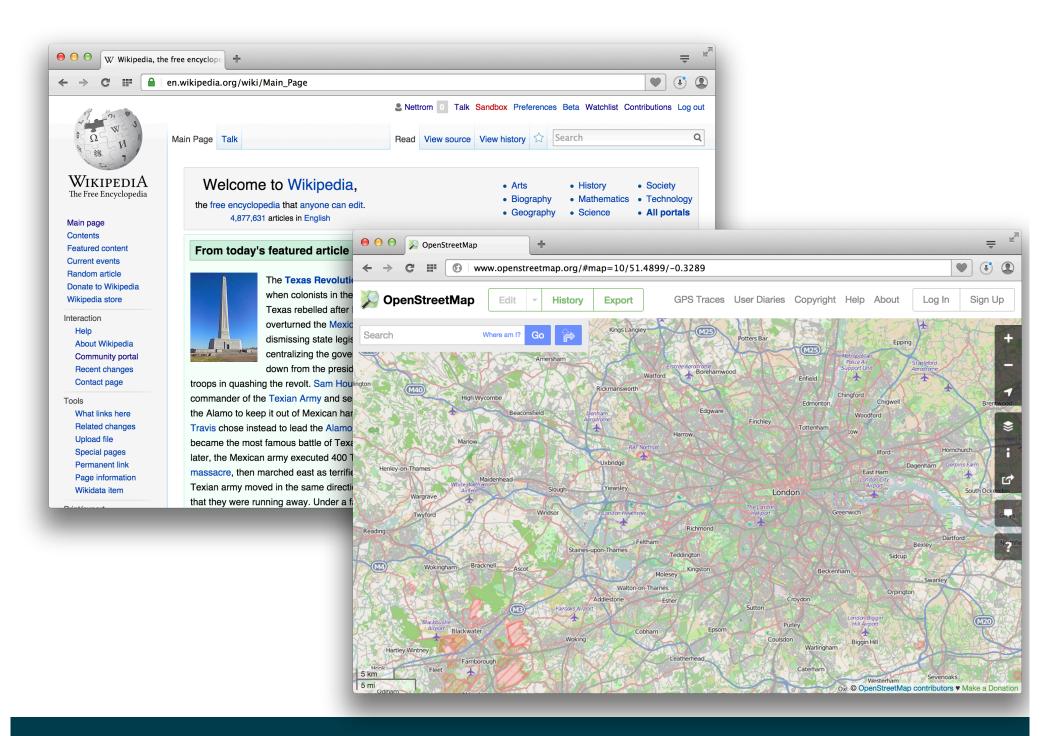
Fun or Functional? The Misalignment Between Content Quality and Popularity in Wikipedia

Morten Warncke-Wang, Vivek Ranjan, Loren Terveen, and Brent Hecht

User:Nettrom / morten@cs.umn.edu / nettrom@twitter

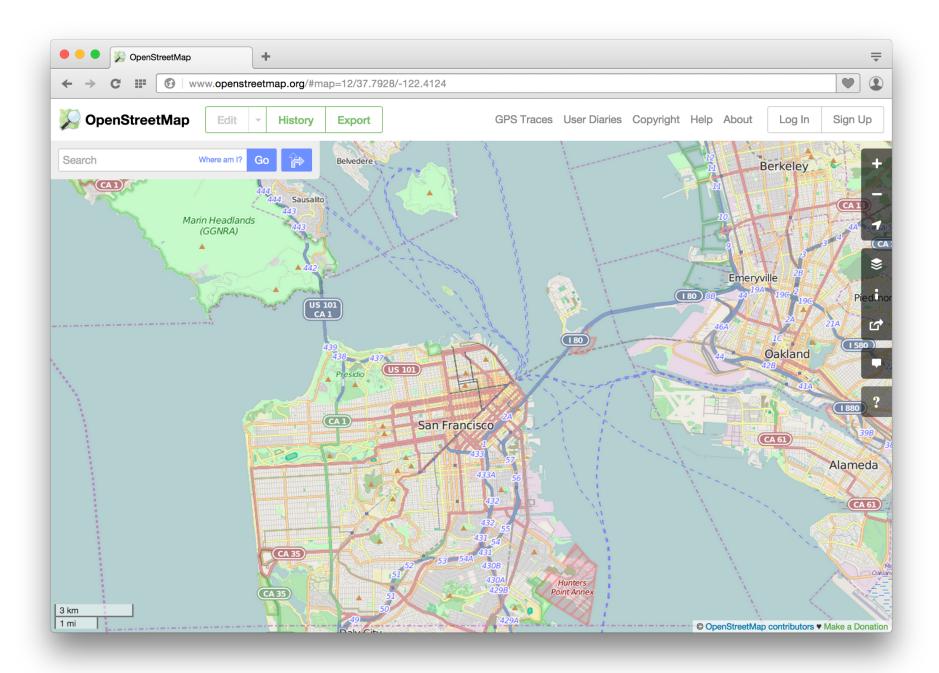
Peer Production Communities











How do contributors decide what to do?

