

Wikipedia : evolution or revolution ?

Florence Devouard

Vice-president

Wikimedia Foundation



Wikipedia's Radical Idea:



Imagine a world in which every single person is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge.

That's what we're doing.

What is Wikipedia?



- A freely licensed encyclopedia
- Free as in free beer and free as in free speech
- Available in many languages
- written by thousands of volunteers

www.wikipedia.org

Pommier de Sodome

(Redirigé depuis [Roustonnier](#))

Calotropis procera est le nom scientifique d'un petit [arbre](#) très commun dans les régions arides d'[Afrique](#), en particulier dans les [oueds](#). Il porte des noms vernaculaires différents, le plus connu étant **pommier de Sodome**. Autre nom : arbre à [soie](#) du [Sénégal](#).

[Arabe](#) dialectal ou [berbère](#) : *torha*. [Touareg](#) : *toumfafa*. [Wolof](#) : *taftan*. [Somali](#) *boah*.

L'arbre est toxique dans toutes ses parties, notamment par son latex, ce qui ne l'empêche pas d'avoir de nombreuses utilisations, y compris médicinales. Ses [fruits](#) verts sont comparables à des petites [pommes](#) ovales, certains disent à des [testicules](#) (d'où le nom vulgaire de *roustonnier* qui lui aurait été donné par les [légionnaires](#)).

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[1 Description](#)

[1.1 Écologie et habitat](#)

[1.2 Morphologie générale et végétative](#)

[1.3 Morphologie florale](#)

Calotropis procera



Arbre en fleurs

[Classification classique](#)

Règne :	Plantae
Division :	Magnoliophyta
Classe :	Magnoliopsida
Ordre :	Gentianales



WIKIPÉDIA
L'encyclopédie Libre

navigation

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Who created Wikipedia ?



Founded January 15, 2001

by Jimmy Wales

Written by
thousands of volunteers



How big is Wikipedia?



- English Wikipedia is largest and has over 130 million words
- English Wikipedia is larger than Britannica and Microsoft Encarta combined
- In 15 months the publicly distributed compressed database dumps may reach 1 terabyte total size

