Extended: WikiCities

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Abstract

- The project WIKICITIES is an digital artifact, a community and an interface for participatory events. The goal of the project is promote the use of wikimedia dimensions (Wikipedia, wikicite, wikidata) to imagine a new City based on shapes of bits, emotions and cultural objects. With the help of AI model the project develop a data base and visualizations about this WIKICITY. This interface can proof the decolonial perspective given by collaborative knowledge vs datificated ones. The logic of the WIKICITY artifact is introduce the representation of the City as communal, open and controversial landscape front of cultural identities related to status quo visions. The WikiCities is a project where coding, edits and wiki tools are part of this interface. The process starts with a Pilot City-Rosario, Argentina and the its takes others latinoamerican cities.

Introduction

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- The **problem** the proposal seeks to address is multidimensional. We are interested in evidencing how the Wikimedia ecosystem can help explore the identity of a city (territory) beyond the traditional concept of cultural identity to give rise to how making community is today a major challenge for recognizing ourselves as hybrid territories, one with controversies, digital data traces and glocal edits. That is why, the Project is understood as:
  A digital artifact defined as a hyperobject (Morton,2018).
  A critical cartography where affects, objects, bits and nature are enabled to interrelate in their different formats: texts, data, quotes, images, sounds.
  A Wiki city devised as a provocative prototype (Ricaurte,2017) of making community as opposed to static landscapes of identity.
  A revisited cultural, environmental and scientific diplomatic mechanism

  Our project seeks to explore, through the design of WikiCities—as hybrid artifacts—how to think and imagine a WikiCity based on the interrelationship between the Wikimedia 2030 goal of Knowledge as a Service—City as an artifact and prototype of knowledge—Knowledge Equity—WikiCity as a new transversal element of the Wikimedia ecosystem—datasets, cites, images, edits, sounds, chronic controversies, biographies—where inequalities and equities can be visualized within the framework of indicators of the decolonization of knowledge, culture, and technology.
  Why is addressing the problem important for the Wikimedia projects?
  It is important to research, from the a WikiCity prototypes, how the strengthening of a local community of Wikipedians transforms the (digital) identity of a Latin American city.
  This is for several reasons. One is rooted in static concepts of cultural identity, where emerging narratives related to this term stem from institutional, colonial, and power-based visions. Second, to explore the impact that situated edits promoted by a community of people-objects-affects have on the linguistic injustice and knowledge inequity currently visible in a Wikidata: IE city of Rosario.

Third, to evaluate the potential contribution of a local community with a gender perspective that strategically impacts reducing the gap present in Wikipedia by designing thematic editathonas.
Please anchor your claim in evidence as much as possible. We pay significant attention to the impact statement in this section.
Fourth, because we are interested in developing an inclusive artificial intelligence tool that allows us to visualize and represent how a query related to a wikidata materializes a "wikicity" through the "integration" of the different layers offered by the citations, images, page edits, and datasets belonging to said wikidata. In other words, we want to create a digital artifact that visually represents the state of a city—Rosario—in a fast, interactive, and easily accessible way.
This artifact—WIKICity—will have different filters where the interested party can "create" the Wikicity of their choice based on variables such as: timeline, inclusion (gender gaps), thematic areas (environment, culture, arts, and science), and level of decolonization of knowledge. To achieve this, in addition to implementing the AI tool, it will be important to construct indicators for each variable based on WikiResearch studies and others created ad hoc based on Wikipedia elements.

An important outcome of the project is the conception, development, and implementation of a digital artifact for a pilot WikiCity. This will be a platform whose front end will display the WIKI CITY as an Interactive IMAGE, based on the diverse results of the information existing in the Wikimedia ecosystem about that City (wikidata). The back end will be a database for automatically inputting data—pages, images, citations, etc.—from Wikimedia in general. This first layer of the City image will contribute to the meta-knowledge service. However, the artifact will also allow for a second image of the City to contrast the (decolonized) WikiCity with the digital City. The latter will add input from data from other sources of knowledge to the previously detailed database.

Finally, we would like to inform how the WikiCities is been thinking today. We like to take a city as a pilot – Rosario (ARG) during the first year and then replicated the initiative to another Latam cities like Guadalajara (Mx), Medellín (COL), Montevideo (UY) and others interested. So, the second year can be the moment to open a call for proposal to select the cities.
This process promotes the research about the potential dialogues between WIKICITIES as a creative diplomacy dimension. The artifacts above detailed will be complemented by inherent steps for the project goal. It is events, educational resources or guides, academics meetings, labs and wiki residencies.

- **Preliminar Research questions**: Can a wiki city be understood as a community in the face of identity drivers
  (cultural, political, scientific, social? What are the distinguishing characteristics as a hyperobject in Morton's words is a Wiki City?; Can a wiki city be visualized as a new iterative and open interface of edits, wikicites, wikidatas, wikicommons elements?; Does a wiki city as a digital artifact affect a different way of understanding international cooperation between cities?;What regional dialogues - among other Latin American cities- are built from the different layers of information of a Wiki City?

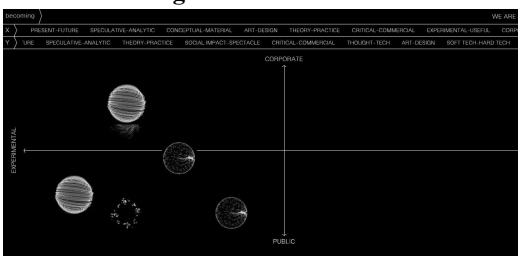
Date: Proposed work can start as early as August 1, 2025 and should conclude by August 1, 2027.

