

SUE GARDNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANOVER, GERMANY, 20 NOVEMBER 2011



### **About Me**

- Executive Director of the Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit organization that operates Wikipedia
- Canadian
- Former journalist, and head of CBC.CA, the most popular news and information site in Canada and the website of Canada's national public broadcaster
- Registered editor on Wikipedia since 2007: I've got about 1200 edits on 10 projects.

### **About This Talk**

- About the Wikimedia Foundation
- About the image filter
- About editor retention: our top priority
- Recruiting female editors

Any questions before I begin?

# THANK YOU

FOR EDITING WIKIPEDIA

### **About the Wikimedia Foundation**

### Mission of the Wikimedia Foundation

"The mission of the Wikimedia Foundation is to empower and engage people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally.

In collaboration with a network of chapters, the Foundation provides the essential infrastructure and an organizational framework for the support and development of multilingual wiki projects and other endeavors which serve this mission.

The Foundation will make and keep useful information from its projects available on the Internet free of charge, in perpetuity."





**World Vision** 







**POUR LA LIBERTE DE LA PRESSE** 













## creative commons







THE STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM

# Ninety people work at the Wikimedia Foundation.



## Half are engineers; the remainder do everything else.



# 40% were Wikimedians before they joined the staff.



Average staff tenure in the projects: ~4 years\*



# 42% of WMF staff are not American; 70% have lived outside the U.S.



# The Wikimedia Foundation speaks 41 languages, averaging 2.12 languages per staff member.

English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Hindi, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Malayalam, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, Esperanto, Hebrew, Korean, Romanian, Catalan, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Danish, Finnish, Frisian, Ghegnisht, Greek, Hawaiian, Kannada, Kölsch, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Réunion Creole, Gjuha-shqipe letrare, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Ukranian and Vietnamese.

First sort is by number of staff speakers, secondary sort is alphabetical. Accurate as of November 2011, Wikimedia Foundation staff of about 90.

## About the image filter

**May 2010** WMF Board first starts discussing controversial content **June 2010** Board asks me to commission a study: I hire Robert Harris to conduct deliberations on meta\* Harris study delivered to the Board for discussion Oct 2010 **June 2011** Board asks me to build an image filter which would offer users the ability to individually opt out of seeing images they don't want to see I develop a design & commission a community **Aug 2011** vote: result is majority weak support and a strong minority opposed deWP runs a poll: result is strong opposition, **Sep 2011** including prominent & credible Wikipedians I come to Hanover to talk with you about it Nov 2011

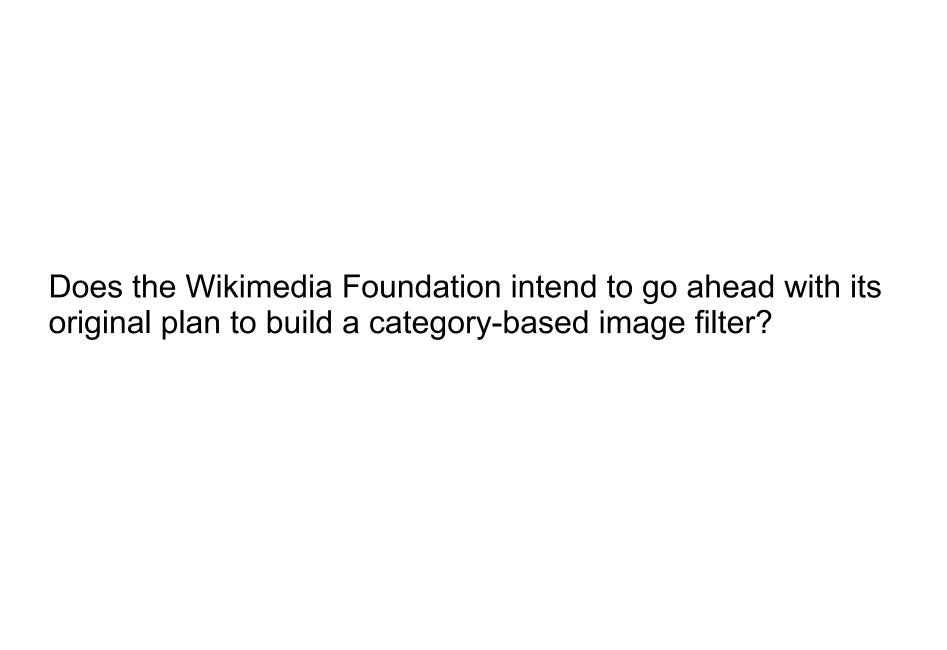
<sup>\*</sup>To develop his report, Robert Harris gathered together 40 studies, white papers and other research from 15 countries around the world originating in 15 countries and covering attitudes, regulations and practices in 76 countries. He read hundreds of wiki policy pages and had on-wiki, e-mail and voice conversations with hundreds of editors from multiple countries. The report was developed on meta, and commented upon and publicly discussed at every stage.

# Does the Wikimedia Foundation intend to impose an image filter on the German Wikipedia, against its will?

Some German editors have told me that they cannot accept an image filter of the type we originally designed. Its introduction would make them want to leave the projects. I take that very seriously. The Wikimedia Foundation will not impose an image filter on German editors that editors strongly oppose.

Having said that: I am not promising that nothing will ever change on the German Wikipedia without consensus agreement. As a movement, we need to be able to be bold, and to experiment freely.

The image filter is different though: it is not an ordinary feature, and so it required special, serious advance discussion.



The Wikimedia Foundation does not intend to build a category-based image filter.

It was clear in the referendum results and the discussion afterwards that a category-based filter system would be unworkable and unacceptable to many editors.

