

3 Leipzig

Information in English

The conference **[[Wikipedia: Ein Kritischer Standpunkt]]** will take place in **Leipzig / Germany, on 25 & 26 September 2010**.

It will be a German-speaking CPoV event dealing with the following topics:

- Wikipedia & the Politics of Open Knowledge
- Wikipedia & Governance
- Wikipedia & Education
- Wikipedia & Knowledge (Re) Presentation
- Wikipedia & the Future of the Knowledge Society

For questions please contact [Johanna Niesyto](#) or [Andreas Möllenkamp](#).

Information in German

The conference **[[Wikipedia: A Critical Standpoint]]** will take place from September 24 to 26, 2010 in the Leipzig University Library and in the Humanities Center of Leipzig University. The aim of the conference is to encourage Wikipedia researchers, critics and community members to engage in a productive, interdisciplinary discussion of the mainstream knowledge medium **Wikipedia** bring together. The German-language Wikipedia research is to be made more visible and the occupation with Wikipedia is to be embedded in current discussions about the constitution of global socio-technical information architectures. The conference is open to the public, there is no fee to attend. Interested pupils and students are very welcome!

Main topics

The five main topics of the conference are derived from the importance of the Wikipedia project for a new configuration of knowledge (re) production and its consequences for the public (s), architectures of participation and political education in a media democracy.

History and politics of free knowledge

Wikipedia and the code on which it is based continue the history of encyclopedias.

D'Alembert's introduction to the Encyclopédie is often cited as one of the most visible evidence of the European Enlightenment. By writing the encyclopedia in the French 'vernacular' and not in Latin, the authors aimed at the dissemination or popularization of scientific considerations within society. What can be learned from analyzing such historical precursors? In its topicality, the multilingual Wikipedia platform is considered to be one of the success examples for the transfer of FLOSS (Free / Libre / Open Source Software) principles to the level of content production. A wide variety of actors gather on the social web platform to present knowledge, to discuss the 'correct' presentation of knowledge in public and to address questions of access to knowledge. In the production of knowledge as 'common good' of different linguistically structured publics in Wikipedia, concepts of the free and open (free knowledge / open source) form the core. But what is behind these concepts? Do they even serve as 'empty signifiers'?

Moderation: Geert Lovink

Digital governance

Which new processes and structures determine (non-) access to knowledge? What are the relationships between Wikipedia and external social institutions such as schools? How is 'agency' distributed within Wikipedia?

Such questions of self-regulation are closely interwoven with the attempt to describe the architectures of participation in Wikipedia as collaboration or 'ad hoc meritocracies' (Alex Bruns). An analysis of the reconfiguration of the political and new forms of closures has so far been left out. But dealing with digital governance primarily means that the role (s) and ideologems of the MediaWiki developers as well as the institutional backstage (Wikimedia Foundation, Wikimedia Chapter) are critically related to the idea of 'free knowledge'.

Moderation: Johanna Niesyto

Wikipedia and (political) education

Newspapers, television, radio and the cinema are the subject of media-pedagogical analyzes and have found their place in the discussions. Although Wikipedia has found its way into usage practices - especially among young people - in everyday education, it still requires some effort to develop similar critical analyzes for digital projects such as Wikipedia. In the field of political education, knowledge about the production of knowledge is not only a question of media competence, but also a question of the development of a critical, questioning consciousness: On Wikipedia, various actors - from state to economic to civil society actors - try to interpret historical sovereignty how to win current topics in so-called 'edit wars'. The de- resp.

Moderation: Thorsten Schilling

Knowledge (re) presentations

"Wikipedia is not a paper encyclopedia", but a digital encyclopedia project. The platform serves as a standard reference for both printed and digital text artifacts. Associated with this are new challenges in the representation of knowledge such as the longevity and short life of digital artifacts, digital manipulation of sources, cross-references and dynamic categorizations that Wikipedia has to face. Knowledge representation is also knowledge presentation and emphasizes the importance of the design of the user interface: How does the search begin? How do practices, references, classifications, negotiations and version histories become visible at the design level? Which visualizations are used to draw attention? What knowledge concepts are behind such visualizations and graphically designed interfaces?

Moderation: Ulrich Johannes Schneider

The future of the knowledge society

What comes after or with Wikipedia? Which actors - from politics and the open source movement to universities, libraries, museums, artists to the media and users etc - are shaping the future of the knowledge society? Which closing and opening processes in the production and distribution of knowledge can currently be observed? In addition to questions about (de) centralization, cooperation and conflict, a discussion about the future of the knowledge society in the area of tension between knowledge and property must above all ask how such a future can be kept open and by whom.

Moderation: Johanna Niesyto