

Workshop on Interdisciplinary Research on Wikipedia and Wiki Communities

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ABSTRACT

A growing number of projects seek to build upon the collective intelligence of Internet users, looking for more dynamic, open and creative approaches to content creation and knowledge sharing. To this end, many projects have chosen the wiki, and it is therefore the subject of much research interest, particularly Wikipedia, from varied disciplines. The array of approaches to study wikis is a source of wealth, but also a possible source of confusion: What are appropriate methodologies for the analysis of wiki communities? Which are the most critical parameters (both quantitative and qualitative) for study in wiki evolution and outcomes? Is it possible to find effective interdisciplinary approaches to augment our overall understanding of these dynamic, creative environments? This workshop intends to provide an opportunity to explore these questions, by researchers and practitioners willing to participate in a “*brainstorming research meeting*”.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

K.4.3 [Computers and Society]: Organizational Impacts—*Computer-supported collaborative work*

General Terms

Workshop wiki communities

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Keywords

Wikipedia, wiki communities, methodologies, interdisciplinary, collaboration

1. OVERALL DESCRIPTION

The main goal of this workshop is to provide an adequate forum for wiki researchers to:

- Present their own *approaches* for studying wiki communities from multiple perspectives, (e-learning, sociology, content analysis, quantitative analysis and data mining, social networking, etc.).
- Explain the main *problems* they face when integrating different research approaches into a coherent line of research.
- Propose possible *solutions* in the form of tools, methodologies, research strategies and ways of collaboration that can be adopted to further such research.
- *Exchange* research ideas with colleagues who can provide novel points of view that could complement existing research initiatives.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Research tools supporting quantitative analysis of wiki communities.
- Content quality, assessment, and author reputation.
- Social Network Analysis, web graphs, and visualization techniques for wiki communities.
- Technological innovation for supporting wiki communities (e.g., content distribution, P2P, security and authentication).
- Ontological and taxonomic technologies (lexical corpus and authorities, semantic searches, content categorization).

- Reflections upon methodological and disciplinary experiences in studying wiki communities (e.g., sociology, education, knowledge management, economics).

In this context, the workshop organization will be three-fold:

1. Present a complete perspective of the current state-of-the-art of Wikipedia and wiki-based open communities from different points of view. This will be achieved by presentations of position papers, explaining existing tools and research methods successfully applied to the analysis of wiki environments.

By the end of this section, we should be able to answer the following questions:

- Who is doing what in wiki community research?
 - Which are the most up-to-date, theoretic and practical methodologies?
 - Which are the most relevant results and conclusions that we can find in this field?
 - How can one broaden one's own research line and integrate complementary approaches?
2. Promote the creation of small working groups to consider the integration of distinct research strategies, including opportunities for interactions and feedback between researchers.
 3. A final plenary session to consider the different solutions proposed by the working groups, and summarizing a catalog of tools, methodologies and opportunities of collaboration that may be offered to wiki researchers wanting to undertake interdisciplinary analysis in this area.

The intention of the workshop is to serve as a “*factory*” of research tools, strategies and synergies between attendees. Therefore, expected research outcomes will be in the form of:

- A list of wiki community research projects, methods, tools and results so as to further their accessibility between researchers.
- A set of strategies, methodologies and research approaches that should be taken into account by any researcher considering a new research approach.
- A set of effective approaches for interdisciplinary work in the domain of wiki communities.
- A *charter* to create a *global virtual research community on wiki communities*. It will include wiki researchers, wiki research tools, wiki research bibliography, forums, blogs, wikis, etc. Its main objective will be to serve as a common meeting point for all researchers in this field. It will also serve as a common voice to redirect requests for access to useful data (e.g. traffic logs, pre-processed database results, anonymized user information) to large projects like Wikipedia, that otherwise would have to deal with similar requests repeatedly.