

The background features a textured, light-colored paper surface. In the upper right, there is a faint, stylized illustration of a mountain range. On the right side, a willow tree with dark, thin branches and small, dark buds is depicted. The text is centered and overlaid on this background.

Wikipedia Sociographics

Jimmy Wales

President, Wikimedia Foundation

Wikipedia Founder

Today's Talk

- ❖ Quick introduction to who we are and what we are doing
- ❖ Two views of how Wikipedia works
- ❖ Details about the Community

What is the Wikimedia Foundation?

- ❖ Non-profit foundation
- ❖ Aims to distribute a free encyclopedia to every single person on the planet in their own language
- ❖ Wikipedia and its sister projects
- ❖ Funded by public donations
- ❖ Applying for grants

wikimediafoundation.org

What is Wikipedia?

- ❖ Wikipedia is a freely licensed encyclopedia written by thousands of volunteers in many languages
- ❖ Free license allows others to freely copy, redistribute, and modify our work commercially or non-commercially
- ❖ Founded January 15, 2001

wikipedia.org

Advantages of Freely Licensed Content

- ❖ GNU Free Documentation Licence
- ❖ Allows authors to retain attribution
- ❖ Remains non-proprietary
- ❖ Enhances the popularity of Wikipedia
- ❖ Decreases individual sense of ownership
- ❖ Increases a sense of shared ownership

Free Software

- ❖ MediaWiki is GPL
- ❖ We use all free software on the website
- ❖ GNU/Linux
- ❖ Apache
- ❖ MySQL
- ❖ Php

How big is Wikipedia?

- ❖ English Wikipedia is largest and has over 130 million words
- ❖ English Wikipedia larger than Britannica and Microsoft Encarta combined
- ❖ In 15 months the publicly distributed compressed database dumps may reach 1 terabyte total size

How big is Wikipedia Globally?

- ❖ English – 412,000 articles
- ❖ German – 172,000 articles
- ❖ Japanese – 87,000 articles
- ❖ French – 66,000 articles
- ❖ Swedish – 53,000 articles
- ❖ Over 1.2 million across 200 languages
- ❖ 19 with >10,000. 52 with >1000

How popular is Wikipedia?

- ❖ According to Alexa.com, Wikipedia is more popular than the websites of:
- ❖ IBM
- ❖ Paypal
- ❖ Open Directory Project
- ❖ Geocities
- ❖ ~400 Million pageviews monthly

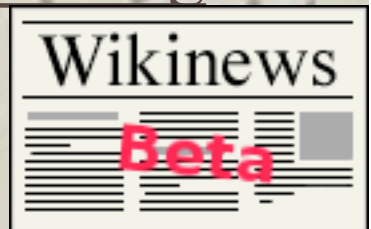
Wikimedia Projects

- ❖ Wikipedia
- ❖ Wiktionary
- ❖ Wikibooks
- ❖ Wikisource
- ❖ Wikiquote
- ❖ Wikispecies
- ❖ Wikimedia Commons
- ❖ Wikinews

Wikinews

- ❖ Community edited news along the same principles of Wikipedia
- ❖ Very new project currently in beta stage
- ❖ Aims of the project
- ❖ Review process and article stages
- ❖ Current issues with the project




wikinews.org



Welcome to [Wikinews](#), a [free content](#) news source. We started in November 2004, and have currently written 112 articles. Our [mission](#) is to create an environment where citizen journalists can independently report the news on a wide variety of current events. [Find out how you can get involved right now.](#)

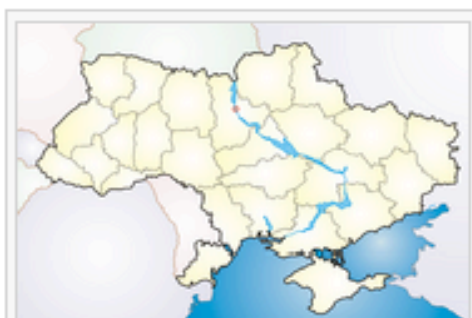
Please give us some time to sort out the policies and procedures before relying on Wikinews as a source. Voice your opinion on policies at [the talk page](#) or the [Wikinews:Water cooler](#).

Submit logo suggestions in the [Wikinews logo contest](#) on Meta!