WIKIPEDIA

English

The Free Encyclopedia

500 000+ articles

Deutsch

Die freie Enzyklopädie

215 000+ Artikel

日本語

フリー百科事典

105 000+ 記事

Svenska

Den fria encyklopedin

67 000+ artiklar

Nederlands

De vrije encyclopedie

60 000+ artikelen



Français

L'encyclopédie libre

90 000+ articles

Polski

Wolna Encyklopedia

60 000+ haseł

Español

La enciclopedia libre

44 000+ artículos

Italiano

L'enciclopedia libera

37 000+ articoli

Português

A enciclopédia livre

34 000+ artigos

Nearly 1.5 million across 200 languages

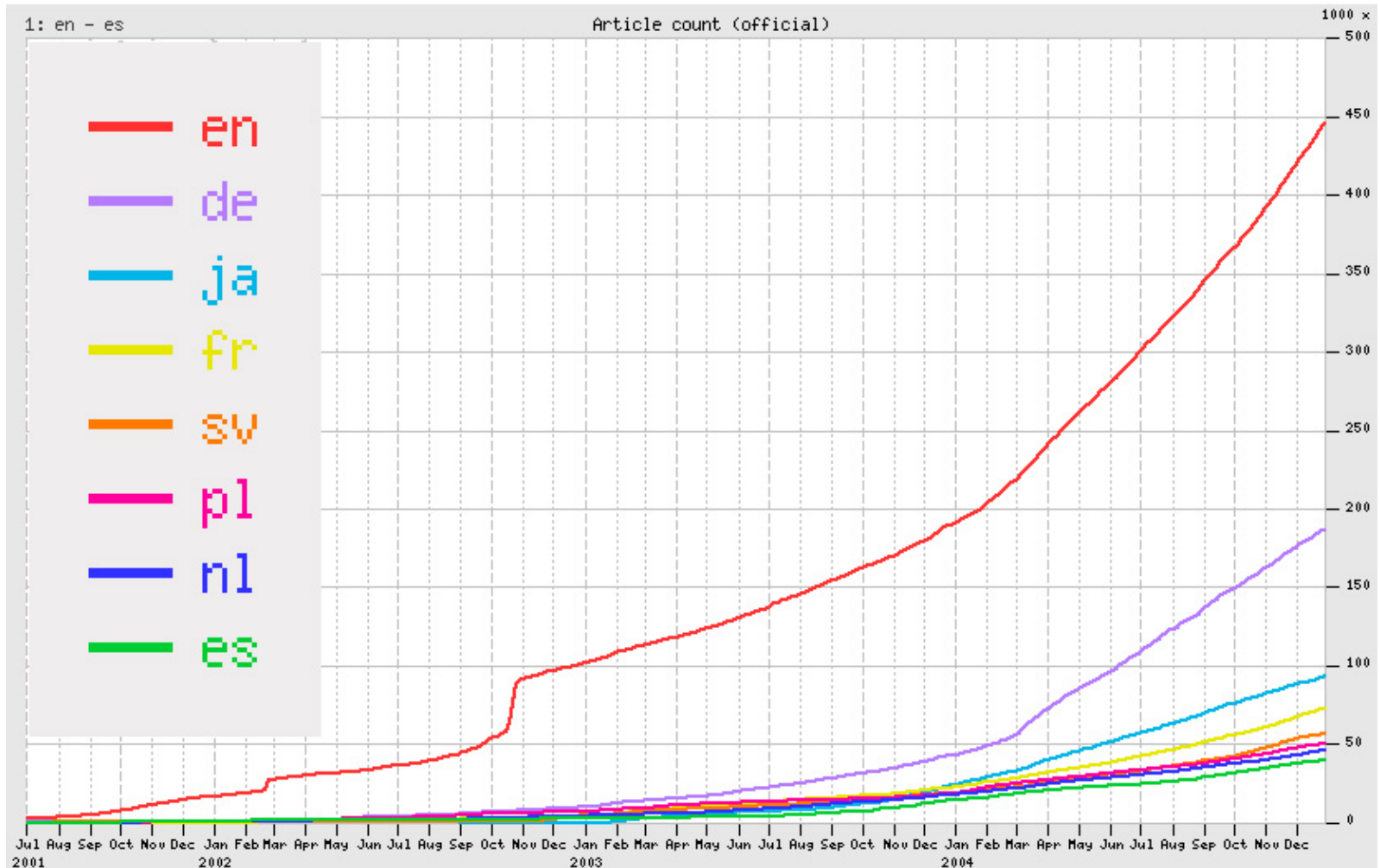
19 with >10,000. 52 with >1000

Some northern european languages



- Swedish (Svenska) : sv - 67787 articles
- Danish (Dansk) : da - 23514 articles
- Norwegian (Norsk) : no - 20993 articles
- Finnish (Suomi) : fi - 17564 articles
- Neo-Norwegian (Nynorsk) : nn - 4408 articles
- Icelandic (Íslenska) : is - 2359 articles
- Northern Sami (Sámeigiella) : se - 165 articles

Wikipedia growth



How popular is Wikipedia?