Therefore, we will not build it.

So: what will happen next?

The Board has not rescinded its request to me to build a personal image hiding feature, and so I intend to do it.

To that end, the Wikimedia Foundation will work in partnership with editors, engaging in discussion, until we figure out a solution that will work for everyone.

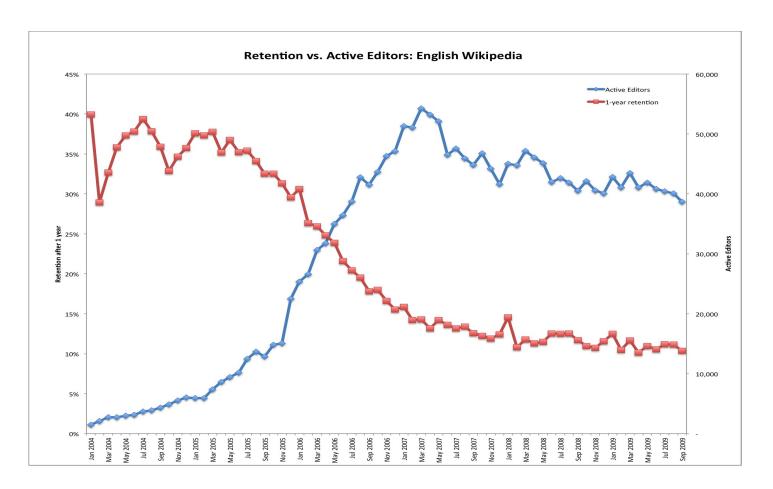
Right now some ideas, such as a general images on/off switch, seem to have broad general support. A few proposals are in development, and being discussed.

My hope is that we can have a good, rich, open conversation about acceptability and usefulness of different ideas, and figure this out in a way that works for everyone. I hope you'll participate on pages like Controversial content/Brainstorming and talk through some of the options there.

We wanted to do something; we asked you what you thought of it. You raised serious objections, and we listened to you. Now, we're rethinking.

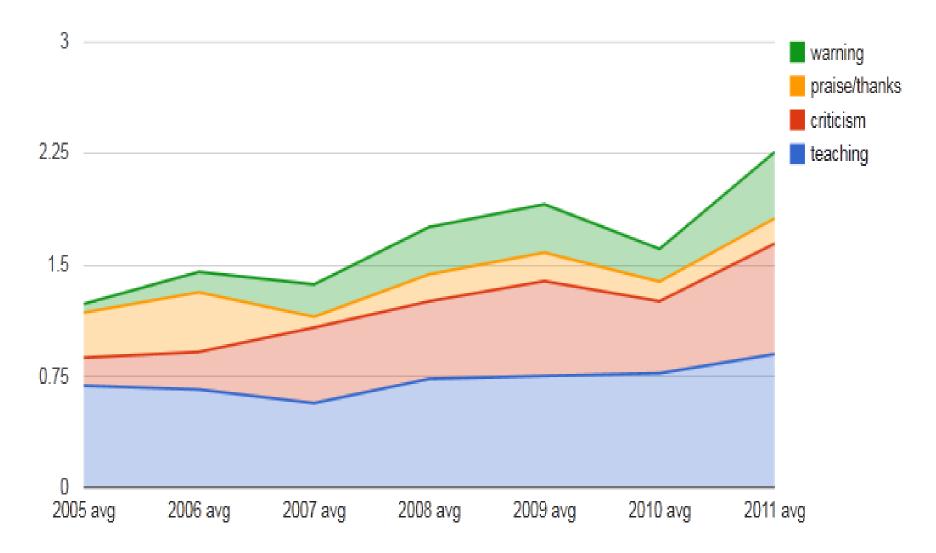
This is how it's supposed to work.

## Editor retention: our top priority



It's getting harder for new people to join our projects. Newbies are making up a smaller percentage of editors overall than ever before, and the absolute number of newbies is dropping as well.

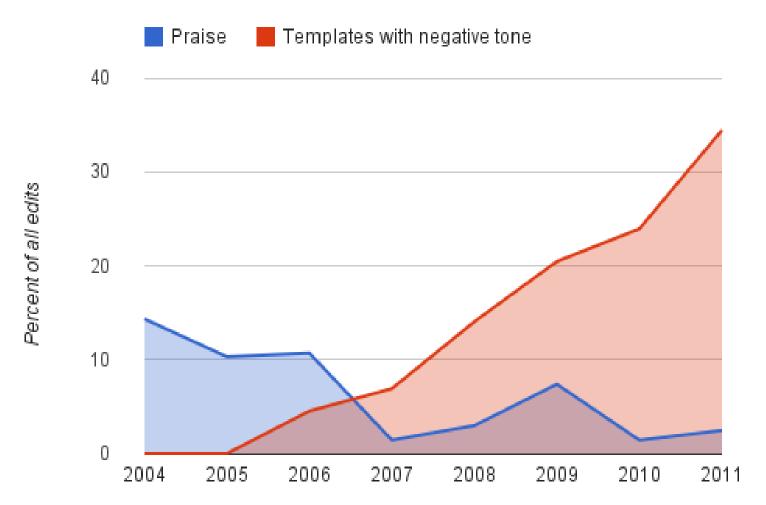
Source: http://strategy.wikimedia.org/wiki/Editor\_Trends\_Study



Why are new editors dropping? Warnings are up, criticism is WAY up, praise and thanks are in decline.

