The organization of lusophone (portuguese language) Wikipedia

http://wikimania2010.wikimedia.org/wiki/Submissions/The_organization_of_lusophone_Wikipedia

Pietro Fornitano Roveri

User:Pietro Roveri

pietro@usp.br

Objective

- analyze the structure and the maintenance of Lusophone Wikipedia. We called structure and maintenance the economical and the political aspects mediated by a social and technological framework.

Jutification

- Acording Wikistats (2009), Wikipedia lusophone had:
  - ~10 millions visitors/ month;
  - ~500.000 articles;
  - ~20.000 contribuitors;

Theorethical framework

- Pierre Lévy, (1993, 1996, 1999, 2003)
  - Cyberespace: the cyberspace is not a technological infrastructure, but a way to use this technological apparatus. It is a special kind of relationship between people.

Theorethical framework

- Manuel Castells, 2005
  - Informacionalism and information society: “the current economy is informational because productivity and competitiveness depend on the ability to generate, process, use and apply knowledge based information.”
  - Transation costs: increase of transaction costs because of the technological complexity are not internalized, but handed over to the consumers or, in our case, to the contributors.

Theorethical framework

- Yoschai Benkler, 2002
  - Peer production: allows the gathering of large groups of people in activities at levels that would not be achieved by other organizations based on the market.

Method and research

- Netnography (Hine: 2005)
  - Participant observation: 2007, 2008 and 2009.
    - 5.000 contributions
    - 30 new articles
  - Interviews: 2008.
    - 4 question's groups, 13 questions in total.
      - 1 - activities outside Wikipedia
      - 2 - "Tradicional" political motivacions
      - 3 – Internal participation
      - 4 – Wikipedia in society
    - 90 most active contributors.

Data and analysis (group 1)

- 18 interviwees
  - 2 bureaucrats
  - 9 administrators
  - 7 registred users
- School education
  - 2 collegiates
  - 10 graduated
  - 6 postgraduated
- Professional ocupation
  - 6 industrial or comercial sector
  - 6 students
  - 4 education
  - 2 public sector
- Time in professional ocupation
  - 40 hours a week: 9
  - 20-35 hours: 7
  - Less than 20 hours: 2

Data and analysis (group 2)

- Respondents did not declare any “traditional” political motivation, and no one reported participation in political organizations.

Data and analysis (group 3 and 4)

- Field of interest
- Technical knowledge of the wiki tool
- Level of access to software.
- The usual activities are:
  - Management activities, formatting activities and insertion activities.
- No financial compensation.
- All respondents demonstrated a high degree of perception of the role of Wikipedia in society.

Final considerations

- Education and new contributors
- Share transaction costs
- High degree of participation in domestic politics
- Low participation in traditional politics

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