~ 400 million pages viewed monthly

Top 100 of most visited websites

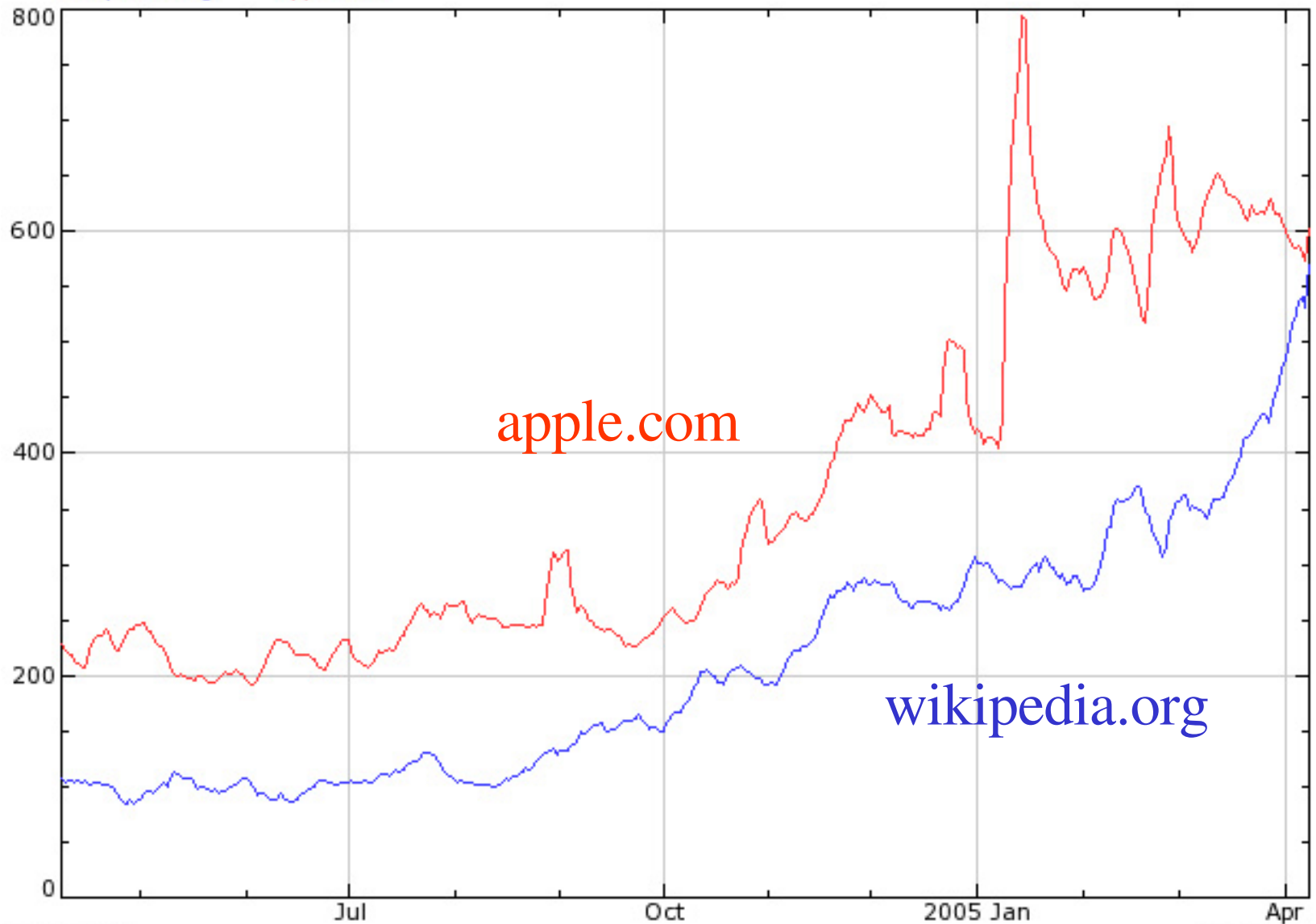
Dramatic ranking jumps:

- Jan 2003: Slashdotting (English WP's '100,000 article' press release)
- Aug 2003: Featured on CNN
- Jan 2004: New servers
- Aug 2004: New servers

Daily Pageviews (per million)