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Newbie\_teaching\_strategy\_trends

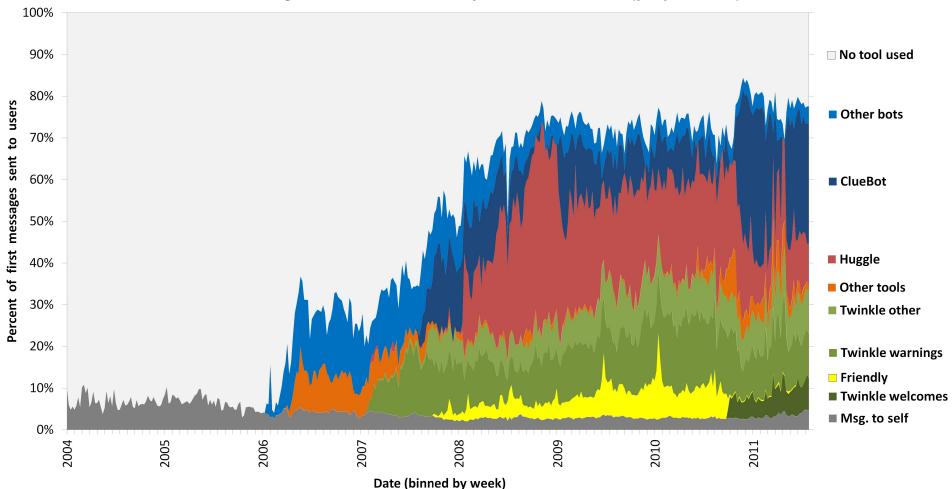
### Is it because they are vandals or spammers? No.



Over the years, good faith newbies\* have become much less likely to be praised, and criticism has skyrocketed.

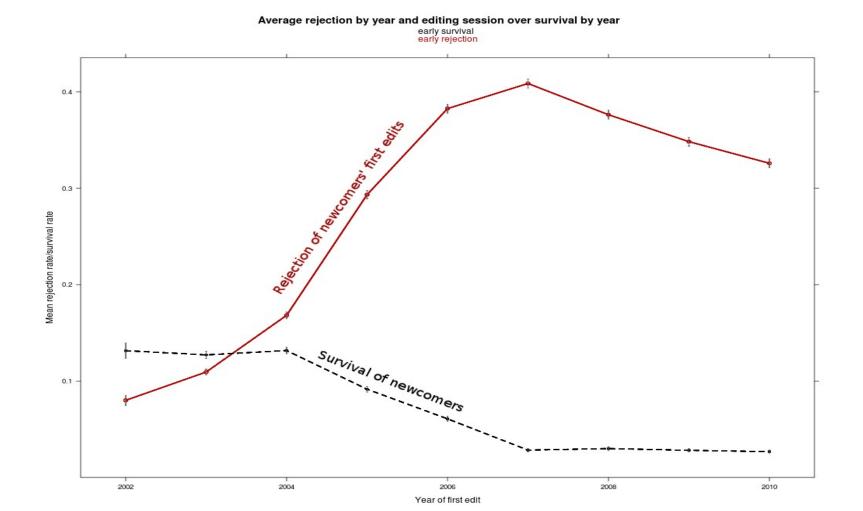
(\*non-vandalizing, non-spamming, non-sockpuppeting)
Source: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Communication\_to\_New\_Editors\_2004-2011

#### First messages sent to new users, by tool and bot used (proportional)



Today, four of five first messages to new editors are bot-delivered, and 65% are warnings.

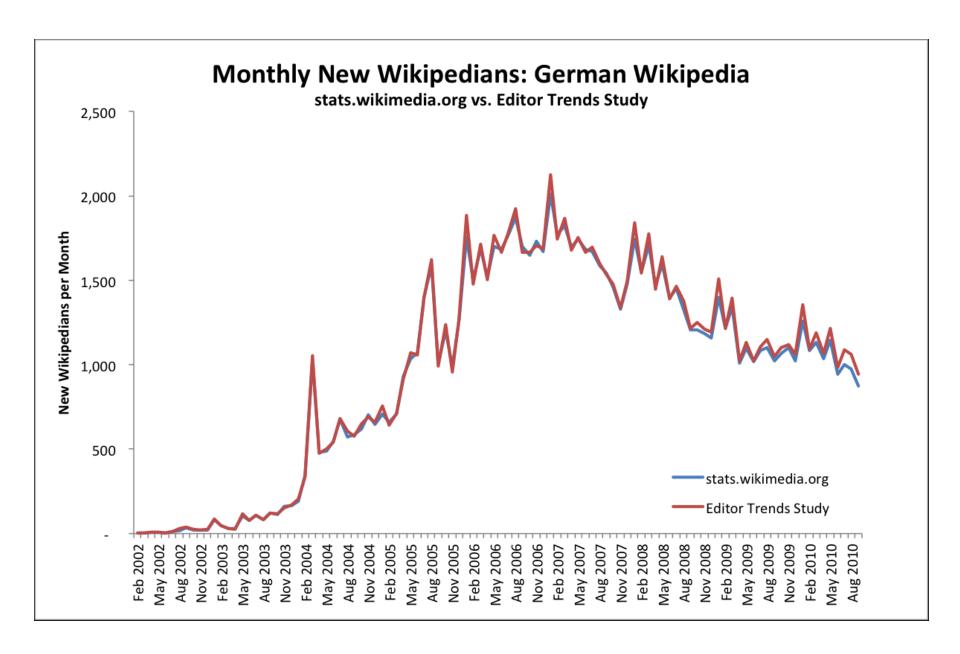
http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:First messages to new users