 *Articles in development, controversial and unreviewed articles*  *Articles being reviewed*
 *Articles which have passed peer review*

Latest news

- [Report: Ukraine political crisis](#). The Ukrainian legislature has voted to replace the government of Prime Minister [Viktor Yanukovich](#) with an interim government as the election dispute is resolved.
- [Blog declared Word of the Year](#). Merriam-Webster's Dictionary has announced that



Ukraine political crisis 

Articles being written and edited:

Development:

- [Omnibus Appropriations bill includes many unrelated riders](#)
- [US Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge resigns](#)
- [US president Bush visits Canada](#)
- [China and South East Asian nations to create the world's largest free trade area.](#)
- [Researchers discover high temperature enables more efficient hydrogen generation](#)
- [Record computer outage at UK government department](#)
- [170 workers trapped in Chinese mine after](#)



Wikimedia's Hardware

- ❖ 30+ servers
- ❖ Squid caching servers in front to serve cached objects quickly
- ❖ Apache/PHP webservers in the middle
- ❖ Database backend (MySQL)

MediaWiki

- ❖ MediaWiki is one of many wiki engines
- ❖ Collaborative software that allows users to add or edit content
- ❖ Primarily developed for Wikipedia from 2002 onwards
- ❖ Scalable and multilingual
- ❖ Free license

MediaWiki features

- ❖ Quality control features (versioning)
- ❖ Editing features (simple markup)
- ❖ Community features (talk pages, profiles, access levels)

Page History

Flat Earth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 22:40, 12 Feb 2003

[Ed Poor](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

okay, I'm done. Comments?

Revision as of 22:42, 12 Feb 2003

[Eloquence](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

second para

Line 1:

The "'flat earth"' theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain. Some ancient Greek philosophers began to discuss the idea of a spherical earth, notably Eratosthenes and Ptolemy.

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had pretty much died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few diehards hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

Line 1:

The "'flat earth"' theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from early antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain; by the time of [[Pliny the Elder]], however, its spherical shape was generally acknowledged. [[Ptolemy]] derived his maps from a curved globe and developed the system of [[latitude]] and [[longitude]].

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Even before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had almost died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

- [Main Page](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Donations](#)

search

toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
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in other languages

- [Afrikaans](#)
- [Alemannisch](#)
- [Bahasa Melayu](#)
- [العربية](#)
- [Asturianu](#)
- [Български](#)
- [Bosanski](#)
- [Català](#)
- [Česky](#)
- [Cymraeg](#)
- [Dansk](#)
- [Deutsch](#)
- [Eesti](#)
- [Ελληνικά](#)
- [Español](#)
- [Esperanto](#)

Europe is a [continent](#) forming the westernmost part of the [Eurasian](#) supercontinent. Europe is bounded to the north by the [Arctic Ocean](#), to the west by the [Atlantic Ocean](#), to the south by the [Mediterranean Sea](#) and the [Black Sea](#), and to the east by the [Ural Mountains](#).

In terms of [area](#), Europe is the world's second smallest continent, with an area of 10,400,000 km² (4,000,000 square miles), making it slightly larger than [Australia](#).

In terms of [population](#) it is the third largest continent after [Asia](#) and [Africa](#). The population of Europe in 2001 was estimated to be 666,498,000: roughly one ninth of the world's population.

Contents [\[show\]](#)

Etymology

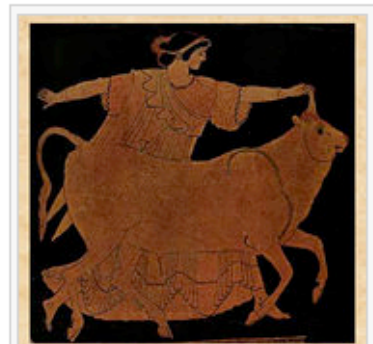
In ancient Greek mythology, [Europa](#) was a [Phoenician](#) princess who was abducted by a bull-shaped [Zeus](#) and taken to the island of [Crete](#), where she gave birth to [Minos](#). For [Homer](#), **Europa** ([Greek](#): Ευρώπη) was a mythological queen of Crete, not a geographical designation. Later *Europa* stood for mainland Greece and by [500 BC](#) its meaning was extended to lands to the north.

