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Title: A Case Study on Wikipedia

- Introduction:

Wikipedia, the world's largest collaborative online encyclopedia, has transformed the way we access and share information. This case study explores the history, developmental models, licensing, mode of funding, and diverse applications of Wikipedia in both commercial and non-commercial contexts.

- History:

Wikipedia's journey began in 2001 when Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger founded it as a free, open-content encyclopedia. The vision was to create a platform where anyone could contribute and edit articles. Wikipedia rapidly grew in size and scope, becoming a global knowledge-sharing powerhouse, available in multiple languages.

- Developmental Models:

Wikipedia operates under a crowdsourced, wiki-based developmental model. Anyone with internet access can contribute or edit content, making it a dynamic, community-driven resource. A robust system of volunteers and editors ensures quality control and fact-checking, maintaining the reliability of information.

- Licensing:

Wikipedia content is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA) license. This license allows anyone to reuse, remix, and distribute Wikipedia content as long as they provide proper attribution and share derivative works under the same license. This open licensing model has been instrumental in the widespread dissemination of knowledge.

- Mode of Funding:

Wikipedia relies primarily on donations from users and philanthropic organizations. The Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit entity that oversees Wikipedia, conducts annual fundraising campaigns to cover operating expenses. This model ensures Wikipedia remains ad-free and independent from commercial interests, safeguarding its neutrality.

- Applications in Commercial and Non-Commercial :

- ☐ 1. Commercial Use: Wikipedia serves as a valuable resource for businesses, journalists, researchers, and content creators. Companies use Wikipedia for reference, research, and reputation management. However, they cannot directly monetize Wikipedia content or use it for advertising purposes.
- ☐ 2. Non-Commercial Use: Educational institutions, students, researchers, and the general public heavily rely on Wikipedia as a comprehensive and free source of information. It supports learning, research, and fact-checking, making it an invaluable tool in non-commercial settings.

Innovations in education: Wikipedia has been integrated into educational curricula, promoting digital literacy and collaborative learning.

- ☐ 3. Cultural Preservation: Wikipedia is used for documenting and preserving cultural heritage. Numerous articles focus on history, art, and culture, making it a valuable resource for museums, libraries, and cultural organizations.
- ☐ 4. Community Knowledge Sharing: Local communities use Wikipedia to document and share information about their regions, promoting tourism and local development.

In summary, Wikipedia's impact on global knowledge dissemination cannot be overstated. Its open, collaborative model has democratized access to information, bridging gaps in education and fostering a culture of continuous learning. Whether accessed for personal knowledge or harnessed for educational and research purposes, Wikipedia has become an integral part of our digital landscape.