**Practical no.1: Open Source Software**

**Aim: Identify any Open Source software and create detailed report about it.**

**WIKIPEDIA:**

**1. IDEA:** Wikipedia began with its first edit on 15 January 2001, two days after the domain was registered by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger. Its technological and conceptual underpinnings predate this; the earliest known proposal for an online encyclopedia was made by Rick Gates in 1993. The concept of a free-as-in-freedom online encyclopedia (as distinct from mere open source) was proposed by Richard Stallman in December 2000. The idea of using automated machinery beyond the printing press to build a more useful encyclopedia can be traced to Paul Otlet's 1934 book TRAITE de documentation; Otlet also founded the Mundaneum, an institution dedicated to indexing the world's knowledge, in 1910. This concept of a machine-assisted encyclopedia was further expanded in H. G. Wells' book of essays World Brain (1938) and Vannevar Bush's future vision of the microfilm-based Memex in his essay "As We May Think" (1945).

**2. IMPACT:** Wikipedia started almost entirely open anyone could create articles, and any Wikipedia article could be edited by any reader, even those who did not have a Wikipedia account. Modifications to all articles would be published immediately. A growing body of research focuses on studying the various aspects of social interactions within the Wikipedia community. Some researchers go beyond using Wikipedia as a language or social resource, and actually consider it a topic worthy of study in and of itself.

**3. POPULARITY:** Wikipedia emerged when searchable information via Google search was still new to millions online, around 2002. Quickly, Wikipedia earned a high Google ranking for searchable information - so it was easy to discover for most people. Wikipedia also quickly gained notoriety - with its idealistic and utilitarian message via Wikimedia Foundation, and more and more online users became aware of the message and felt more comfortable linking to it. Wikipedia emerged when the web was new, naive, and very idealistic. It reflected those ideals the best.

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