

## **Controversy in Wikipedia**

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### **Problem Description**

Wikipedia is a community that strives to provide true, unbiased facts. One of the major struggles of this goal is that people often disagree about what is actually the truth of a situation. This is especially true when a topic is controversial or part of recent events. In addition, Wikipedia as a site is subject to vandalism, where people deliberately attempt to compromise its integrity through the editing of content. Many different things have been attempted by the administrators and the community in an attempt to combat these problems and continue to provide an unbiased source of facts. One such thing is edit protection, which protects articles by preventing certain groups from being able to edit them. There are a number of different forms of edit protection that can be put into place, from merely blocking unregistered users from editing the page to denying edit access to all but the top level administrators.

Because this is an ongoing issue on Wikipedia, our visualization seeks to allow Wikipedia editors and administrators to look at the edit protection of articles over time, find trends, and see how effective edit protection is at a macro level.

### **Description of the User Interface**

The basic interface has a navigation bar at left, filters and sorting panel at right, details pane at bottom, and the listings of articles in the middle. It initially starts at the top level, showing the major categories of Wikiprojects, subsets of Wikipedia dedicated to specific topics that articles are grouped under. Grouping articles under Wikiprojects categories allows for users to more easily discover trends within related articles in a subcategory.

When a category is selected, it expands to show all of the subcategories within it. Subcategories are also sized based on the number of articles within them. When the selected category is expanded, the other categories do not disappear but instead shrink and are still clickable on the page to allow the user to easily see where they are and jump between sections.

The subcategory can be expanded to show all of the specific articles under it. Once again, all other subcategories still remain visible. Although the text is removed from the view in this case to conserve screen space, but when moused over their name and the number of articles within them is displayed. Each article is represented by a bar across the screen a few pixels wide. Encoded in the bar are the periods of time that the article was edit protected. These protections are color-coded based upon the type of edit protection they are, and the colors match Wikipedia's edit protection colors. When an article is hovered over, it expands to show a graph of the number of edits over the period of time that is shown. The colors that encode when an article was edit protected are still encoded in this time period.

Clicking a specific article displays details about it in the bottom details panel. This panel does not yet have many details, but we hope to add more to it, including Google Trends data and a link to the actual Wikipedia page. We also hope to highlight articles in the subcategory that are linked to or similar to the selected article.

In the future we hope to allow users to sort the individual articles in chronological order by which edit came first, change the period of time represented in the data, and filter articles based on things such as their name or when they are locked.