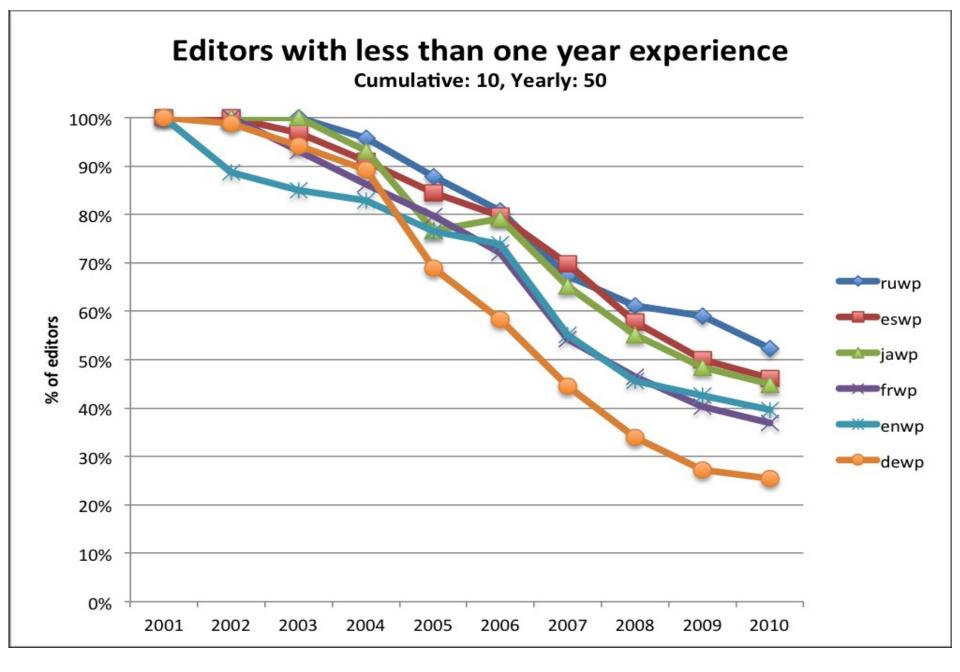


Deletions and reversions make new editors less likely to stick around – and that effect is strongest for new editors who are highly prolific.

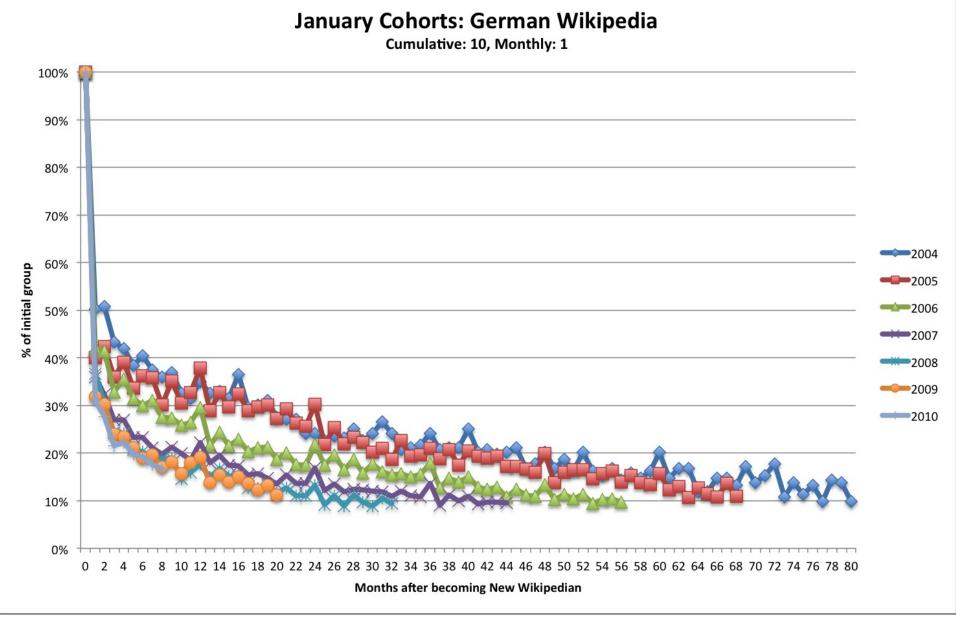
Source: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:First\_edit\_session

## The story is not different for the German Wikipedia.





http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/New-editors-across-projects--10-50-.png



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dewp-jan-cohorts--10-1-.png

## Why is this a problem?

Editor decline means there aren't enough people to do all the work that needs to be done.

- Existing editors risk stress, overwork and burn-out
- Experienced editors can't take on leadership roles because they are bogged down in basic tasks
- Bureaucrat, administrator and Arb Com-type positions get harder to fill
- Vicious circle comes into play, with newbies increasingly being criticized, warned, and driven off
- Systemic bias gets worse, and we don't benefit from the quality improvements (breadth & depth) that new people would bring
- Older editors may naturally 'age out,' with no-one to ever replace them.

### What should we do about it?

"Wikimedia needs to attract and retain more new and diverse editors, and to retain our experienced editors.

A stable editing community is critical to the long-term sustainability and quality of both our current projects and our movement.

We consider meeting this challenge our top priority."

Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees
March 2011
http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Resolution:Openness

## We urge the Wikimedia community to promote openness and collaboration, by:

- Treating new editors with patience, kindness, and respect; being aware of the challenges facing new editors, and reaching out to them; and encouraging others to do the same;
- Improving communication on the projects; simplifying policy and instructions; and working with colleagues to improve and make friendlier policies and practices regarding templates, warnings, and deletion;
- Supporting the development and rollout of features and tools that improve usability and accessibility;
- Increasing community awareness of these issues and supporting outreach efforts of individuals, groups and Chapters;
- Working with colleagues to reduce contention and promote a friendlier, more collaborative culture, including more thanking and affirmation; and encouraging best practices and community leaders; and
- Working with colleagues to develop practices to discourage disruptive and hostile behavior, and repel trolls and stalkers.