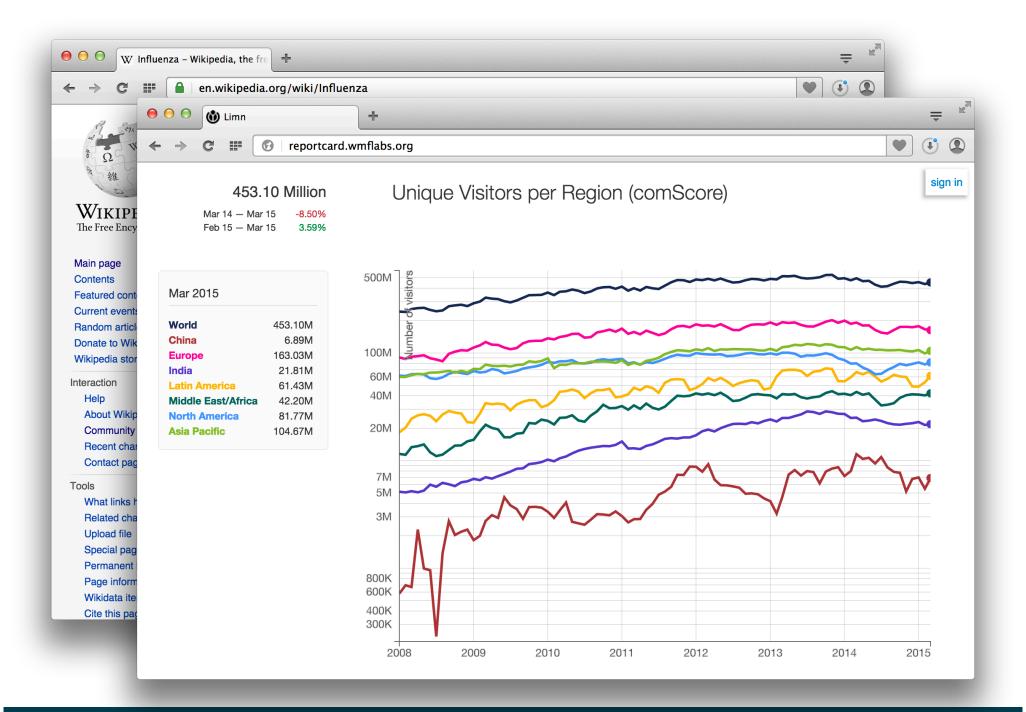
Fun!

(Nov, 2007)

Appropriate Challenges!

(Lakhani and Wolf, 2005)

What's fun for editors might not be what readers are interested in?



Misalignment between quality and popularity

Agenda

- » Introduction
- » RQ1: How widespread is misalignment?
- » RQ2: What is the impact on readers?
- » RQ3: Characterising misalignment
 - RQ3a: Are certain topics over-represented amongst misaligned articles?
 - RQ3b: Is popularity associated with short-term surges in demand?
- » Discussion
- » Q&A

Introduction RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a RQ3b Discussion

RQ1: How widespread is misalignment?

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Perfect Alignment Hypothesis

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Perfect Alignment Hypothesis

The *limited supply* of contributor work is *optimally applied* such that the quality of articles perfectly matches their demand.

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Datasets

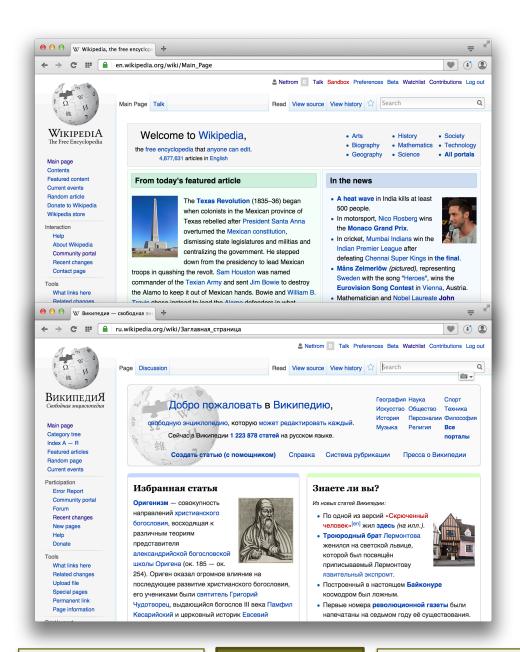
Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b





