A demonstration of Wikiversity

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ALT-C, Nottingham, 2007

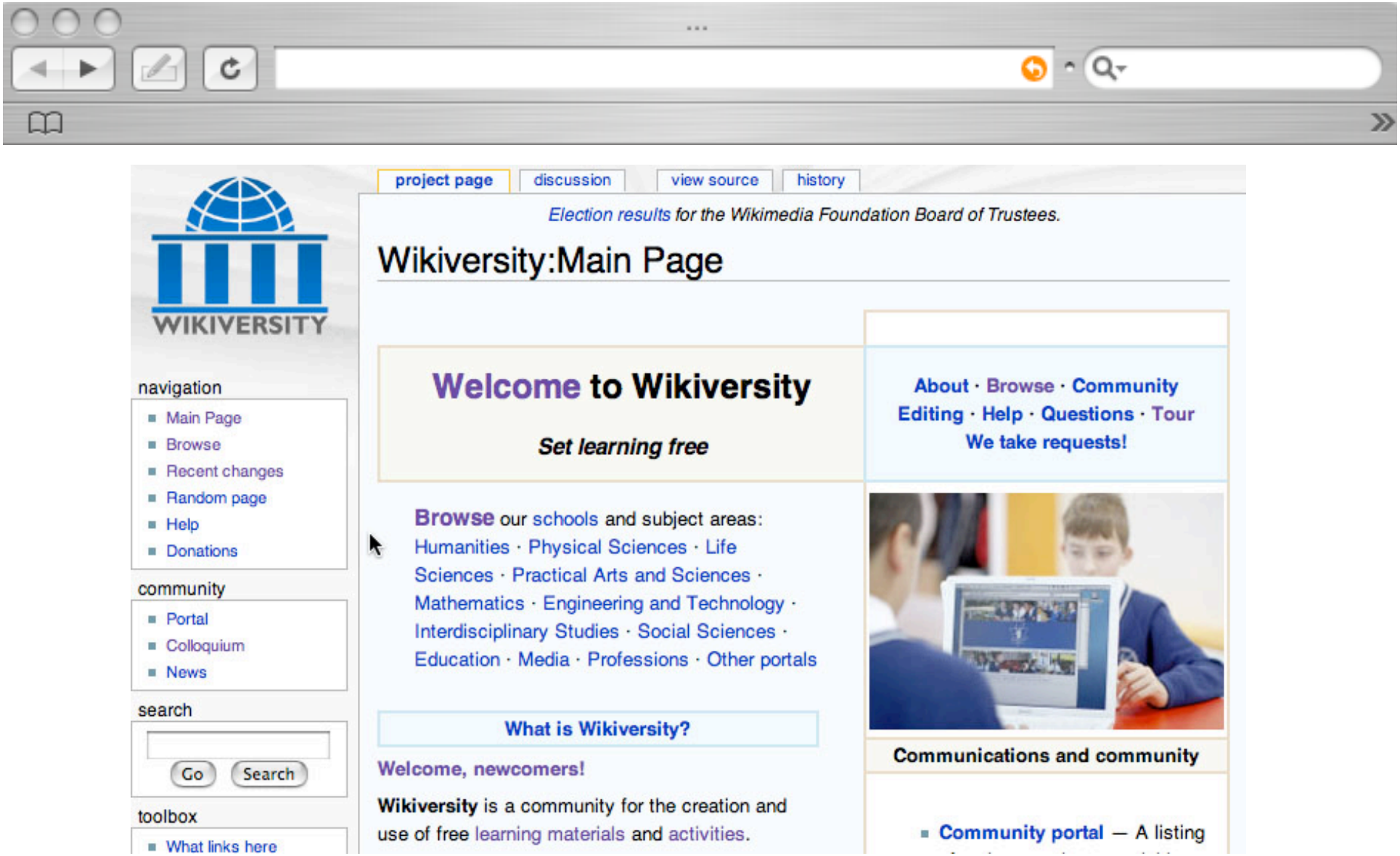
Wikiversity: Overview

- Project of Wikimedia Foundation (eg. Wikipedia)
- Officially launched in August 2006