# What is the Wikimedia Foundation doing to solve this problem?

First, we did a bunch of analysis.

### Decline Theories (And Support) $\, \mathop{\updownarrow} \,$

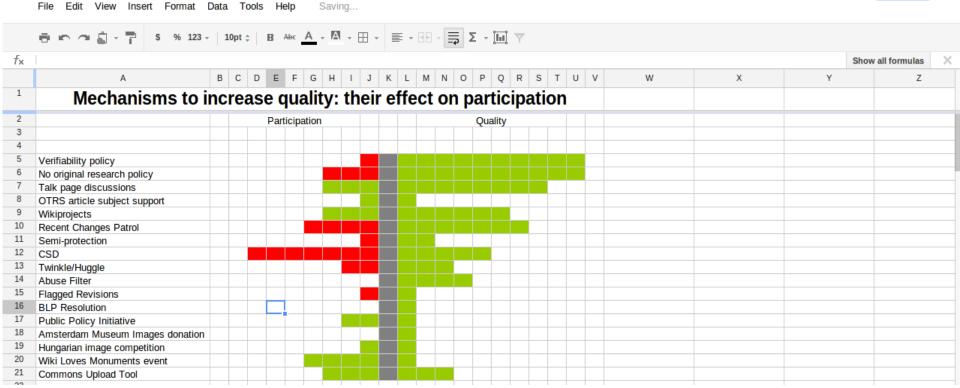
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	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	K	L	M	
1	Decline Theories	Relevant To Which Stage of the Editor Life-cycle	Former Editors Survey	UNU- Merit Survey	Editor Trends Study	server log data		Mobile user experienc research	Editor Survey 2011	Expert Barriers Survey	Newbie Treatmen at CSD Study	Story of the Russian Wikipedia	Any relevant external studies	
7	Everybody who wants to edit Wikipedia is already doing it.	E0, E1-99												Л
8	There is lots of stuff to do online today, and activities like Facebook and Twitter are cutting into time that would otherwise have gone towards editing Wikipedia	All	,											
9	There was some precipitating external event that caused a drop-off in new editors e.g., Seigenthaler scandal dissuades people from editing, or a global famine, war, poor economy distracts everyone	All												
10	Site slowness means actions take a long time to perform, making editing frustrating	E1-99, E100- 999												
11	Trolls and bullies have created sufficient toxicity to drive away experienced editors	E100-999, E1000+												
12	Crowding: As the size of a group increases, conflict will also increase	All except E- 1, E0												
13	Eternal September in general: Wikipedia editors feel overwhelmed by clueless newbies, so they have erected lots of barricades to manage their input, that have the effect of deterring newbies	[see below]												
14	Eternal September, Barrier #1: Too many policies and practices, too high an editorial learning curve (not technical challenges but													ŀ

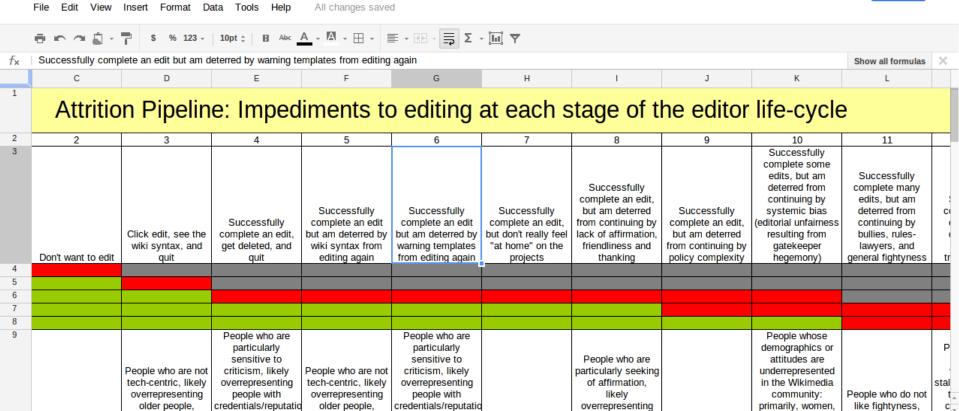
#### Mechanisms to increase quality: their effect on participation ★