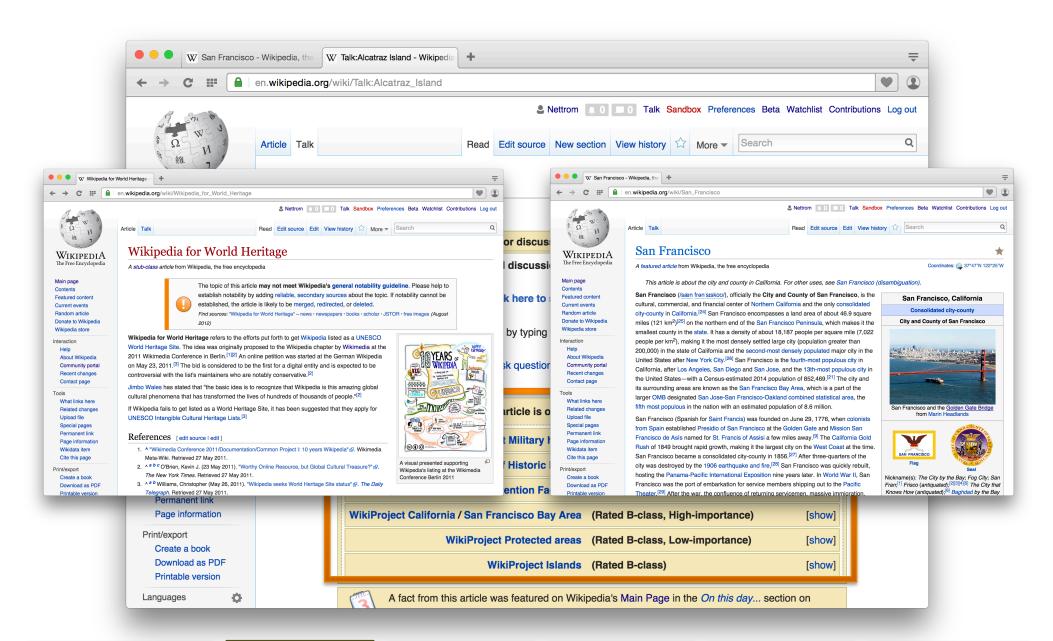
Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b



Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Measuring misalignment

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Example: English Wikipedia

Stub	Start	С	В	Good Article	A	Featured Article
2,226,591	1,068,722	167,907	77,946	19,914	793	4,353



PAH: Least popular



PAH: Most popular

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

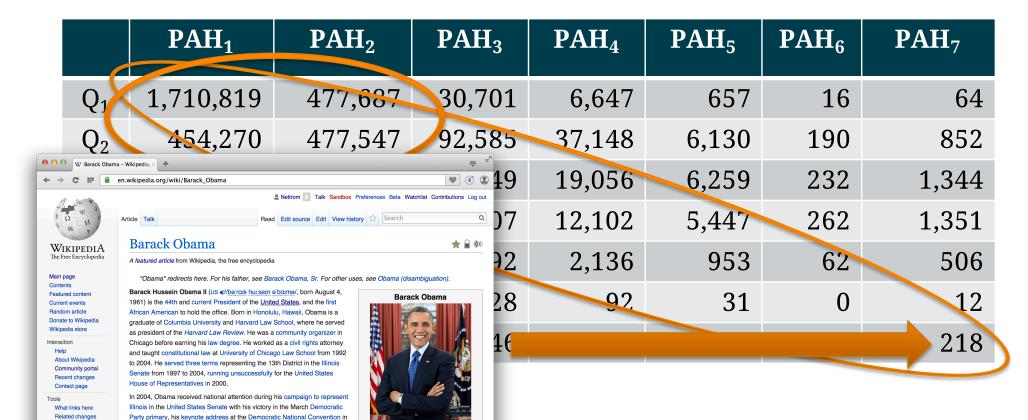
RQ3b

Perfect Alignment Hypothesis

R		\mathbf{G}								
e		PAH ₁	PAH_2	PAH ₃	PAH ₄	PAH ₅	PAH ₆	PAH_7		
a	Q_1	2,226,591	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1	Q_2	0	1,068,722	0	0	0	0	0		
TA7	Q_3	0	0	167,907	0	0	0	0		
W	Q_4	0	0	0	77,946	0	0	0		
0	Q_5	0	0	0	0	19,914	0	0		
r	Q_6	0	0	0	0	0	793	0		
l	Q_7	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,353		
α										

Introduction RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a RQ3b Discussion

Trend 1: Overall alignment



Introduction

Upload file

Special pages

Permanent link

Wikidata item

Page information

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United States

RQ1

RQ2

44th President of the United States

Assumed office

January 20, 2009

RQ3a

RQ3b

Discussion

July, and his election to the Senate in November. He began his presidential

Bodham Clinton in 2008, he won sufficient delegates in the Democratic Party

primaries to receive the presidential nomination. He then defeated Republican

in in the general election, and was inaugurated as

campaign in 2007 and, after a close primary campaign against Hillary

Trend 1: Overall alignment

Consistent across languages

Language	% aligned articles
English	62.5
French	67.8
Portuguese	77.6
Russian	45.8

