

Contribution Patterns Among Active Wikipedians: Finding and Keeping Content Creators

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Wikimania 2006 – Wiki Community Dynamics

5 August 2006

Sociology of Online Communities

Social sciences suffer from:

- paucity of data
- non-quantitative data
- skepticism

(Not that non-quantitative research is invalid.)

Date	Wikipedians					Articles					Database					Links			Daily Usage	
	total	new	edits	count	new	mean	larger than	edits	bytes	0.5 Kb	2 Kb	edits	size	words	internal	external	image	redirects	page requests	visits
Jun 2006	+6%	+5%	+5%	+5%	+5%	+8%														
May 2006	+8%	+11%	+12%	+5%	+6%	+3%														
Apr 2006	+8%	+4%	0%	+5%	+1%															
Mar 2006	+10%	+16%	+11%	+6%	+6%	+2%														
Feb 2006	+11%	+5%	-3%	+5%	+6%	-0%														
Jan 2006	+12%	+13%	+6%	+6%	+7%	+9%														

Online communities provide a rich data resource, Wikipedia in particular.

A Confession and a Shameless Plug

Hi, I'm Seth, and I'm a wikiholic!

My wikihistory....

- began editing en.wikipedia in December 2003
- en.wikipedia admin since March 2004
- too many article namespace edits

But what have I done?

- Only one FA: [\[\[Caroline Island\]\]](#)
(just promoted this week)



Central Questions

As of this morning, en.wikipedia has:

almost 1,300,000 articles

500,000,000 words

Who wrote all this?

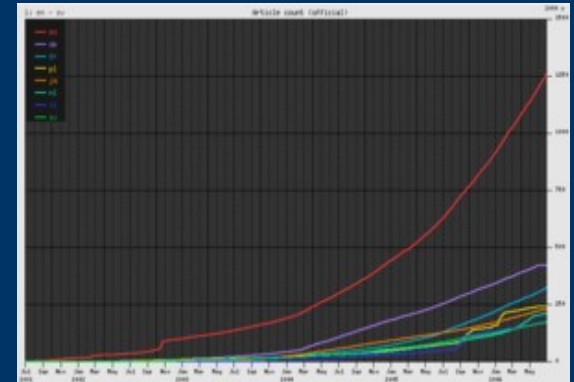
1,900,000 registered accounts

38,000 editors (>5 edits, Jun '06)

70,000,000 edits

How do we identify them?

How do we value them? (Are barnstars enough?)



Classifying Individual Edits

Edits with negative value:

- Vandalism/”trolling”

Edits without content value (but still necessary!):

- Administration/bureaucracy
- Discussion/dispute resolution

Edits with content value:

- Stylistic modification of articles
 - Addition of content to articles – our interest
-
-



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Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 17:37, 2 August 2006 (edit)
 ZaydHammoudeh (Talk | contribs | block)
 (→External links -- RV pov post and comment)
 ← Older edit

Current revision (08:15, 5 August 2006) (edit)
 Striver (Talk | contribs | block) **rollback**

Line 61:

* Qadhi, Yasir. "A Critical Study of Shirk: Being a Translation and Commentary of Muhammad b. Abd al-Wahhab's Kashf al-Shubuhat", al-Hidaayah Publications, Birmingham, U.K., 2002.

* Qadhi, Yasir. "The Four Principles of Shirk of Muhammad b. Abd al-Wahhab", al-Hidaayah Publications, Birmingham, U.K., 2001.

Line 61:

* Qadhi, Yasir. "A Critical Study of Shirk: Being a Translation and Commentary of Muhammad b. Abd al-Wahhab's Kashf al-Shubuhat", al-Hidaayah Publications, Birmingham, U.K., 2002.

* Qadhi, Yasir. "The Four Principles of Shirk of Muhammad b. Abd al-Wahhab", al-Hidaayah Publications, Birmingham, U.K., 2001.

== External links ==

== See also ==

- *[[Islam]]
- *[[Islamist]]
- *[[Wahhabism]]
- *[[Wahab (name)]]

== External links ==

Line 69:

*[http://www.thewahhabimyth.com The Wahhabi Myth]

== See also ==

- *[[Islam]]
- *[[Islamist]]
- *[[Wahhabism]]

[[Category:1703 births|Abd al Wahhab, Muhammad ibn]]

Line 75:

*[http://www.thewahhabimyth.com The Wahhabi Myth]

+

[[Category:1703 births|Abd al Wahhab, Muhammad ibn]]

Current revision

Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab al-Tamimi (1703AD – 1792AD) (*Arabic*: محمد بن عبد الوهاب التميمي) was an Arab theologian born in the [Najd](#), in present-day [Saudi Arabia](#) and the most famous scholar of the movement within [Islam](#) known as the [Salafi](#) movement.