Related work

We would like to share two projects as background that we will use as primary initiatives for future research and artifacts.
The first one is a platform called Becoming (FIG1), designed by Andreu Belsunces. This project interests us as a methodological

starting point since the image is created from the information inputs loaded into its backend. The result is a digital artifacts-hyperobject where it is represented diverse scenarios. Like this object, the WikiCity will be a representation of the city from the data about that city findable on Wikipedia etc.
(First database development by the automation enter of info)

FIG1. Becoming



Source: https://becoming.network/

A second project that illustrates how we think about the essence of this artifact is the Calles de Mujeres project (FIG.2), part of GeoChicas.
We are interested in this project's way of showing the information gap. For our purposes, this is important in relation to the contrast between CiudadWIki and the Digitized City without Wikimedia entries.

FIG.2. Calles de Mujeres

Source: https://geochicasosm.github.io/lascallesdelasmujeres/

Calle de Mujeres is an excellent example of how the artifact—CiudadWiki—and its visualization can contribute to the goal of knowledge equity. The artifact is expected to simultaneously be an object of research and the production of decolonized knowledge for decision-making. That is, to identify the city's gray areas in light of linguistic and gender absences, gaps, and inequities.

Methods

For Digital Artifact: participatory methodologies for ideation step of the design, collaborative collection of data, desk documentation for collection of digital general data of city by thematic agendas.

For promote local wiki Community: editatonas, wiki research workshops, resources, data and tools sprints.

Colaborators/Cocreators

Red de diplomacia científica y cultural de Rosario (Museo Castagnino, Museo de la Ciudad, Museo Estevez, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Ciudades Educadoras, Facultad de Humanidades y Artes)
Gestores culturales locales
Activistas ambientales locales
Biblioteca de Mujeres
Organizaciones de la Ciudad de Medellín, Guadalajara y Montevideo.
Martín Tena Espinoza de los Monteros (México-wikipedista)
Capítulos Wikimedia of the latam cities
Tech Cooperatives

Expected output

- Guides and Educational Resources to improve the local community under the open science and citizen science values. Public: academics, university students, teachers, citizens. Sources: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=expedicionesnativasrosario

- AI tool to visualize a simple Geodata-wikidata as a Wiki City. Public: citizens, researchers, wikipedistas, wiki chapters.
- Insights to inform the "state of decolonization" of knowledge from the WIKI CITY under the Manifiesto created by Wikimedia Argentina. Public: citizens, cultural organizations, museums, networks. Sources: https://fhumyar.unr.edu.ar/agenda/futurear-2024-ciudad-universidad-y-tecnologias/ ; https://wikimedia.org.ar/2022/05/30/un-marco-de-descolonizacion-para-las-iniciativas-de-wikimedia-argentina/
- Decision-making space for promotes a digital cultural heritage city as public policy. Public: academic community, public agents, cultural institutions. Sources: https://fhumyar.unr.edu.ar/politicas-abiertas-y-diplomacia-cientifica-cultural/#:~:text=El%20%C3%81rea%20de%20Pol%C3%ADticas%20Abiertas,la%20ciencia%20y%20la%20cultura
- Develops Events such as: editatonas, wiki cities labs –wiki tools- and so on. Public: citizens, students, teachers, activist.
- A provocative, open and critic prototype – digital infraestructure- of a City as alive artifact-organism-community.Public: cities of latinamerica. Wikimedia chapters.

Risks

The potential risks is coding the artifacts with a group of people with the open mind to "translate" the conceptual vision to prototype one. It will be important to solve this potential issue, integration of the team from interdisciplinary point of view.

Community impact plan

We think about collaborate with Wikimedia chapter for replicated the artifacts, with wikimedia local communities, wiki research projects, cultural institutions associated to wikimedia,wikidata and wikicite programs.

Evaluation

Tools for the evaluation:

Indicators levels: Plan and cronograma of the project.
Indicators related to local community participation
Data Bases Progress to monitoring the gaps and edits about a CITY WIKI.
Visualizations as qualitative instrument from Artifacts Visit to the artifacts
Edits Data history of the CityWiki and results from editatonas
Works meetings with funders, chapters, volunteers, researchers to validated the progress of the project and the calendar of it.

Budget

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1y2j0PXJkcKt3qdIQkn90CbRvrj16DGQurar35uSgAv0/edit?usp=sharing

References

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Cátedra Libre de Tecnologías Feministas https://catedratecfemlatam.gitbook.io/glosario

Programa Humanidades, Artes y Cultura en Abierto https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vy1AKt2UEMVTVeEbtjzi7viDaddaXS7x/view?usp=sharing

Futurear Rosario https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zEBaBowXSlbpIH_3X_lIgciEkHwbpCbE/view

Abiertamente. Serie de talks about Open Science https://fhumyar.unr.edu.ar/politicas-abiertas-y-diplomacia-cientifica-cultural/#:~:text=El%20%C3%81rea%20de%20Pol%C3%ADticas%20Abiertas,la%20ciencia%20y%20la%20cultura

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Wikimedia 2030 https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Movement_Strategy/es
Becoming. Andreu Belsunces https://becoming.network/
Manifiesto de Diplomacia Científica cultural Local https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KvqSn2jqQiaCgsBEmc71xnowjne6PsYR5SiUoUp33Pk/edit?tab=t.0
Red de Diplomacia Científica Cultural Rosario https://fhumyar.unr.edu.ar/politicas-abiertas-y-diplomacia-cientifica-cultural/#:~:text=El%20%C3%81rea%20de%20Pol%C3%ADticas%20Abiertas,la%20ciencia%20y%20la%20cultura
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Cartografías feministas para el Arte y las Humanidades https://rephip.unr.edu.ar/items/6df0b077-8f9e-481c-9298-aac8ba67aa41