## Accompanying Screenshots

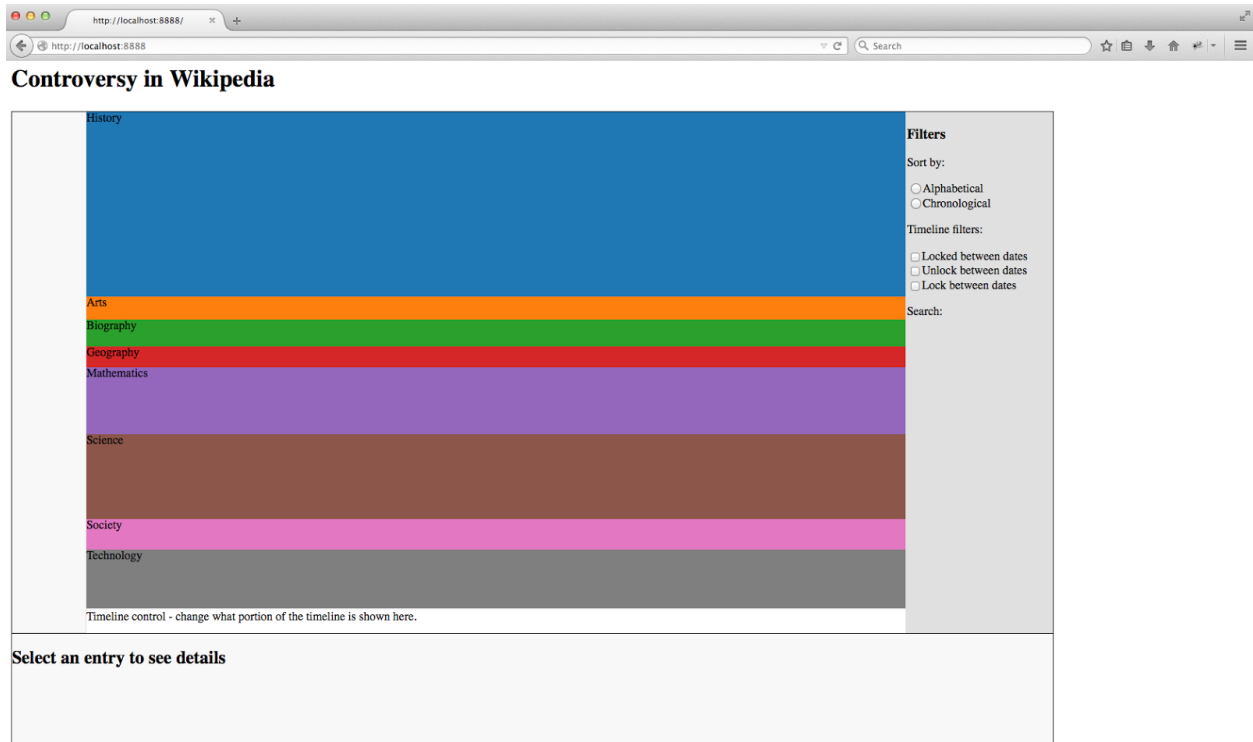


Figure 1: The overview page. Here the different categories are represented.