Introduction

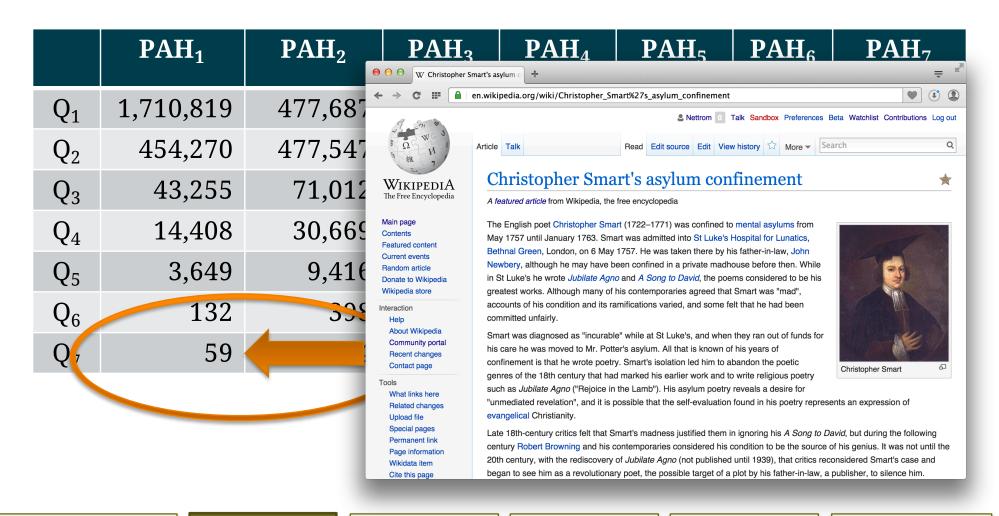
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Trend 2: High quality misaligned



Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Trend 2: High quality misaligned

Also consistent across languages

Language	% High Quality/Low Demand		
English	47.2		
French	62.7		
Portuguese	52.0		
Russian	23.6		

Introduction RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a RQ3b Discussion



ularity misaligned

		PAH ₅	PAH ₆	PAH ₇
	6,647	657	16	64
	37,148	6,130	190	852
I	19,056	6,259	232	1,344
	12,102	5,447		1,351
	2,136	13	62	506
	14	31	0	12
	766	438	32	218

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Trend 3: High popularity misaligned

Also consistent across languages

Language	% High Popularity/Not top quality
English	95.0
French	95.7
Portuguese	91.1
Russian	94.1

Introduction RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a RQ3b Discussion

RQ2: What is the impact of misalignment on Wikipedia's readers?

Introduction

RQ1

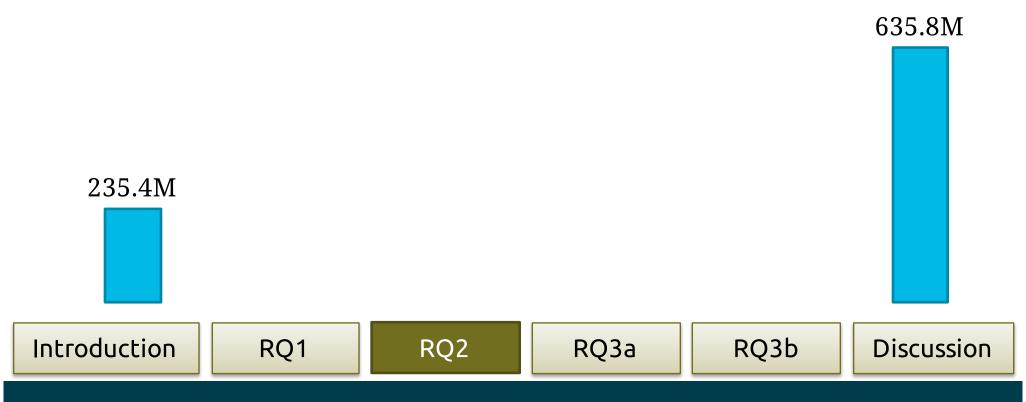
RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Popularity is nonlinear