wikipedia.org

apple.com



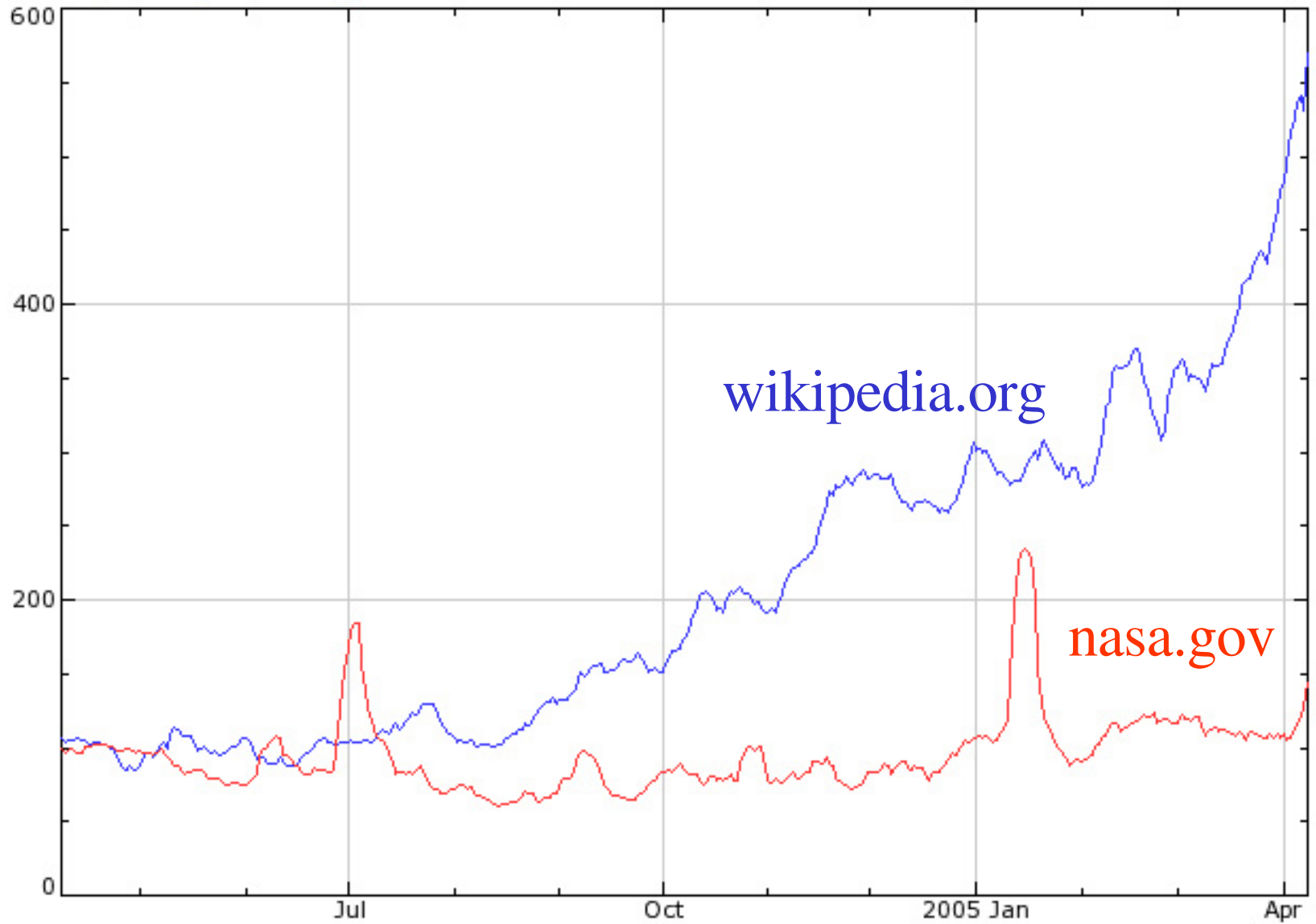
© 2005 Alexa

2005 Apr 8

Daily Pageviews (per million)

wikipedia.org

nasa.gov



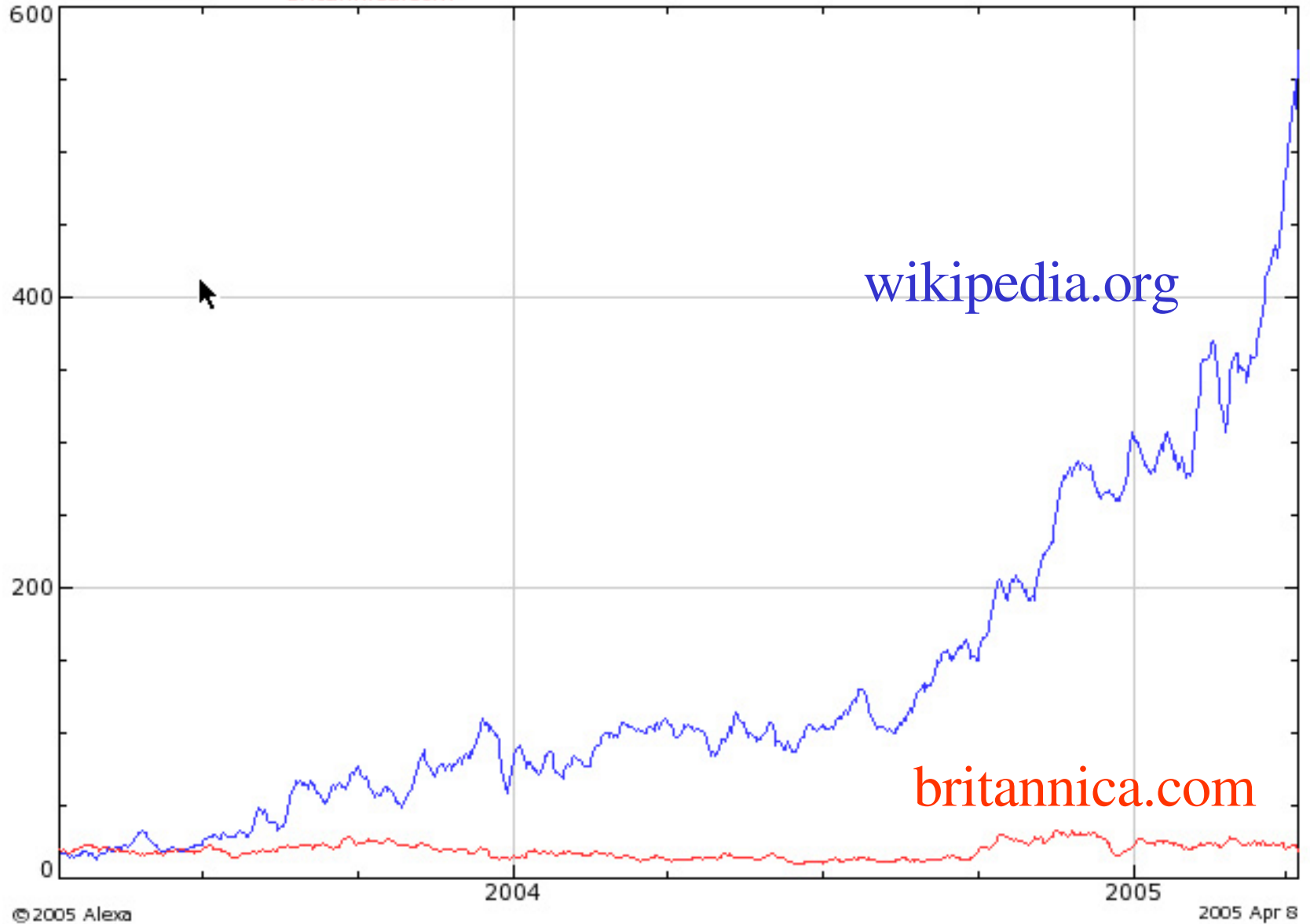
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Daily Pageviews (per million)