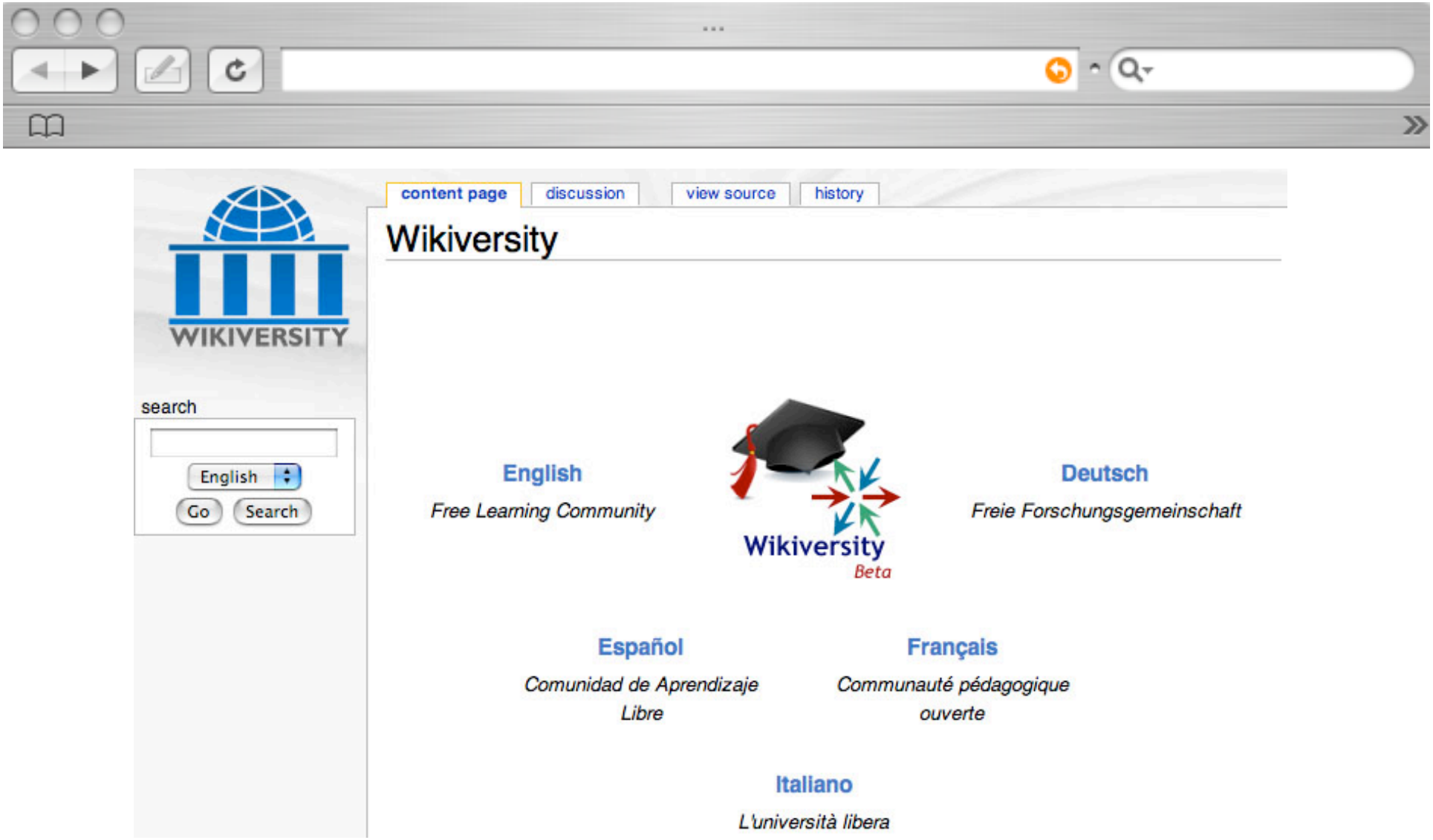
  (Had been previously “incubated” in Wikibooks for 2-3 years)