Share



#### Attrition Pipeline \( \triangle \)

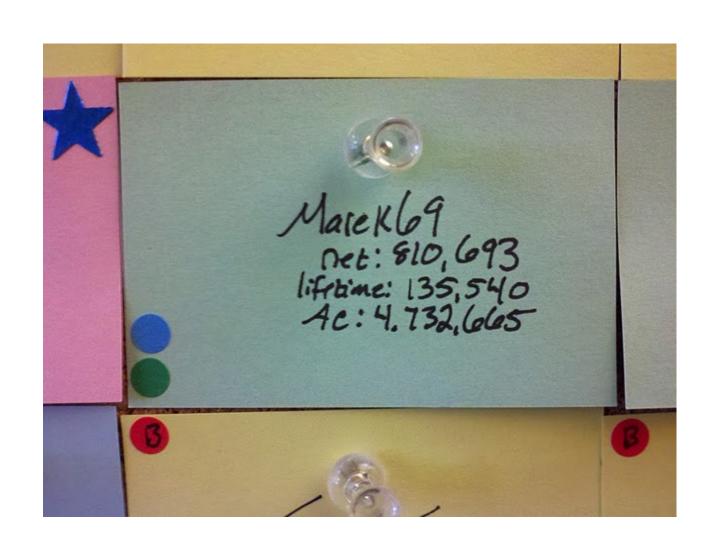




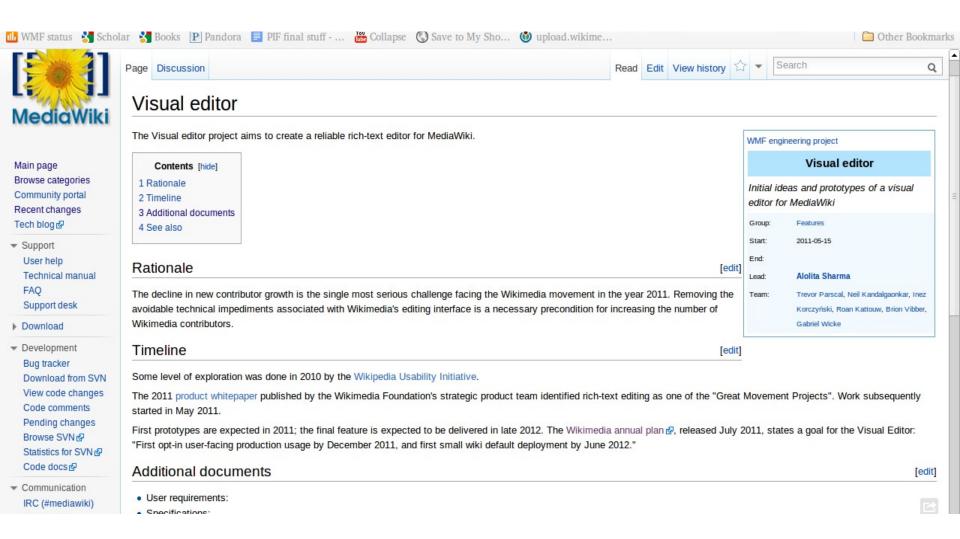








### Now, we are building things.



## We will have the first opt-in user-facing prototype of the Visual Editor available before 2012.

specifically will be targeting the ordest three months), as we want to copy edit as many of these as possible. Damstars will be awarded to anythe who copy edits more than 4,000 words, and special awards will be given to the top 5 in the following categories: "Number of articles", "Number of words", and "Number of articles of over 5,000 words". We hope to see you there! – Your drive coordinators: Diannaa, Chaosdruid, The Utahraptor, Slon02, and SMasters.



Sent on behalf of the Guild of Copy Editors using AWB on 00:45, 29 October 2011 (UTC)

#### A barnstar for you!



#### The Random Acts of Kindness Barnstar

Thanks very much for being polite and kind. We don't have many copy-editors like you! Commander (Ping Me) 15:21, 4 November 2011 (UTC)

Thank you. :-) Baffle gab1978 (talk) 17:19, 8 November 2011 (UTC)

#### A barnstar for you!



#### The Tireless Contributor Barnstar

I would like to thank you for copy-editing Dreaming of You (album)! It was a longggg article that needed some light and you came in and helped it through the tunnel. Also, I wanted to give you this award because of all your hard work and tireless contributions to numerous of articles that were requested for c/e. Keep the good work and have a wonderful break:) Best, Jonayo! Selena 4 ever 13:59, 16 November 2011 (UTC)

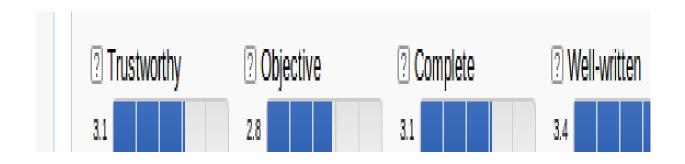
You deserve this and much more. You are a gem to Wikipedia. ★Jivesh 1205★ (talk / p.p.Give 4 a try!!!p.p.) 14:01, 16 November 2011 (UTC)

This page was last modified on 16 November 2011 at 14:01.

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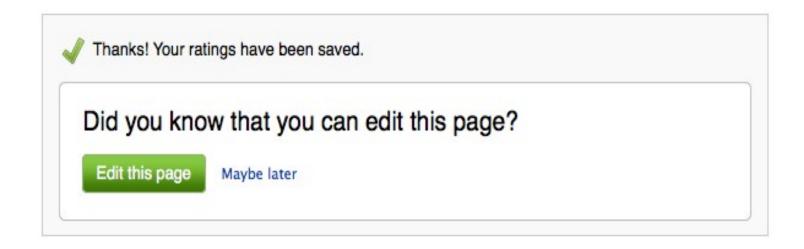
## Wikilove\* makes it easy for editors to thank and praise each other. \*Currently on English Wikipedia, Chinese, Swedish, Portuguese,

. Oriya, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Malayalam, Macedonian, Norwegian and Commons.

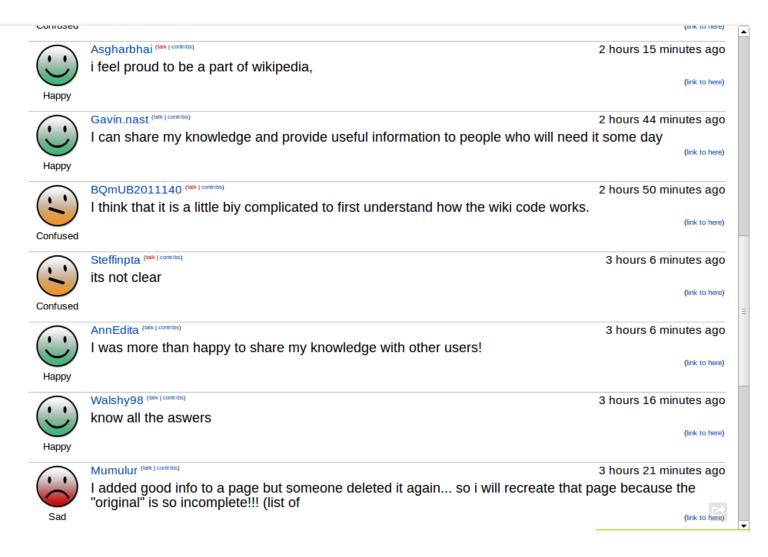


# The Article Feedback Tool\* is a low-risk way for new people to participate.

<sup>\*</sup> Currently on English Wikipedia, plus being tested for Spanish, Hindi, Hungarian, Portuguese, Portuguese Wikibooks, Chinese and Meta.