wikipedia.org

britannica.com



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Elements of design



- Collaborative software which respects the users
- A community and flexible governance
- Neutrality as a bedrock principle
- Freedom in the sense of GNU

1st element: Wiki, a collaborative software



- Requires a computer and an internet connection
- Allows users to add or edit content
- MediaWiki is one of many wiki engines
- Primarily developed for Wikipedia from 2002 onwards
- Scalable and multilingual

MediaWiki features



- Editing features (simple markup)
- Quality control features (versioning, recent changes)
- Community features (talk pages, user pages, access levels)



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Donations

search

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages

in other languages

- Afrikaans
- မြန်မာ
- မြန်မာ
- Bosanski
- Català
- Češky

Finland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

The **Republic of Finland** (**Finnish**: *Suomen tasavalta*, **Swedish**: *Republiken Finland*) is a **Nordic country** in northeastern **Europe**, bordered by the **Baltic Sea** to the southwest, the **Gulf of Finland** to the southeast and the **Gulf of Bothnia** to the west. Finland has land frontiers with **Sweden**, **Norway** and **Russia** and a maritime border with **Estonia**. The **Aland Islands**, off the southwestern coast, are under Finnish **sovereignty** while enjoying extensive **autonomy**.

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- [4 Geography](#)
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1 History

Main article: [History of Finland](#)

Conclusive **archaeological** evidence exists indicating that the area now comprising Finland was settled around **8500 BC**, during the **Stone Age**, as the inland ice of the last **ice age** receded. The earliest inhabitants are thought to have been **hunter-gatherers**, living primarily off what the forests and sea could offer. **Pottery** is known from around **5300 BC**. The existence of extensive

[\[edit\]](#)

Suomen tasavalta Republiken Finland

	
(In Detail)	(In Detail)
<i>National motto: None</i>	
	
Official language	Finnish , Swedish
Capital	Helsinki
Largest City	Helsinki

You can read!



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article discussion edit this page history protect delete move watch

Editing Stockholm

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

```
'''Stockholm''' {{Audio|sv-Stockholm.ogg|listen}} {{IPA|[st&#x0254;k&#720; &#x0254;l m]}} is the [[capital]] and the largest [[Cities of Sweden|city]] of [[Sweden]]. The City of Stockholm is administratively a [[Municipalities of Sweden|municipality]] within [[Stockholm County]]. The population of the city proper is 761,721 (2004), and with the suburbs included, the population is 1,695,946 (2004) (Stockholm County except [[Norrtälje]], [[Nykvarn]], [[Nynäshamn]] and [[Södertälje]]). The metropolitan area is known as [[Stor-Stockholm]]. The conurbation of Stockholm, a statistical unit stretching through several municipalities, had a population of 1,212,196 according to the 2000 census.
```

```
As a capital Stockholm is the site of the [[Government of Sweden|Government]] and the [[Parliament of Sweden|Parliament]] of Sweden. It is also the residence of the [[King of Sweden|head of state]], King [[Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden|Carl XVI Gustaf]].
```

```
== History ==
```

```
[[Image:Viking ship bow Sweden 037.jpg|right|150px|thumb|Viking ship bow in Stockholm]]
```

```
{{main|History of Stockholm}}
```

```
The earliest mention of Stockholm in writing dates from [[1252]], when it was an important post in the iron trade from the mines in [[Bergslagen]]. The first part of the name - stock - means logs, while the last part - holm - means small island. The city is said to have been founded by [[Birger Jarl]] in order to protect Sweden from invasion from the sea by foreign navies and to stop pillage of the cities such as [[Sigtuna]] on Lake [[Mälaren]]. The first building at Stockholm was a
```

