Google Scholar Experiment

January 29, 2021

In this experiment, we attempt to gather knowledge on the focus of the Wikipedia research community on readers. We run two search queries on Google Scholar and report the results on 31st July 2020. We do not put any restrictions on article publication time and type of article (like research papers, books, patents, etc.). In the first query, we list all the articles which contain Wikipedia related words (Wikipedia, Wikipedian, Wikipedians, Wiki) in the title of the article. The count of the results of this query is 61,300 (block A of Fig. 1). In the second query, we filter all the articles which contain Wikipedia related words (Wikipedia, Wikipedian, Wikipedians, Wiki) and *does not* contain reader related words (read, reads, reader, readers, reading) in the title of the article. We have used the indirect query to filter reader based research count is used due to the limited search functionality of Google Scholar). The count of the results of this query is 53,200 (block B of Fig. 1). It implies that out of 61,300 Wikipedia based researches, only 8100 (approx) articles primarily focus on readers. The query results reveal a considerable lack of focus of the research community on the consumers/readers of Wikipedia (only 13.2% of the researches which focus on Wikipedia readers (block C of Fig. 1)).

We understand that the results of these queries are not exact counts, and we might have missed a few articles due to limited search functionalities. But the massive difference in the proportion of reader and non-reader based researches reveals the lack of focus of the research community on Wikipedia readers.
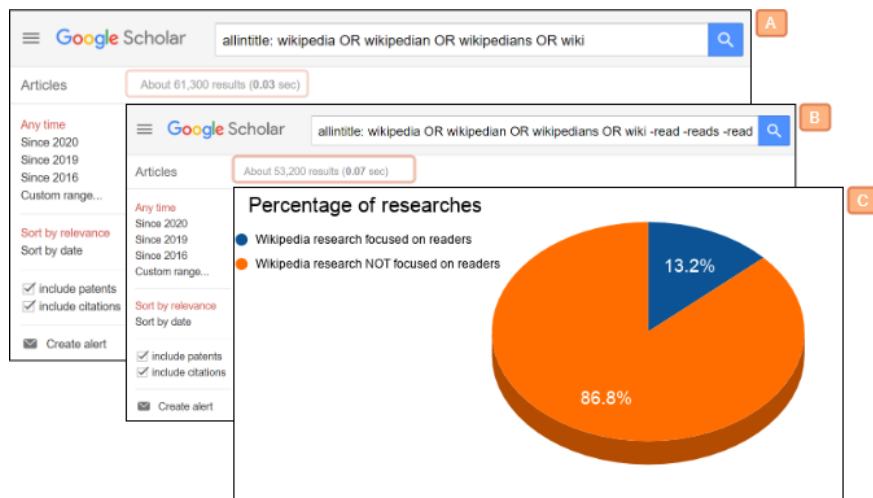
Figure 1: Search on Google scholar to identify the proportion of Wikipedia studies which focus on readers. (A) Studies whose titles contain "Wikipedia" or any of its stem words. (B) Studies whose titles contain "Wikipedia" and don't contain "read/reader" or any of their stem words. (C) Distribution of the count of studies belonging to both categories.