



# A few aspects of wikipedia

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# Wikipedia

- Project to write an encyclopedia
- Using Wiki technology for collaborative writing
- Content is completely under free licenses
  - it's legal to share, to modify, to distribute
  - even commercially
- Several sister projects
  - Wikimedia Commons: Images, Sounds, Videos
  - Wikisource: Primary documents, literature
  - Wikinews: Collaboratively written news portal



# What is a wiki

- a social concept that can be easily summed up:
  - Anyone who is able to read an article should be able to edit it.
- It does not mean that she/he has to edit it
- The button „edit this page“ just does exactly what it says.
- Former versions of the article get stored



# Standard features of wikis

- „Recent Changes“: A list of the most recent edits to Wikipedia articles
- Watchlists: You may have your personal list to keep track of development of the articles you care about
- Many more special pages to identify articles in need of care
- As some kind of ultima ratio, we can block IP addresses or users from editing



# A brief history of Wikipedia

- Started in 2001
- Early languages: English, German, Dutch, French, Japanese
- In 2003, a legal entity was established to host Wikipedia: Wikimedia Foundation
- In 2008: More than 200 languages, with various levels of activities



# Where de.wp is right now (outside perspective)

- de.wikipedia has just passed 700.000 „articles“
  - Of course, that's just a number
  - And these are not always articles
  - And some/many (depending on who you ask) of them are \*really\* crappy
- Number 6 most popular website in .de
  - This is not de.wp alone, people from Germany who look up sr.wp and en.wp also count
  - The companies who make up these statistics, well, they seem to make them up... (never trust Alexa)



# and the inside perspective

- Strong community of users
- Closely knit team of authors, organized in different working groups
- Common goals, such as quality, neutrality
- Many activities in classic grassroots style that gain reputation over time
  - e.g. „featured articles“, which established an ad-hoc peer review process for articles



# Free licenses (again)

- Anyone is free to use the content in a creative way.
- Anyone can do this without asking for permission, the permission was granted the moment the content was added to wikipedia
- Modified versions have to remain free under the same conditions



# Trust

- You are not required to trust the content at Wikipedia.
- A proper article will always have citations to primary and secondary resources
- You may use any encyclopedia as a starting point for research, never as the place to end it
- When in doubt, use the talk page for clarification



# Thank you very much!

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