Edit summary:

This is a minor edit Watch this page

Save page

Show preview

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Templates used on this page:

- [Template:Otheruses](#)
- [Template:Infobox Kommun](#)
- [Template:Altemateuses](#)

You can edit!

Flat Earth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 22:40, 12 Feb 2003

[Ed Poor](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

okay, I'm done. Comments?

Revision as of 22:42, 12 Feb 2003

[Eloquence](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

second para

Line 1:

The "flat earth" theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain. Some ancient Greek philosophers began to discuss the idea of a spherical earth, notably Eratosthenes and Ptolemy.

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had pretty much died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few diehards hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

Line 1:

The "flat earth" theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from early antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain; by the time of [[Pliny the Elder]], however, its spherical shape was generally acknowledged. [[Ptolemy]] derived his maps from a curved globe and developed the system of [[latitude]] and [[longitude]].

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Even before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had almost died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

You can share!



special page

Recent changes

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

This page: [live RC](#) | [edit](#)

Projects: [Meta](#) - [Wiktionary](#) - [Quote](#) - [Books](#) - [Source](#) - [Species](#) - [Commons](#) - [News](#)

Utilities: [New](#) - [Deadend](#) - [Needy](#) - [Cleanup](#) - [Y vandalism](#) - [RC patrol](#) - [Deletion](#) - [IRC](#) - [Community](#)

About us: [Welcome/FAQ/Policy](#) - [Stats](#) - [Announcements](#) - [Village pump](#) - [Mailing lists](#) - [Chat](#)

Requests: [Genome degradation?](#) - [Peaucellier-Lipkin linkage?](#) - [Howard Simons?](#) - [Resolvins?](#)

Upcoming Meetups: [Boston, April 11](#); [Washington D.C.?](#) field trip, ([April 30-May 1?](#))

Registration for [Wikimania](#), the first global Wikimedia conference, is now open.

Below are the last 100 changes in the last 3 days.

Show last [50](#) | [100](#) | [250](#) | [500](#) changes in last [1](#) | [3](#) | [7](#) | [14](#) | [30](#) days

[Hide](#) minor edits | [Show](#) bots | [Hide](#) logged in users

Show new changes starting from [10:45, 6 Apr 2005](#)

6 Apr 2005

- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Health Care in Romania](#); 10:45 .. [Cristian Chirita](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#))
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Samantha Smith](#); 10:45 .. [PMA](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#))
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Fusion power](#); 10:45 .. [Art Carlson](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (← *Fusion reactors as commercial power sources -major rewrite*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Anti-globalization and Anti-Semitism](#); 10:45 .. [Dbachmann](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (*so what? the other guy is wearing a Rumfeld mask. How does that qualify as Anti-Semitism?*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. **m** [Current events](#); 10:45 .. [Evil Monkey](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (← *April 6 2005*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Samuel Courtauld \(art collector\)](#); 10:45 .. [Paul W](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (*Paul Cézanne*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Exchange Stabilization Fund](#); 10:45 .. [128.151.95.138](#) ([Talk?](#) | [block](#))
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. **m** [Human evolution](#); 10:45 .. [Pharos](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (*Reverted edits by [212.248.122.7](#) to last version by 68.193.9.77*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Georgian Bay](#); 10:45 .. [Surray](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#)) (*Remove link: this is an encyclopedia, not a tourist guide*)
- [\(diff\)](#) [\(hist\)](#) .. [Technical architecture](#); 10:45 .. [Aasch?](#) ([Talk](#) | [block](#))

{{SoFixIt}}...



 Anthere [ma page de discussion](#) [préférences](#) [liste de suivi](#) [mes contributions](#) [déconnexion](#)

[pages spéciales](#)

Bloquer une adresse IP

Utilisez le formulaire ci-dessous pour bloquer l'accès en écriture à partir d'une adresse IP donnée ou d'un pseudonyme utilisateur. Une telle mesure ne doit être prise que pour empêcher le vandalisme et en accord avec [recommandations et règles à suivre](#). Donnez ci-dessous une raison précise (par exemple en indiquant les pages qui ont été vandalisées).