The term *Europe* is generally derived from Greek words meaning broad (*eurys*) and face (*ops*). A minority, however, see a [Semitic](#) origin, pointing to the Semitic word *ereb* which means "sunset". From a Middle Eastern viewpoint, the sun sets over Europe: the lands to the west.

History

Main article: [History of Europe](#)

Europe has a long history of cultural and economic achievement, starting as far back as the [palaeolithic](#). Origins of Western democratic and individualistic culture are often laid in [Ancient Greece](#); the [Roman Empire](#) divided the continent along the [Rhine](#) and [Danube](#) for several centuries. Following the decline of the Roman Empire, Europe entered a long period of stasis, referred to by [Renaissance](#) thinkers as the "[Dark Ages](#)" and by the [Enlightenment](#) and modern historians, as the [Middle Ages](#). During this time isolated monastic communities in [Ireland](#) and elsewhere carefully safeguarded and compiled knowledge accumulated previously. The [Renaissance](#) and the [New Monarchs](#) marked the start of a period of discovery, exploration, and increase in scientific knowledge. From the [15th century Portugal](#) opened the age of discoveries soon followed by [Spain](#). They were later joined by [France](#), [Belgium](#), [the Netherlands](#) and [Britain](#), in building large colonial empires, with vast holdings in [Africa](#), [the Americas](#), and [Asia](#).



Picture of [Europa](#), carried away by bull-shaped [Zeus](#).

Customisable interface language



WIKIPEDIA
La Enciclopedia Libre

navegación

- [Portada](#)
- [Portal de la comunidad](#)
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otros idiomas

Angela [mi discusión](#) [preferencias](#) [lista de seguimiento](#) [mis contribuciones](#) [salir](#)

[artículo](#) [discusión](#) [editar](#) [historial](#) [trasladar](#) [vigilar](#)

British Broadcasting Corporation

La **British Broadcasting Corporation** (Corporación Británica de Difusión), mejor conocida como **BBC**, es una empresa de [radio](#) y [televisión](#) publica de alcance nacional del [Reino Unido](#), la cual ofrece también algunos servicios internacionales de radio y televisión. Es una de las difusoras más respetadas del mundo.

Fue fundada el [18 de octubre 1922](#). Principalmente tuvo servicios radiales, hasta que el [2 de noviembre 1936](#) empezó también a transmitir programas de televisión en forma regular. Los servicios de TV fueron suspendidos entre [1939-1946](#) por la [Segunda Guerra Mundial](#)

Previamente a la introducción de la televisión independiente en [1955](#) y subsecuentemente la radio independiente en [1973](#), la BBC sostuvo un monopolio sobre la difusión en el Reino Unido.

El financiamiento de la BBC proviene de un impuesto que todo dueño de un aparato de televisión debe pagar en el Reino Unido.

 *Este artículo es, por ahora, sólo un [esbozo](#). [Ampliándolo](#)  ayudarás a mejorar [Wikipedia](#).*

Categorías: [Wikipedia:Esbozo](#)

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Can Wikipedia Content Be Trusted?

- ❖ Review processes
- ❖ Partly post-moderation, partly reactive moderation
- ❖ Linking to particular revisions
- ❖ Development of a stable version
- ❖ Free license allows you to modify it