Scope:

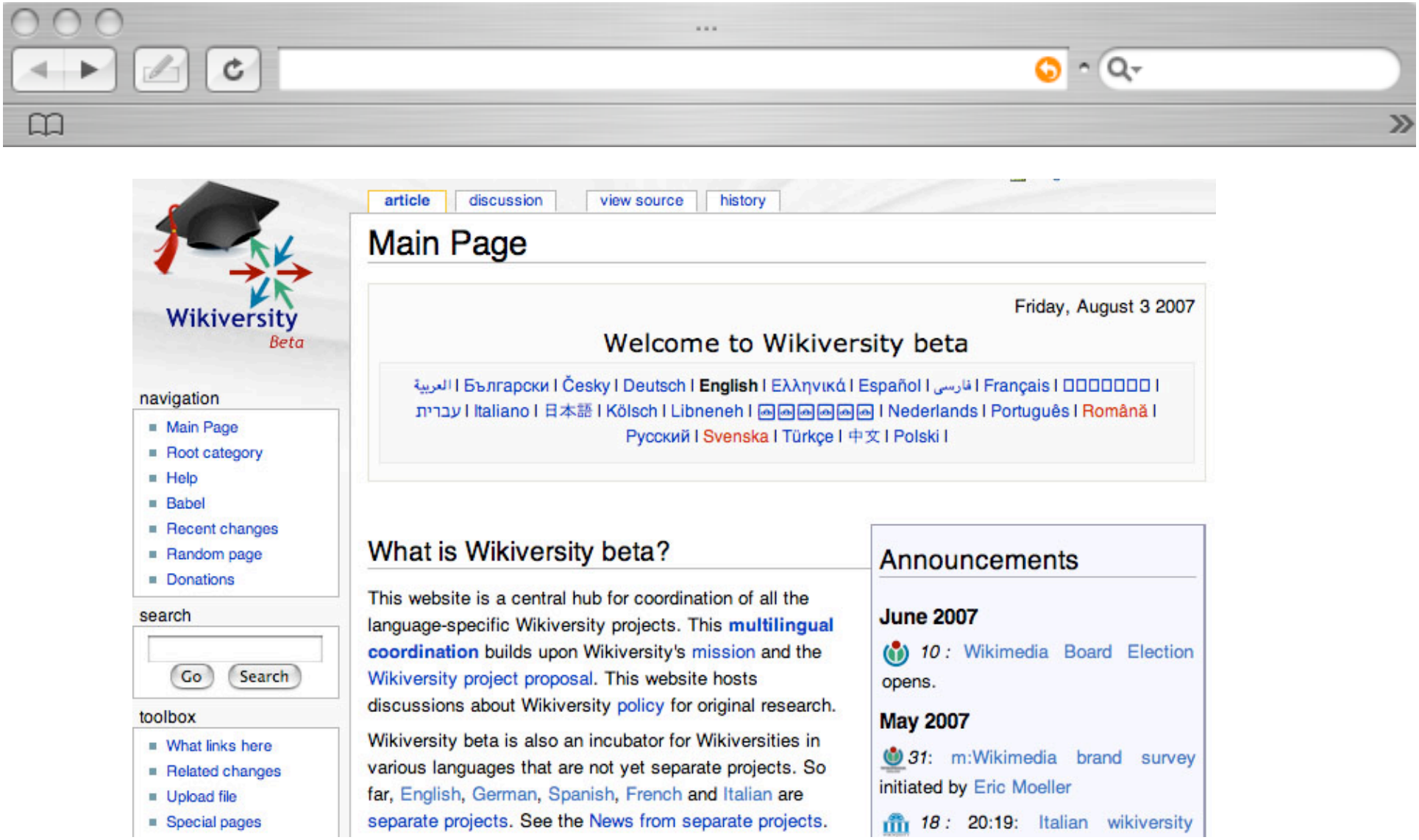
- Educational materials & activities (including research)
- All learner levels and languages