Adresse IP ou pseudonyme:	<input type="text" value="Wikix"/>
Durée du blocage:	<input type="text" value="24 hours"/>
Motif du blocage:	<input type="text" value="Vandalisme"/>
<input type="button" value="Bloquer cette adresse"/>	

Nobody knows everything...



- Centralized knowledge
- One way communication (television...)
- Expert and authority
- Linguistic and geographic barriers
- Dot com boom

But everyone knows something...

2nd element: a community



- Open to participation : large and diverse
- How can such a community scale?
 - Through a common goal
 - Through common principles (freedom and neutrality)
 - Through policy (mediation, arbitration)
 - Through software features
 - Through an atmosphere of love and respect

Wikipedia governance



- A confusing but workable mix of
 - Anarchy
 - Consensus and precedent
 - Meritocracy
 - Monarchy
 - Technocracy
 - Democracy
 - Republic

...a chaos under control

3rd element: NPOV



- NPOV - Neutral Point of View
- Diverse political, religious, cultural backgrounds
- Kept together by our “NPOV” policy
- NPOV is a social concept of co-operation, and avoids some philosophical issues.

4th element: Freedom



- We use all free software on the website
 - MediaWiki is GPL
 - GNU/Linux
 - Apache
 - MySQL
 - Php



The GNU logo

- We support free file formats (Ogg Vorbis ...)
- Free speech, autonomy, responsibility...

Free content is ...



any kind of functional work, artwork, or other creative content upon which:

- **no legal restriction** has been placed that significantly interferes...
- -...with people's **freedom to use, understand, redistribute, improve, and share the content.**

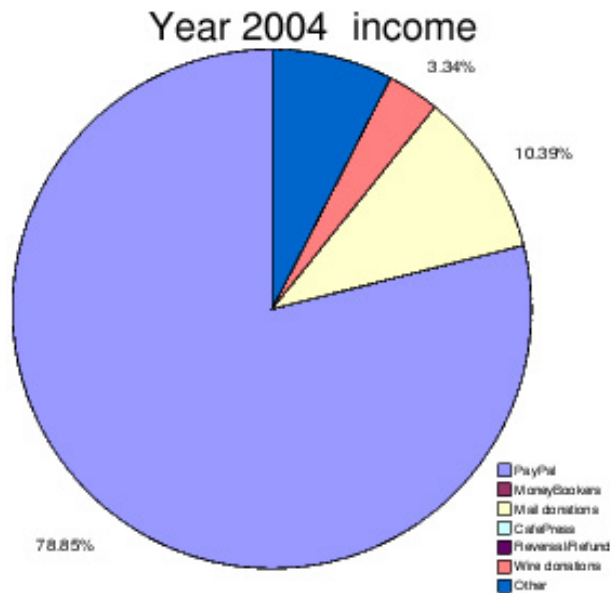
---> Mirrors, other websites, CD Rom, Wikireaders

Social innovation

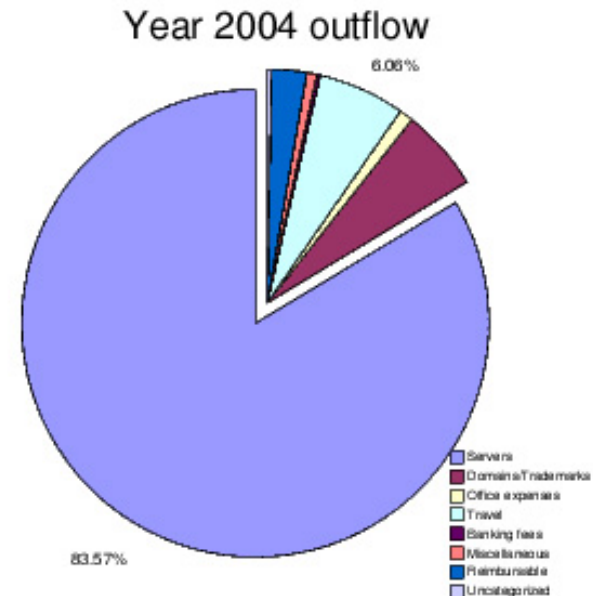


- All the essential tools that allow Wikipedia to work existed 6 years before Wikipedia
- Wikipedia is not primarily a technical innovation, but rather a social innovation
- Wikipedians are flexible about social methodology: results over process

But... who pays for this ?



Individual donations
Grants, prizes



Servers, hosting
Domain names, trademarks

Wikimedia Foundation board members at work...