PAH_1	PAH_2	PAH_3	PAH_4	PAH ₅	PAH ₆	PAH_7
2,226,591	1,068,722	167,907	77,946	19,914	793	4,353

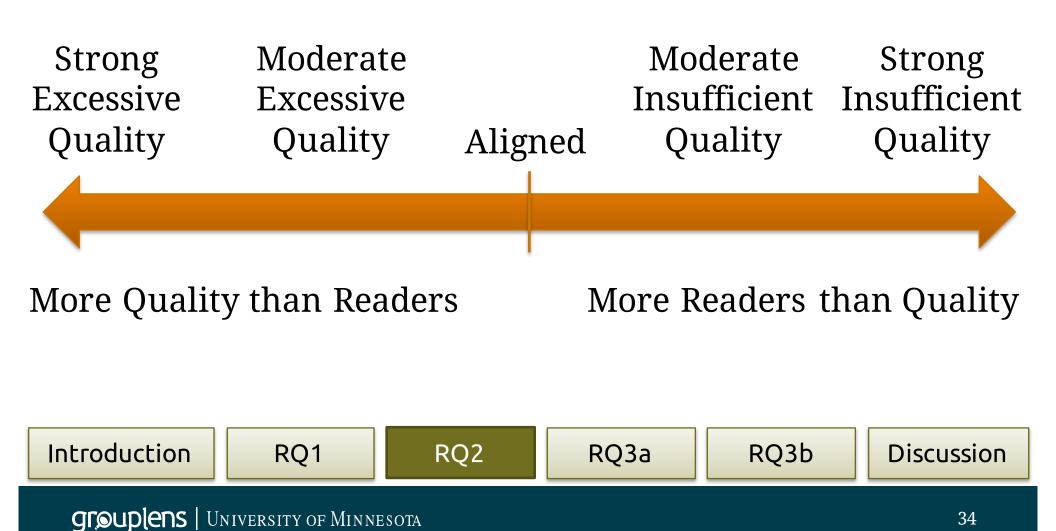


The Misaligned View

A view of an article where its quality is not in alignment with its popularity

Introduction RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a RQ3b Discussion

Categories



Misalignment negatively affects Wikipedia, 42.7% of monthly article views are in the strong insufficient quality category.

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

That's 2 *billion* monthly article views!

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

The Impact of Misalignment



Introduction

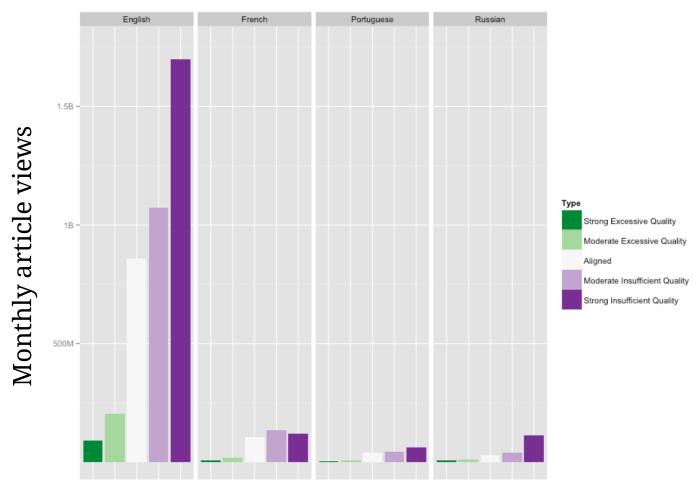
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

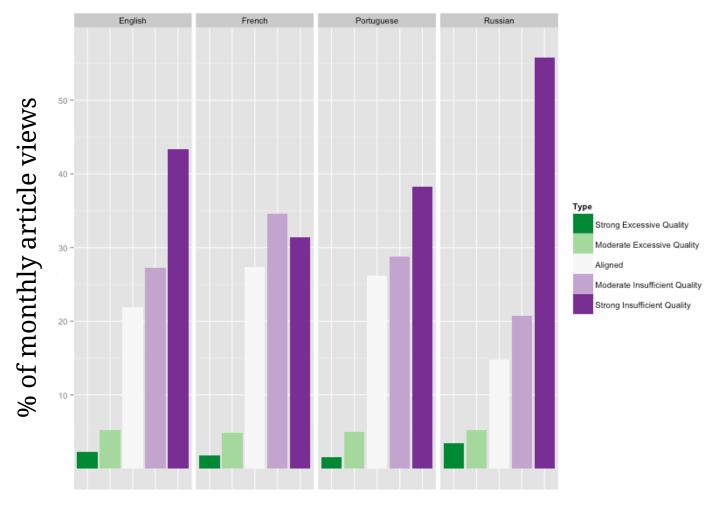
Impact by Language



Misalignment category

Introduction RQ3b RQ1 RQ2 RQ3a

Impact Proportions by Language



Misalignment category

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Characterising misalignment

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

RQ3a: Are certain topics over-represented amongst misaligned articles?

