Education Program Extension

What it is. What it does. How it works. Why it helps.

Education Program Extension

What it is…

It adds features to Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects that support classes of students editing articles.

It is deployed to 17 Wikimedia projects. **WP:** AR, CA, CZ, EL, EN, ES, FA, HE, LV, MK, NL, PT, RU, SV, UK. **WN:** EN. **WV:** DE.

It can be used in many ways, for example short events like edit-a-thons and long events like academic courses.

What it does…

It aggregates, inventories, and tracks the work of institutions, instructors, students, and mentors.

It creates lists of all institutions participating in the program, all students contributing to the project, and all volunteers supporting courses.

It provides several statistics interfaces, which document the impact of a project/program.

It improves the workflow for everyone involved.

How it works…

Once deployed to a project, following translation and consensus, institutions and courses can be registered. A registered course gets a page of its own, called a course page, with an editable course description, timeline, and grading criteria. Course pages and Institution pages (which list all courses at the same institution) are displayed in a new namespace called "Education Program:". You can register students in the course with their usernames or they can enroll themselves with an enrollment token. You can view the students' work collectively, chronologically, in an activity feed, which acts like a recent changes feed of students' edits only. There is an API that can be used to get a list of usernames or user IDs for the students in one or more courses, which can then be uploaded as a cohort to Wikimetrics.

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Strengths…

It exits.

It is used.

It does its job.

It's better than nothing.

It's more accurate than manual tracking: i.e. notepad/spreadsheet.

It automates project management.

It reduces workload.

It's transparent.

It provides awesome metrics!

Weaknesses…

Too specialized (other groups could benefit from a tool with this functionality).

Not user-friendly if you're not already a Wikimedian.

Must translate the UI.

Need consensus to deploy.

Admin tools unavailable.

Backlog of bugs.

No staff assigned to maintenance (except high priority bugs).

Opportunities…

Possible application to other outreach projects and programs (edit-a-thons, wikiprojects).

Wikimetrics integration would help document impact.

May strengthen existing groups, helping them "double down" on their focus.

Could break up the code base into recombinable parts that could be applied in other use cases.

Threats…

Translation and consensus make it harder to deploy to more languages/projects.

Lack of staffing and technical resources combined with security issues and code rot are a very bad combination.

It could become so buggy and so bad that people stop using it because it doesn't work well.

Admins could refuse to deploy it.

Communities could uninstall it.

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TL;DR: Why it helps, in a nutshell…

It helps you see your progress.

It helps you see your growth.

It helps you measure your impact.

It helps you identify troublesome spots that may need more attention.

It helps you identify failures faster so you can stop investing energy there.

It helps you tell a better story: a great anecdote backed up by great data! :)

It helps the movement recognize your good work! ❤

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See also:

https://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/Education/Extension

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Education_Program_extension

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Education_Program

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikipedia_Education_Program

https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/tag/mediawiki-extensions-educationprogram/

Get involved!

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