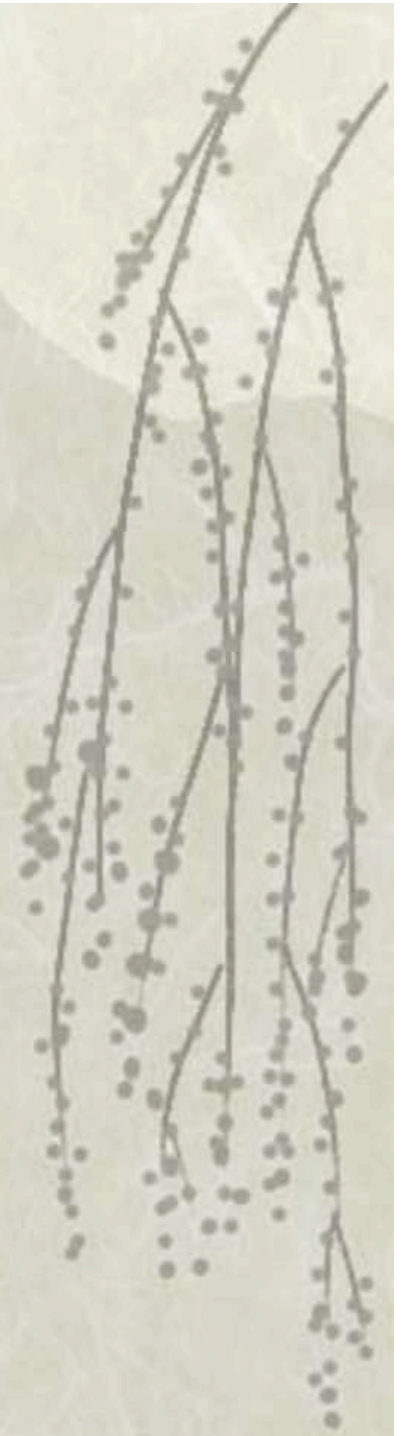
The background of the slide features a textured, light-colored paper-like surface. In the upper right, there is a faint, stylized illustration of a mountain range. On the right side, there is a detailed illustration of a willow tree with long, thin branches and clusters of small, dark, round buds or leaves.

Two Views of Wikipedia

- Emergent Phenomenon,
pseudoDarwinian
- Community of thoughtful users

Quote showing Emergent

Add a quote here to show the idea of
emergent phenomenon



Emergent Phenomenon?

- ❖ Thousands of individual users who don't know each other each contribute a little bit
- ❖ Out of this emerges a coherent body of work



A Community?



London



Berlin



Genoa



A dedicated group of a few hundred volunteers who know each other and work to guarantee the quality and integrity of the content.

Implications

- ❖ Emergent Model
- ❖ Need reputation mechanisms like Ebay, Slashdot
- ❖ Users are tiny, have no power
- ❖ Community Model
- ❖ Reputation is a natural outgrowth of human interactions
- ❖ Users are powerful, must be respected

80/10 Rule

- ❖ Counting only logged in users, and even excluding some prominent approved bot users
- ❖ 10 percent of all users make 80% of all edits
- ❖ 5 percent of all users make 66% of edits
- ❖ Half of all edits are made by just 2 1/2 percent of all users

Edits by Anons

- ❖ Controversial, intriguing
- ❖ Yes, you can edit this page
- ❖ Without logging in!

Edits by Anons - %

- ❖ Anonymous ip numbers can edit Wikipedia, and do
- ❖ But these edits make up a total of around 18% of all edits, with some evidence of a downward trend over time
- ❖ Anecdotally, many regular users report sometimes editing anonymously by accident or as a quiet form of Sock Puppeting

Edits across namespaces

- ❖ Articles 85%
- ❖ Talk pages 8%
- ❖ User Page 3%
- ❖ User Talk Pages 4%

These percentages are stable in 2003
And 2004

The background of the slide features a light beige, textured paper-like surface. In the upper right, a dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible. On the right side, a dark, thin branch of a willow tree hangs down, adorned with numerous small, dark, round buds.

If Wikipedia is a community...

- How does it work?
- Who are the users?
- How do they self-regulate?

Many types of users

- ❖ As in any society, there are many types of people -- these types are reflected in editing patterns
- ❖ Individual users may not fit cleanly into a single type, but thinking about editing patterns is a helpful way to understand the community

Broad Types

- ❖ Social types - Socialites, Trolls
- ❖ Article types - Worker Bees, POV pushers
- ❖ Policy types - Police, Judges
- ❖ Controversy lovers - Moths
- ❖ Pseudo-users - Sock puppets, Vandals
- ❖ Extra-Wiki - Mailing list, IRC, Board activities, Developers

Bees

- ❖ The most important users at Wikipedia
- ❖ But may go unnoticed unless special attention is given
- ❖ Generalists
- ❖ Specialists
- ❖ Proof-readers