Introduction

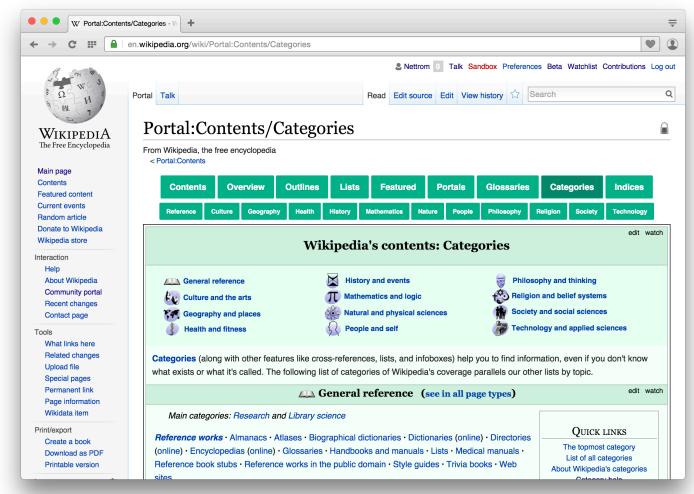
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Categorisation



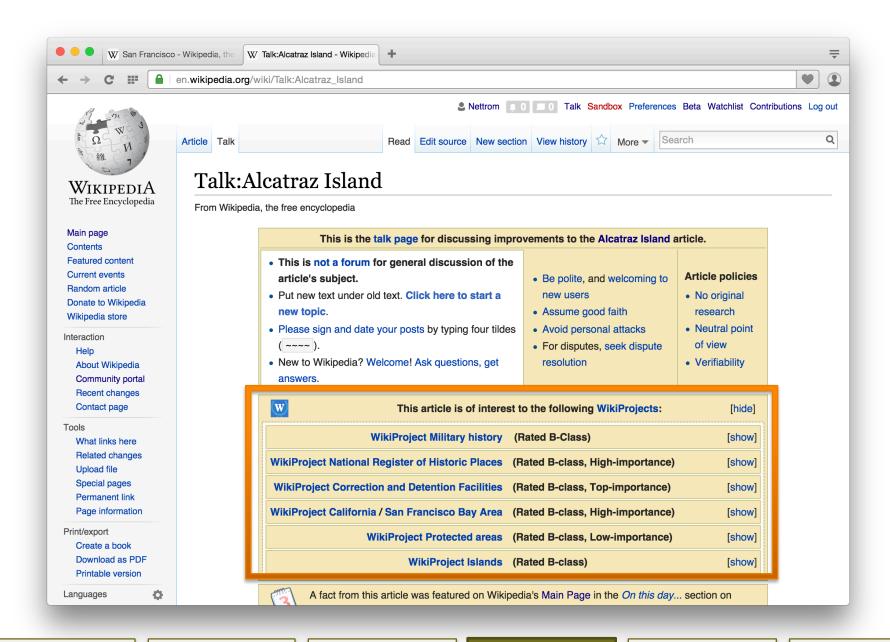
Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b



Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Datasets

	PAH ₁	PAH_2	PAH_3	PAH_4	PAH ₅	PAH ₆	PAH ₇
Q_1	1,710,819	477,687	30,701	6,647	657	16	64
Q_2	454,270	477,547	92,585	37,148	6,130	190	852
Q_3	43,255	71,012	26,749	19,056	6,259	232	1,344
Q_4	14,408	30,669	13,707	12,102	5,447	262	1,351
Q_5	3,649	9,416	3,192	2,136	953	62	506
Q_6	132	398	128	92	31	0	12
Q	59	1,994	846	766	438	32	218



Spent Effort

Needs Improvement

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Adjusting focus





- 1. Size of WikiProject in number of articles
- 2. Size of WikiProject in number of members
- 3. Number of articles in our misaligned datasets

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Accounting for size



1,314,572 articles

149,602 articles

167 articles

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Relative Risk

"how much risk is increased or decreased from an initial level" (Davies, Crombie, and Tavaloki 1998)

Needs Improvement

High popularity, not highest quality

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Needs Improvement

Rank	Topic	N	Rel. Risk
1	Countries	144	506.9
2	Pop music	97	38.9
3	Internet	84	37.6
4	Comedy	134	21.9
5	Technology	58	15.8
6	Religion	121	15.8
7	Science Fiction	70	15.5
8	Rock music	84	11.4
9	Psychology	60	11.1
10	LGBT studies	136	9.1

Needs Improvement

Rank	Topic]	N F	Rel. Risk	
1	Countries	14	4	506.9	
2	Pop music	9	7	38.9	
3	Internet	8	4	37.6	
4	Comedy	W Cisgender - Wikipedia, ← → C III 🖺 len.wik	the free + pedia.org/wiki/Cisgender		=
5	Technology	Q W Article	k Sandbox Preferences Beta Watchilist Contributions Log out ony More Search Q		
6	Religion		gender Part of a series on Transgender topics		
7	Science Fiction	Featured content Current events the Random article cik Donate to Wikipedia as Wikipedia store co	Featured content Current events Random article Constitution Constitutio Constitution Constitution Constitution Constitution Constitutio	Identities Agender / genderless · Androgyne a Bigender (bi-gender) · Cisgender / cissexual	
8	Rock music	Help mi About Wikipedia W Community portal Recent changes	male at birth", cis female for "female assigned female at birth", analogously cis man and woman, as well as cissexism and cissexual assumption. Contents [hide]		
9	Psychology	Tools What links here Related changes Upload file Secretary pages 3	Etymology and terminology Critiques 2.1 From feminism and gender str 2.2 From intersex organizations See also	udies	I ransexual Gender dysphoria Gender/sexuality questioning Cross-dressing more Attitudes
10	LGBT studies	Permanent link Page information Wikkidata item Cite this page	References Further reading External links		Ambiphilia / Androphilia / Gynephilia · Genderism (gender binary) · Non-binary discrimination · Postgenderism · Transfeminism · Transphobia Legal issues
		Create a book Download as PDF Ci		Ogy [edit source edit] erived prefix cis-, meaning "on this side of", wh	