…The English Wikiversity



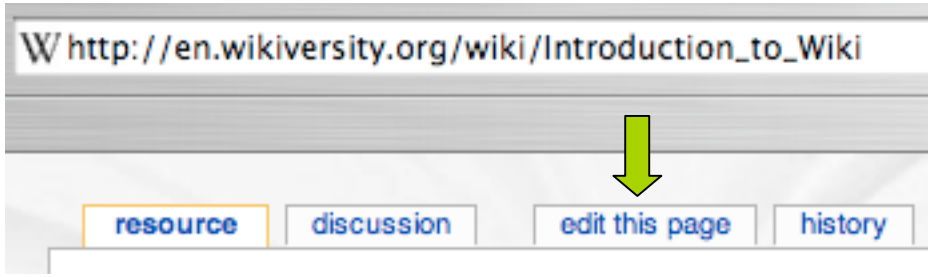
…Multilingual hub



…The “Beta” Wikiversity

What is a Wiki?

- Editable website…



- Invented in 1994 - becoming more prominent (Wikipedia)
- Many practical usages (eg common interests, companies)
- Work based on the formation of a community

Community at work (Recent Changes)

- (diff) (hist) . . School:Political science; 15:32 . . (+1) . . 81.76.111.118 (Talk | block) *(→Plans for Departments)*
- (diff) (hist) . . School of Mathematics:Introduction to Graph Theory:Problems 1; 15:31 . . (+44) . . 74.99.31.225 (Talk | block)
- (diff) (hist) . . **Topic:Audio engineering**; 15:30 . . (+5) . . Est (Talk | contribs | block) *(→Active participants)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **Topic:Audio engineering**; 15:29 . . (+14) . . Est (Talk | contribs | block) *(→Active participants)*
- (User creation log); 15:28 . . Clara811222 (Talk | contribs | block) *(New user)*
- (diff) (hist) . . Lesson 1b: The consonants; 15:13 . . (+2) . . Plbidis (Talk | contribs | block)
- (diff) (hist) . . **N** User:Cuchullainn; 15:09 . . (+107) . . Cuchullainn (Talk | contribs | block) *(New page: Conor Neill Professor in Managerial Communication at IESE, University of Navarra [http://www.iese.edu IESE])*
- (User creation log); 15:07 . . Cuchullainn (Talk | contribs | block) *(New user)*
- (diff) (hist) . . Topic:CommunicationBeta; 15:06 . . (+4) . . 213.97.26.87 (Talk | block) *(→Communication Media)*
- (diff) (hist) . . Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game Research Project; 15:02 . . (-139) . . 68.160.161.209 (Talk | block)
- (User creation log); 14:53 . . Nohide (Talk | contribs | block) *(New user)*
- (diff) (hist) . . School:Theology; 14:51 . . (+67) . . AlistairReece (Talk | contribs | block) *(→Active participants)*
- (diff) (hist) . . School talk:Theology; 14:50 . . (+278) . . AlistairReece (Talk | contribs | block) *(Department of Christian Theology?)*
- (diff) (hist) . . Talk:Technical writing; 14:50 . . (+211) . . Adam.fox (Talk | contribs | block) *(→Making a link to Business Writing?)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **m** Template:Mad Max:Narrative Music:Pop Quiz:Answers; 14:48 . . (+8) . . Robert Elliott (Talk | contribs | block) *(Minor Additions)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **N** Talk:Nicene Creed (Roman Catholic Theology); 14:48 . . (+332) . . AlistairReece (Talk | contribs | block) *(New page: As this resource is dedicated to the theological aspects of the Creed, should we use agree that the original text be the basis for discussion rather than that which is accepted by the Lati...)*
- (diff) (hist) . . History Of Scotland; 14:42 . . (+145) . . AlistairReece (Talk | contribs | block) *(→Contributors)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **N** Talk:History Of Scotland; 14:41 . . (+278) . . AlistairReece (Talk | contribs | block) *(Possible topics)*
- (User creation log); 14:39 . . Eric19870909 (Talk | contribs | block) *(New user)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **N** Talk:Technical writing edits; 14:39 . . (+89) . . Adam.fox (Talk | contribs | block) *(New page: ===Adam=== You use 'planning' as a heading twice. What is the difference between the two?)*
- (diff) (hist) . . **Wikiversity:Help desk**; 14:00 . . (+21) . . StuRat (Talk | contribs | block) *(→To overcome a confused mind.)*

