

# Old helping new helping old: Cross-wiki collaboration



**WIKIMEDIA**  
FOUNDATION

C. Scott Ananian, Wikimedia Foundation  
Wikimania Stockholm, 17 August 2019

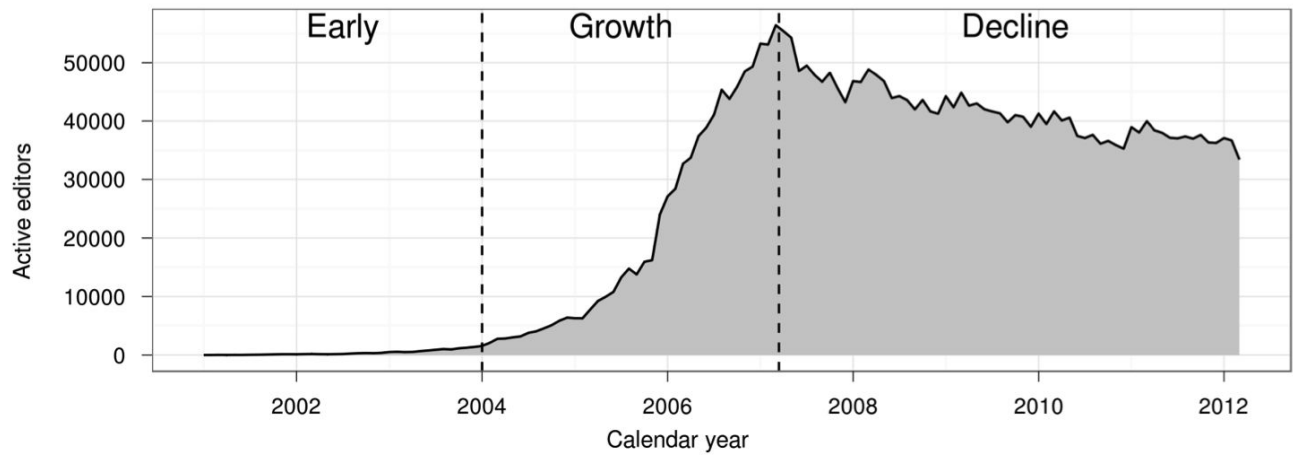
**All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages.**

**William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act II Scene VII**

# Three Ages Of Wikis

- **A young wiki** needs content and struggles to get new content from users safely & easily
- **A middle-aged wiki** struggles to keep readers and editors up to date with rapidly changing content
- **An elderly wiki** already has valuable content and struggles to maintain quality and deliver content securely to users.

<https://mako.cc/copyrighteous/revisiting-the-rise-and-decline>



# Many tools are for a single age

- Content translation
- Recent changes patrol
- Kiwix



# Build cross-wiki tools to help each other



WIKIMEDIA  
FOUNDATION

"Geese family crosses the road" by Michele Dorsey Walfred is licensed under CC BY 2.0

# Translation tools

Large wiki has:

- Lots of articles
- Skewed geographic diversity

Small wiki has:

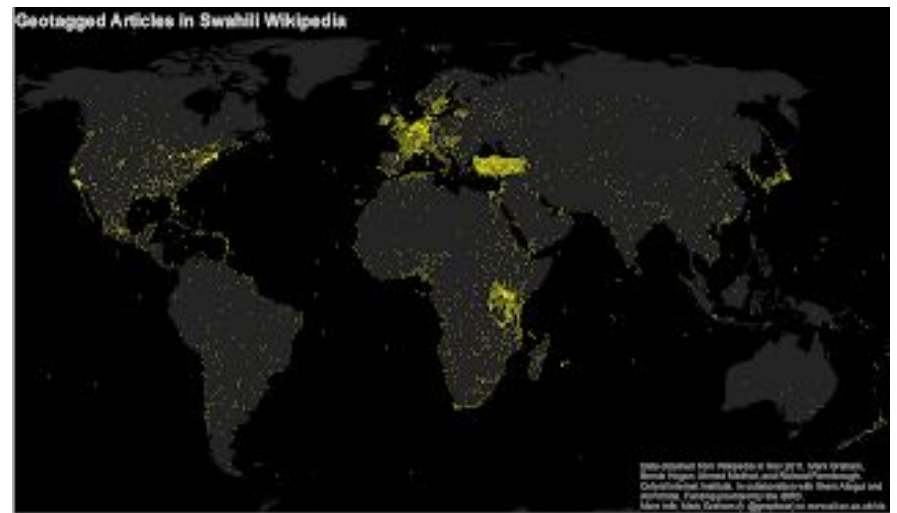
- Not as many articles
- But unique local content?



# Content gaps



English Wikipedia



Swahili Wikipedia



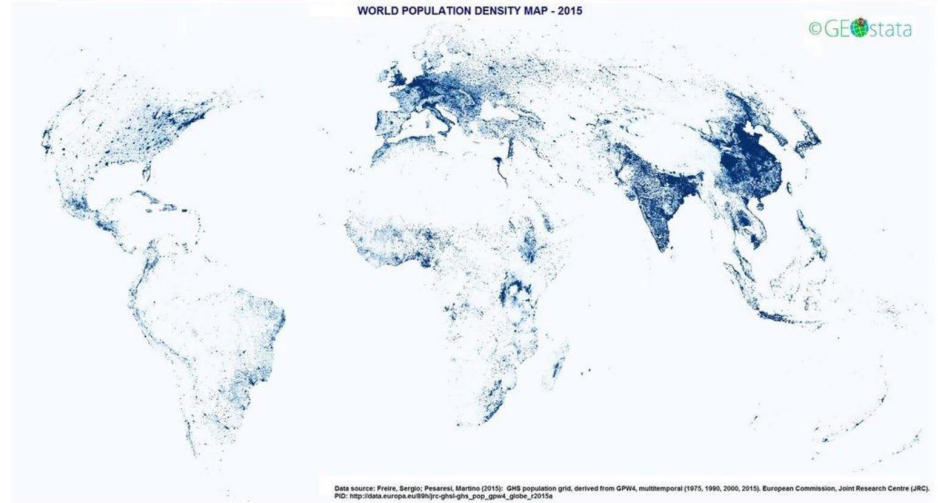
WIKIMEDIA  
FOUNDATION



# Content gaps



English Wikipedia



World population density



WIKIMEDIA  
FOUNDATION

# Different ages in same wiki

## Young

- Hard to get content
- Example: articles about China

## Middle-aged

- Hard to keep current
- Sports articles

## Old

- Hard to maintain quality
- Medical topics



# Challenge:

How can we build tools to span age differences  
& help each other?



WIKIMEDIA  
FOUNDATION

# THANK YOU

[cananian@wikimedia.org](mailto:cananian@wikimedia.org)  
[[User:cscott]]



**WIKIMEDIA**  
FOUNDATION