materials and activities.

Communications and community

- **Community portal** — A listing

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WIKIVERSITY

article | discussion | view source | history

Main Page

Friday, August 3 2007

Welcome to Wikiversity beta

العربية | Български | Česky | Deutsch | **English** | Ελληνικά | Español | فارسی | Français | □□□□□□□ |
עברית | Italiano | 日本語 | Kölsch | Libneneh | □□□□□□□ | Nederlands | Português | Română |
Русский | Svenska | Türkçe | 中文 | Polski |

navigation

- Main Page
- Root category
- Help
- Babel
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Donations

search

[   ]

[Go] [Search]

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages

What is Wikiversity beta?

This website is a central hub for coordination of all the language-specific Wikiversity projects. This **multilingual coordination** builds upon Wikiversity's mission and the Wikiversity project proposal. This website hosts discussions about Wikiversity policy for original research.

Wikiversity beta is also an incubator for Wikiversities in various languages that are not yet separate projects. So far, English, German, Spanish, French and Italian are separate projects. See the News from separate projects.

Announcements

June 2007

10 : Wikimedia Board Election opens.

May 2007

31: m:Wikimedia brand survey initiated by Eric Moeller

18 : 20:19: Italian wikiversity

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Learning the 'wiki way'

What is the "wiki way", and what does it mean for education?

- Discuss validity of information

- Store, 'manage', but also *construct* knowledge

- People participate in the very definition of the space itself (policies, processes, structures, etc)

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Wikis in educational use

- Collaborative writing
- Brainstorming
- Collating, annotating knowledge banks (eg bibliographies)

But what are the *affordances* of wikis for education?

- Transparency
- Critical thinking
- Media literacy

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Wikiversity - an experiment

- Wikiversity - not set up with a clearly defined educational model (deliberately)

- Major focus so far - identifying what works in a wiki (even MediaWiki) context

- "Learning by doing" emerging as one option

- Esentially, we are learning *about learning*

Wikiversity so far..

- Some good materials and courses (eg. Filmmaking)
- A tentative learning model (learning by doing)
- New structuring 'namespaces' ("School", "Topic")
- Policies (some adapted from Wikipedia) - NPOV
- Apprenticeship model of adminship ("custodians")
- Research guidelines
- Logo, motto & slogan

'Who' is Wikiversity?

- 34 new accounts p. day (av.)
- 14,898 (as of 26-10-07)

However…

- 375 contributors with >10 edits
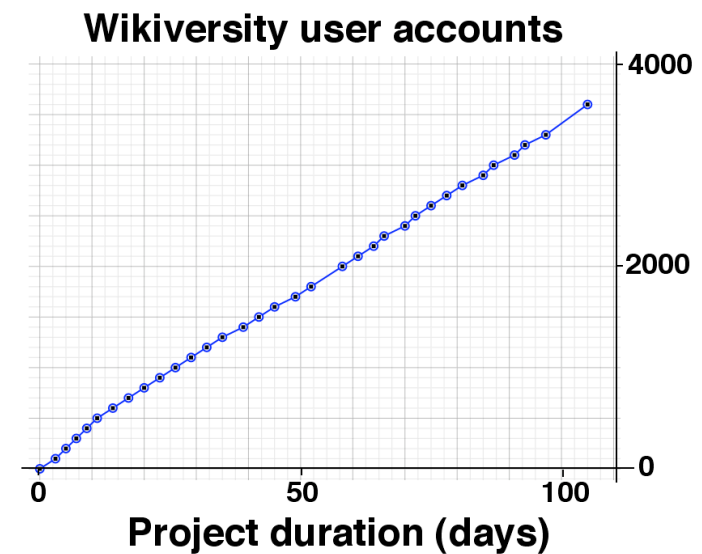- 31 new contributors per month
- 5-10 active; 50-100 very active

Wikiversity user accounts

Project duration (days)

Image: John Schmidt
http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Image:Wiki
versityuseraccounts105.png

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How does/should Wikiversity work?

″ Learning activities must have certain elements otherwise they are no better than "yelling into a dark and empty cave". There must be specific goals and someone must be listening.

Therefore, to be a learning activity, a page must:

1. Ask the participant to do something. (Just reading and thinking about something is not enough.)

2. There must be someway to reach someone who will actually listen and reply. This can be:

A. A teacher or moderator who will reply. or

B. A clear procedure for posting the answer for other participants to read and reply. ″

" I would add: C. Click the edit button and participate. "

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Wikiversity and Wikimedia

- Long-criticised for overlapping with Wikibooks

- Much activity on WV duplicating that on other WMF projects (is this always bad?)

- NPOV - is this (always) desirable, or even possible in educational contexts?

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WIKIVERSITY

Issues for Wikiversity

- How can it be of service to educators?

- ..and learners (esp. 'wiki-newbies')?

- Where does the learning take place?

- Evaluating and recognising learning

- Technology - how does it limit? What can be done?

- Collaborations with other projects, groups & networks

- Multilingual expansion (why not Dutch?)

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A broad perspective

" When I think about the ultimate goal of Wikiversity, I
think about the historical origins of universities,
collaborative efforts to facilitate learning that brought
together learners and teachers. In a sense, we are
starting over from that fundamental starting point but
doing it in a new medium, a virtual world that is not
constrained by the need to work in a restrictive
physical space. We are able to explore what can be
done in this new virtual space. " (JWSchmidt)

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Comments? Questions?

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