Elements of wikis

- ‘Talk’ (or ‘discussion’) pages
- Watchlists
- Structure (eg. categories, namespaces)
- Page protection (“custodians / admins / sysops”)

Community, Participants, Users…

- 34 new accounts p. day (av.)
- Total: 13,236 (as of 02-09-07)

However…

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

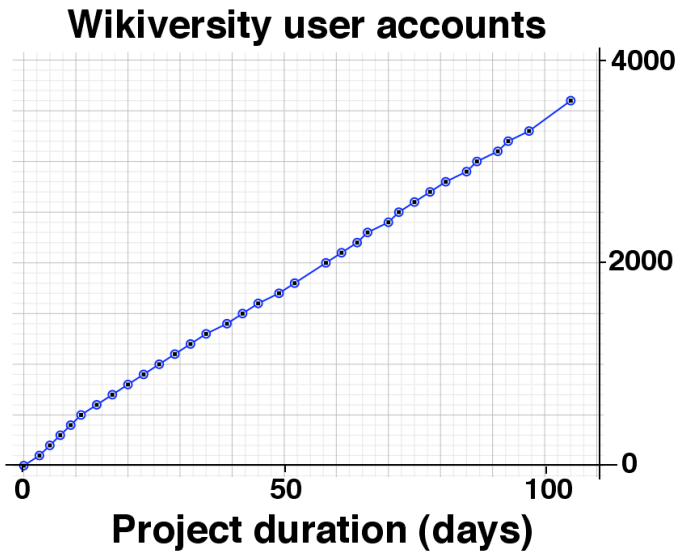


Image: John Schmidt
http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Image:Wikiversityuseraccounts105.png

(Some) Resources in Wikiversity:

- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Introduction_to_Wikiversity (First stop)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Introduction (Basic edit tutorial)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Welcome%2C_newcomers (FAQ)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Help:Contents (Help)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Browse (browse wiki)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Filmmaking (Example of educational content)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Colloquium (Discussion forum)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Help:Quiz (Quiz extension)
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Supporting_Wikiversity_participants
- http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Special:Statistics (basic stats)
- http://stats.wikimedia.org/wikiversity/EN/TablesWikipediaEN.htm (more stats)

(See also: http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/User:Cormaggio/ALT-C)

Wikis can be intimidating…

"In 1989 I brought home my first ever company car, a Toyota Camry with fuel injection and electronic ignition and all fuel and servicing provided, free. Up until that day I had usually done my own engine tune-ups because I liked fiddling with points and carburettors. After six months I decided to open the bonnet 'to see if it had an engine'. I noted the sealed systems and need for special diagnostic equipment and closed the bonnet on that area of interest. In a strange way wiki is like re-opening that bonnet."
(Anon)

But wikis offer new possibilities…

" 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)

Feedback…

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Blog: http://cormaggio.org

WV page: http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/User:Cormaggio