And, we are using it as an on-ramp to encourage editing.



# The Feedback Dashboard shows us what newbies are experiencing in real time...

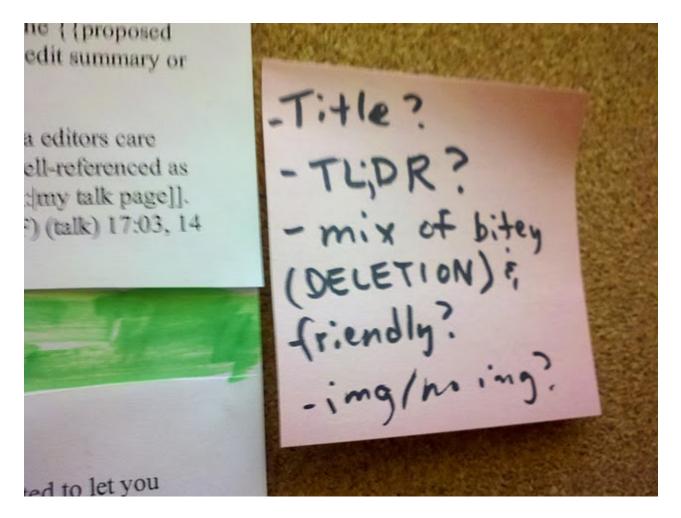
#### **Participants**

Sign up here if you'd like to help respond to comments on the Feedback Dashboard, and we'll make sure you stay updated about its progress.

- 1. Steven Walling talk 21:21, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- Accedie<sup>talk to me</sup> 21:22, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 3. ~ Matthewrbowker Say hi! 21:57, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 4. --Guerillero | My Talk 22:16, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- --Demiurge1000 (talk) 22:22, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 6. ZamorakO o (talk) 22:26, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 7. -- Mentifisto 22:27, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 8. KennethSides (talk) 23:44, 7 November 2011 (UTC)
- 9. Zidanie5 (talk) 00:13, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- Gwickwire (talk) 00:27, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 11. -- Luke (Talk) 00:34, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 12. Ariconte (talk) 01:54, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 13. -- Screwball 23 talk 03:09, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- Sumsum2010-T-C 03:45, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- Ratibgreat (talk) 05:08, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 16. CambridgeBayWeather (talk) 05:23, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 17. —James (Talk Contribs) 3:55pm 05:55, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 18. The Interior (Talk) 05:57, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- Hydroxonium (T•C•V) 07:28, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 20. Hydriz (talk) 09:47, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 21. Dweller (talk) 09:52, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 22. Prashant Serai (talk) 15:13, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 23. mabdul 17:41, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 24. Acather96 (talk) 19:11, 8 November 2011 (UTC)
- 25. Herostratus (talk) 15:57, 9 November 2011 (UTC)

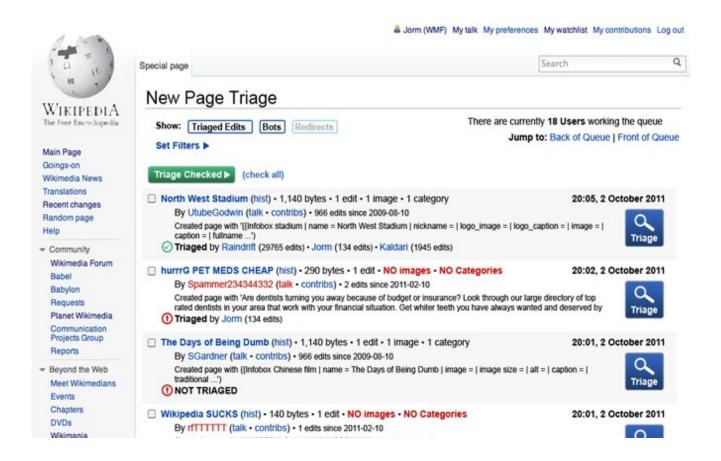
# ...and the new Feedback Response Team goes in to help them.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:New\_editor\_feedback/Response\_team



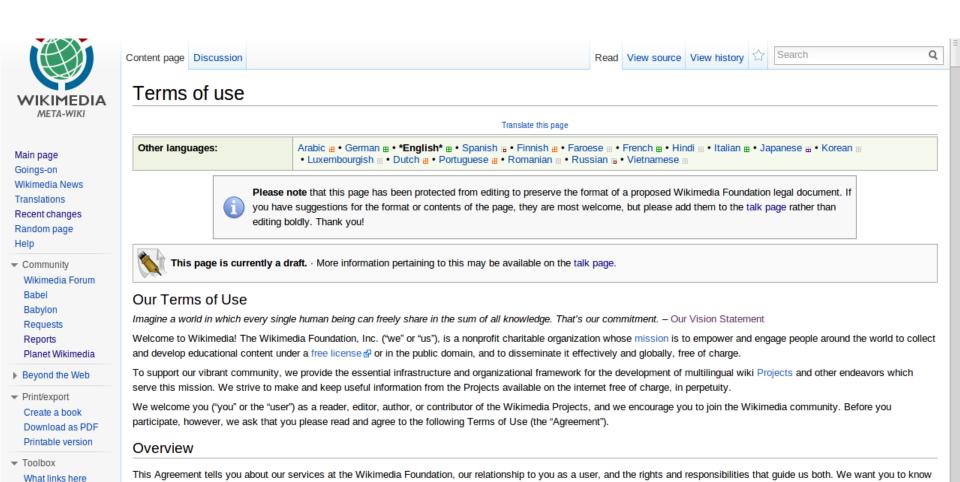
We're developing new warning templates\*, and testing which are best at encouraging editing.