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CSS Georgia (battery)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 21:02, 3 July 2006 (edit)
 68.39.174.238 (Talk | block)
 (SVG replacement svc)
 ← Older edit

Current revision (08:10, 5 August 2006) (edit)
 Xarah (Talk | contribs | block) **rollback**

Line 29:

[[Category:Naval ships of the Confederate States of America|Georgia (battery)]]

Line 29:


[[Category:Naval ships of the Confederate States of America|Georgia (battery)]]


+
 +
 In 1862, the Ladies Gunboat Association raised more than \$115,000 to build a new ironclad warship to defend the
 + rivers of Savannah. Unfortunately, the ship's propulsion system proved inadequate for maneuvering the massive
 vessel. As a result, it was used more as a floating battery or "floating fortress."
 +
 On the evening of December 20, 1864, the Georgia's Confederate crew scuttled her in front of Fort Jackson to keep
 + her from falling into Union hands. The Georgia sank quickly. As one Confederate officer noted, he had just enough
 time to retrieve his sidearm and sword before the Savannah River swallowed the ship.
 +
 Today, the Georgia rests some forty feet below the river's surface. Several groups of archaeologists have
 conducted dives on the wreck. In 1986, divers brought up two of the ship's cannon, a great deal of ammunition, and
 + other artifacts. These unique pieces of Civil War naval history are on display at Old Fort Jackson and the Savannah
 History Museum.

Current revision


CSS *Georgia*, also known as *State of Georgia* and *Ladies' Ram*, was an **ironclad** floating **battery** built at **Savannah, Georgia** in **1862–1863**. Placed under command of **Lieutenant Washington Gwathmey, CSN**, she was employed in defending the river channels below Savannah, training her batteries against the **Union** advance. Since she lacked effective locomotive power, the **Confederates** found it necessary to fire and destroy her during the evacuation of Savannah on **21 December 1864**.

This article includes text from the *public domain* *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*.

 This article about a specific naval *ship* or *boat* is a *stub*. You can *help* Wikipedia by *expanding it*.

 This article about the *American Civil War* is a *stub*. You can *help* Wikipedia by *expanding it*.



Career	
Laid down:	1862
Launched:	1863

Who are our content creators?

We don't think about this much, but we bemoan the loss of the stressed admin. Is this valid/productive?

Hypothesis -- Content creators **aren't** (generally):

- admins - too busy administrating
- the “long tail” - edits typically minor

They are:

- “pre-admins” - before caught in wikiocracy
 - non-ambitious, occasional editors (specialists?)
-
-

“Thousands of editors at thousands of keyboards...”

Sample of 250 recent edits:

Outside article namespace	28%
Article talk namespace (potentially content-productive)	10%
Vandalism	5%
“Tweaking” (small changes/stylistic)	45%
Substantive changes/additions	10%
Creation of new articles	2%



Who creates content?

Of high content edits: (32 in this set)

- 0 were made by an admin
- 69% are made by someone with a username
- 52% by someone with a userpage
- none have a barnstar

Median date of first edit: April 2006

(only 3-4 months ago)

Median number of edits: 200 (range: 1-5000)

- Span of 50 edits:

First 50 took 400 hours (77% in article nsp.)

Recent 50 took 90 hours (76% in article nsp.)

What are our admins doing?

Random sample of 28 en admins (Jul '06):

Most recent 50 edits:

- How often?

 - 50 edits took them from 8 to 1300 hours
median: most recent 50 edits took 150 hours
(50 edits/6 days or 1 edit/3 hours)

- Consistency?

 - recent 500 edits took them 1219 hours
(10x edits in 8x time)

- Where?

 - 27 out of 50 edits (57%) in article namespace



They weren't always like this...

Early in their Wikipedia careers, they:

Edited less frequently:

First 50 edits took a median 440 hours (18 days)
(compare: median 150 hours for recent edits)

Created content more:

38 of first 50 edits (76%) in article namespace
(compare 57% for recent edits)

Edited less consistently:

First 500 edits took 1650 hours
(compare above: 10x edits in 4x time)

Implications for Wikipedia...

Content creators seem to be:

- occasional and less frequent editors
- may be specialists (subject matter knowledge)

Admins:

- former content creators, now janitors



Wikipedia goals:

- quality vs. quantity – different contributor sets?
- how do we value content contributors?



Future directions and acknowledgements

Assistance wanted with data mining...

We need robust statistics on editing patterns:

- across projects, languages/cultures, time

Comparisons with other volunteer-driven efforts:

- non-profit organizations, political campaigns

Thanks to:

- Wikipedia contributors, readers, and critics
 - Interiot and other tool creators
 - Colorado State University
-
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