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Spent Effort

Highest quality, low popularity

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

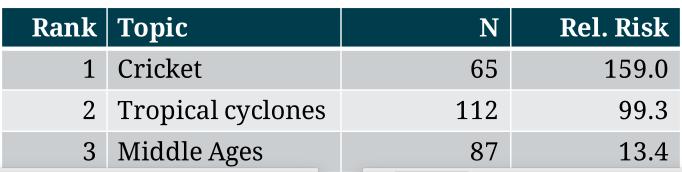
Spent Effort

Rank	Topic	N	Rel. Risk
1	Cricket	65	159.0
2	Tropical cyclones	112	99.3
3	Middle Ages	87	13.4
4	Politics	147	12.0
5	Fungi	53	9.1
6	Birds	78	8.2
7	Military history	404	5.3
8	Ships	88	5.0
9	England	72	4.9
10	Australia	258	4.3

Spent Effort

Rank	Topic	N	Rel. Risk
1	Cricket	65	159.0
2	Tropical cyclones	112	99.3
3	Middle Ages	87	13.4
4	Politics	147	12.0
5	Fungi	53	9.1
6	Birds	78	8.2
7	Military history	404	5.3
8	Ships	88	5.0
9	England	72	4.9
10	Australia	258	4.3

Inefficient Choices







Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

RQ3b: Is popularity associated with short-term surges in demand?

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

RQ3b: Needs Improvement dataset

	PAH ₁	PAH_2	PAH ₃	PAH_4	PAH ₅	PAH ₆	PAH ₇
Q_1	1,710,819	477,687	30,701	6,647	657	16	64
Q_2	454,270	477,547	92,585	37,148	6,130	190	852
Q_3	43,255	71,012	26,749	19,056	6,259	232	1,344
Q_4	14,408	30,669	13,707	12,102	5,447	262	1,351
Q_5	3,649	9,416	3,192	2,136	953	62	506
Q_6	132	398	128	92	31	0	12
Q_7	59	1,994	846	766	438	32	218

Method: ARIMA time-series forecasting Accuracy: 98%



Result: 53.6% stable



Introduction

RQ1

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RQ3a

RQ3b

Discussion

Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

The Volunteers are Free to Leave at Any Time





Introduction

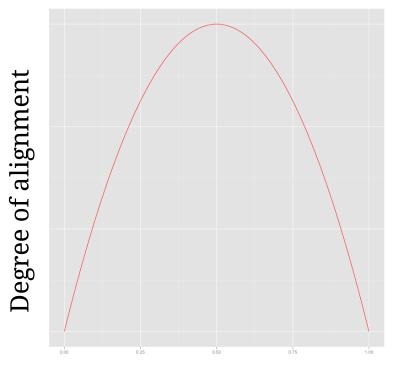
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