\* Currently testing on English and Portuguese Wikipedias



A new page triage feature\* will support easier page patrolling, and provide ways to help new users, as well as to revert bad edits.

http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/New\_Page\_Triage \*for all language versions



The new Terms of Use will prohibit harassment, threats and stalking, and ask editors to be civil and polite in their interactions with others.

that we have an incredible quantity of informational content. all of which is contributed and made possible by users like yourself. Generally we do not contribute, monitor, or delete

How o	can the	German	community	help?

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- Working with colleagues to develop practices to discourage disruptive and hostile behavior, and repel trolls and stalkers.

My thanks to the people who have helped the Wikimedia Foundation better understand editing trends, including but not limited to:

Ed Chi, Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, Zack Exley, Howie Fung, R. Stuart Geiger, Aaron Halfaker, Fabian Kaelin, Melanie Kill, Yusuke Matsubara, Jonathan Morgan, Erik Moeller, Maryana Pinchuk, Diederik van Liere, Shawn Walker, Steven Walling.

### Recruiting female editors

- 1) Wiki syntax is a pain.
- 2) Too busy!
- 3) "Who am I to change what the person before me has written?"
- 4) "I am not thick-skinned enough for Wikipedia."
- 5) "[Female YA authors] are not NOTEWORTHY. Meanwhile, 1-Book Nobody Dude's Wikipedia page is 14 printable pages long!"
- 6) "I find myself facing attitudes of sexism and gender discrimination and attempts at silencing."
- 7) sexualized culture?
- 8) The software calls me male.
- 9) It's not social / friendly enough.

everyone who's literate
owns a computer, is online
has a little time
reasonably tech-comfortable
reasonably thick-skinned
pedantic!
topic you love

## The Wikipedia conversion funnel



### **2010-15 Strategy Plan – Targets**

- 1) Increase the number of readers to one billion
- 2) Increase the number of articles to 50 million
- 3) Increase the percentage of material reviewed to be of high or very-high quality by 25%
- 4) Increase the number of active editors to 200,000
- 5) Increase female editors to 25 percent and Global South editors to 37 percent

Recapping last year's results....

Revenue up 50% from previous year to USD 23.8 million, with USD 5.3 million added to the reserve, from a fundraiser that was 17 days shorter than in the previous year



- 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were great!
- New editor outreach work has begun in India and the groundwork is being laid in Brazil
- The Virginia data centre is up & running
- Public Policy Initiative added 1.8 million bytes of text to English Wikipedia, and quality improved 140%
- UploadWizard is fully deployed on Commons
- Article Feedback tool is deployed on English Wikipedia
- MobileFrontend extension dark-launched and field research was conducted into mobile usage
- ResourceLauncher is fully deployed to all projects
- WikiLove is deployed to English, Hindi and Arabic WPs
- Offline: tools developed for offline distribution of Wikimedia content (including an improved cross-platform reader application)
- WMF gave out \$770K to chapters, individuals and likeminded organizations
- Significant research has been conducted into editing patterns, and editor demographics, attitudes and satisfaction levels

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# What we're going to do this coming year...

(see also the annual plan here http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Financial\_reports)

### 2011-12 Plan – Key Activities

- Visual Editor: new no-markup default editing environment
- New Editor retention features: experimental features designed to make on-ramping easier and more fun, and to improve interactions between new and experienced editors
- Global Education Program: launch of program designed to support professors in assigning article writing as coursework in India and Brazil, Canada, Germany and the UK
- **Mobile**: development of new platform, new participatory features and launch of Wikipedia Zero partnerships
- India/Brazil: India new editor recruitment program will expand; Brazil program will launch
- Wikimedia Labs: flexible sandbox and research environment
- Internationalization: better support of non-Western languages which are currently poorly supported technically

### 2011-12 Plan Targets

- 1) Increase the number of active editors from just under 90K in March 2011, to 95K in June 2012.\*
- 2) Increase the number of Global South active editors from approximately 15.7K in March 2011, to 19K in June 2012.
- 3) Increase the number of female editors from approximately 9K in spring 2011 to 11.7K in spring 2012.\*\*
- 4) Increase page-views to mobile sites from 726M in March 2011, to 2B in June 2012.
- 5) Develop Visual Editor. First opt-in user-facing production usage by December 2011, and first small wiki default deployment by June 2012.
- 6) Develop sandbox for research, prototyping, and tools development, with initial hardware build-out and first project access by December 2011, and full access for all qualifying individuals/projects by June 2012.
- 7) Increase read uptime from 99.8% in 2010-11 to 99.85% in 2011-12.

<sup>\*</sup> Our projections say that active editors will have declined to 79K by July 2012: this target assumes the decline is successfully reversed and new growth begins. \*\* As derived out of the annual Editor Survey.

- 1) **MOBILE**: We want to reinvent ourselves to suit the way people use the Internet from their phones and tablets, in addition to continuing to support desktop and laptop usage.
- 2) **EDITOR GROWTH**: We want to attract and retain more editors, particularly women and people in the Global South.

### Wikimedia Strategic Plan

A collaborative vision for the movement through 2015



February 2011