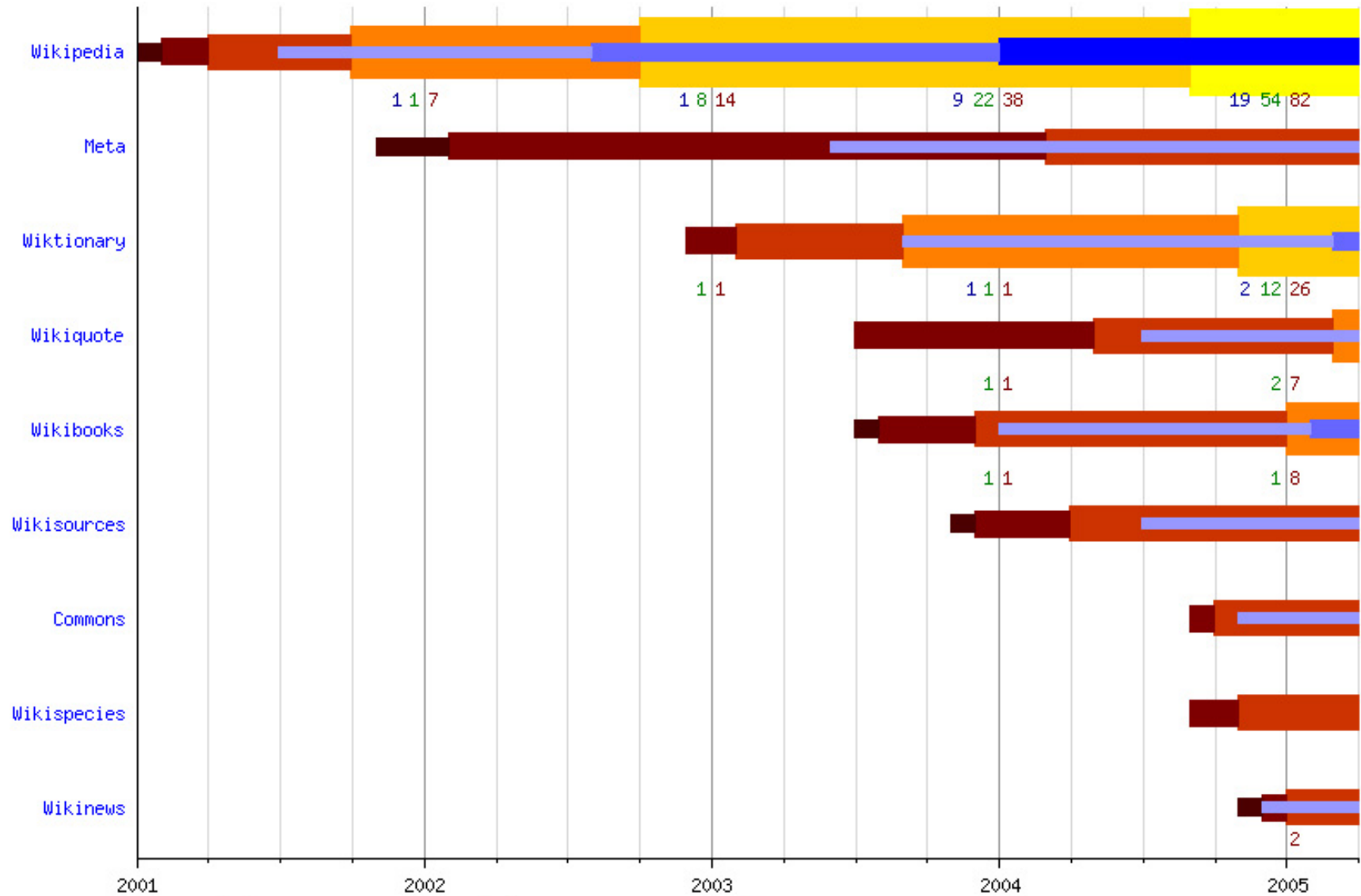
a multilingual tree
encyclopedia

Wiktionary
['wɪkʃənri] *n.*,
a wiki-based Open
Content dictionary

Wilsa ['wɪlʒ kəʁɪ]



Think free. Learn free.



Plot generated by Erik Zachte with EasyTimeline

- 10+ articles
- 10,000+ articles
- 100+ editors
- languages with 100+ articles
- 100+ articles
- 100,000+ articles
- 1000+ editors
- languages with 1000+ articles
- 1000+ articles
- 1,000,000+ articles
- 10,000+ editors
- languages with 10000+ articles