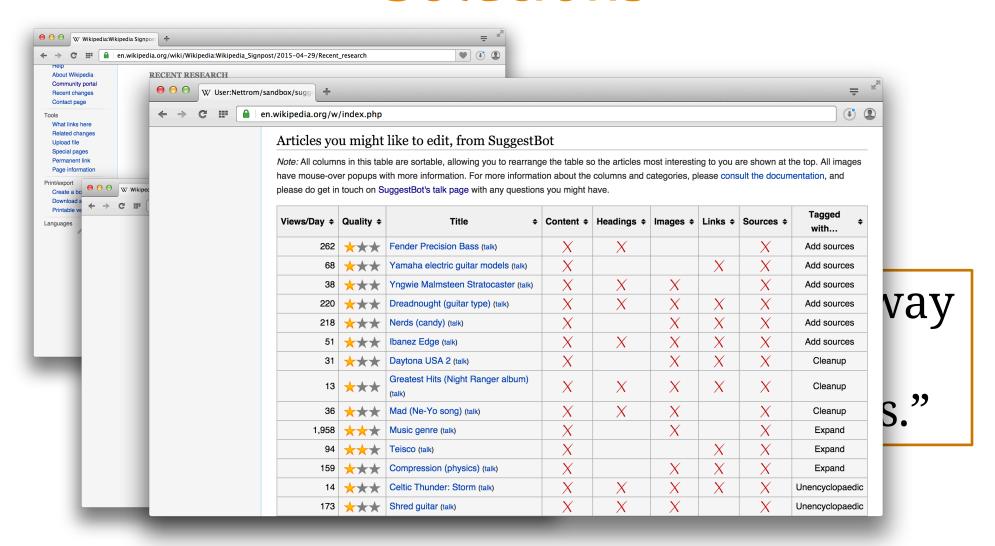
RQ3b

PAH



Percentage of self-interest

Solutions



Introduction

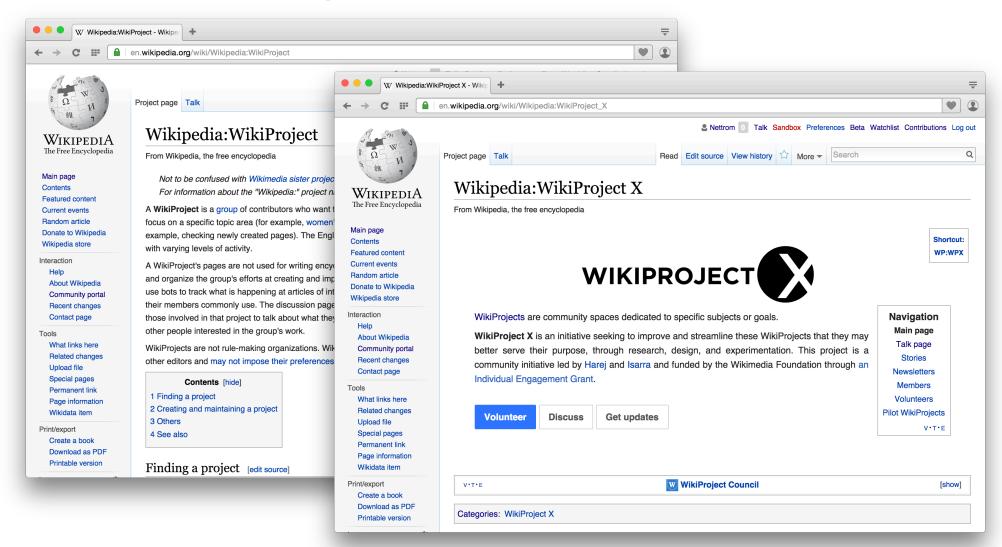
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

WikiProjects to the Rescue?



Introduction

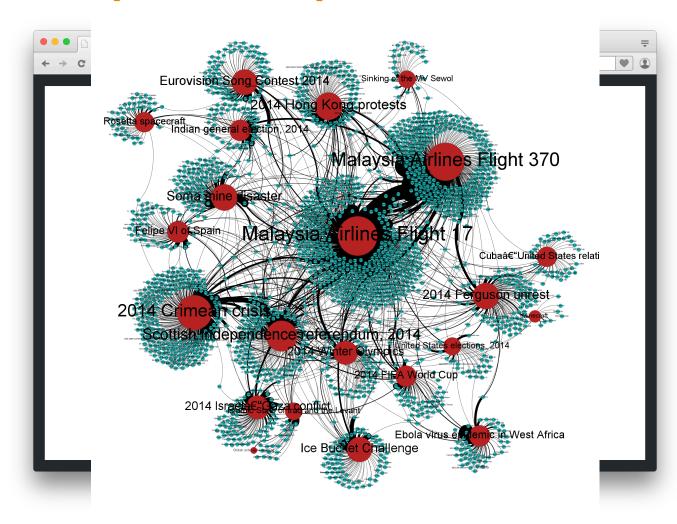
RQ1

RQ2

RQ3a

RQ3b

Rapid Response Team



Introduction

RQ1

RQ2

RQ3b

Thanks to...

- » WikiMedia Foundation, Wiki ViewStats team, and Wikipedia contributors
- » GroupLens Research
- » Our reviewers
- » National Science Foundation, grants IIS-0808692, IIS-0968483, and IIS-1111201

morten@cs.umn.edu / nettrom@twitter http://www-users.cs.umn.edu/~morten/

Seasonality Issues

Data gathering periods: July 27–Aug 24, 2014 (enwp), Nov 2-30, 2014 (other languages)

Misses both Easter and Christmas.

Topic analysis did not reveal any typical events.

Multi-year dataset can enable predictions of seasonal events, e.g. religious holidays, sports events, etc...

Pageviews in Wikipedia

Granularity in our datasets: day

Possible improvement in filtering out automated agents, etc... AFAIK something WMF is working on.

Examining raw data did not reveal suspicious patterns, e.g. prolonged attention to "odd" articles.

Dataset used is the best data that is currently available.

Compared to Related Work

- 1. Grounded definition of misalignment using the Perfect Alignment Hypothesis.
- 2. First to examine multiple communities.
- 3. First to examine the impact of misalignment.
- 4. First to study the character of misalignment using two approaches: topics, and trend analysis.

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