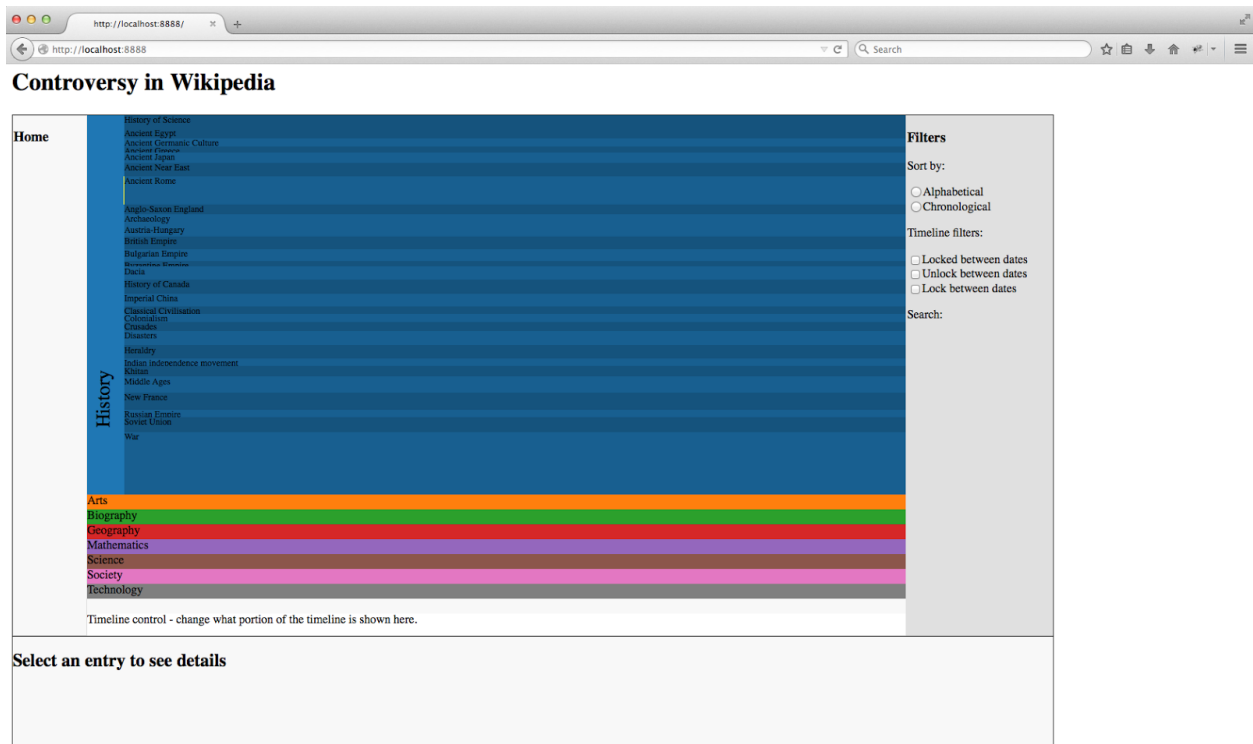


Figure 2: Clicking on the History category brings up all of its subcategories. Clicking 'Home' would bring you back to the top level, and clicking the other categories would focus them

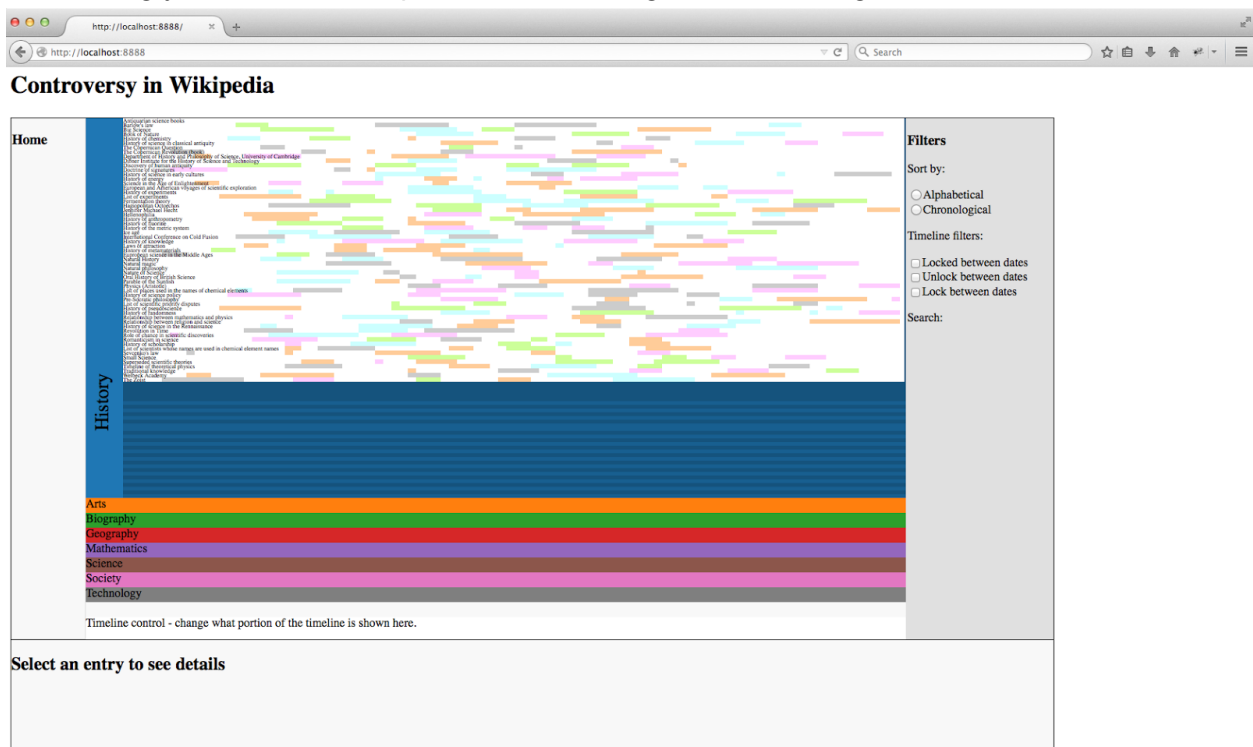


Figure 3: Clicking the 'History of Science' subcategory brings up all articles under it. Each is encoded as a bar with coloring to show when it was under edit protection.



Figure 4: Mousing over an article brings up a graph of edits over time. Clicking an article brings up details about it in the bottom details pane.