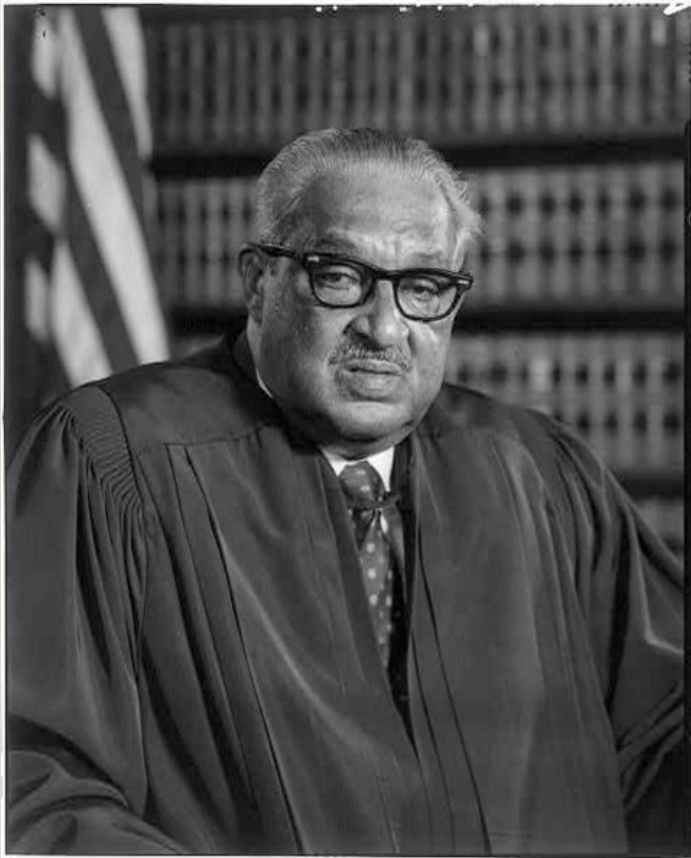


Sock Puppet



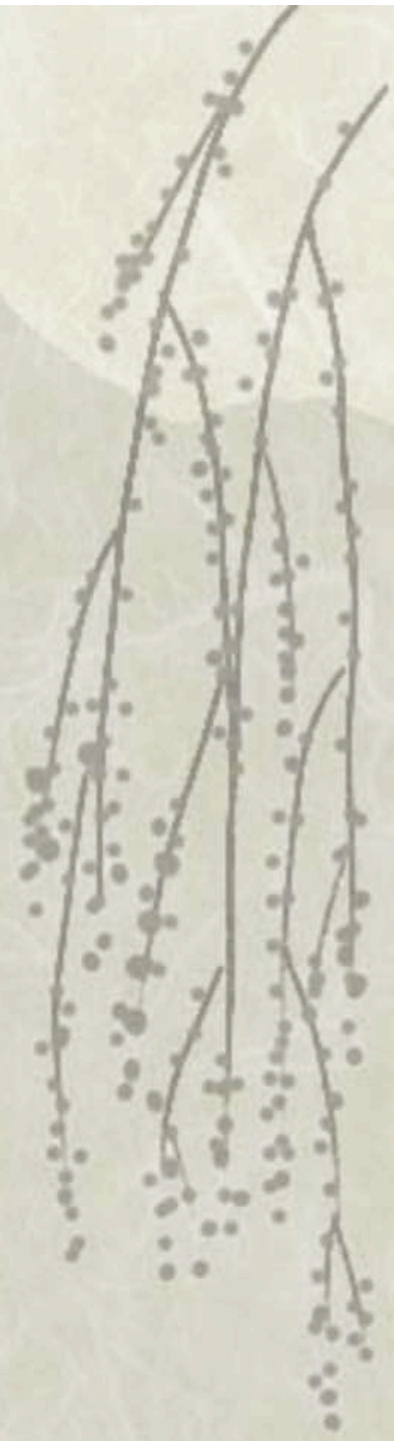
- ❖ Not all sock puppets are bad
- ❖ Privacy
- ❖ The chance to start over
- ❖ But when used wrongly, is one of the worst offenses

Judge



- ❖ Arbitration Committee
- ❖ Mediation Committee
- ❖ Casual
Arbitration/Mediation

Troll



Police



Moth

- ❖ Drawn to flames
- ❖ Not necessarily a bad thing - some people thrive on controversy



Vandal

- ❖ Less of a problem for the community than most people assume
- ❖ Vandalism is easy to revert, and blocking vandals (temporarily) slows them down and takes the fun away

Outside the Wiki

- ❖ Developers - coders and system admins
- ❖ IRC Channels
- ❖ Mailing lists

Wikipedia Governance

- ❖ A confusing but workable mix of
- ❖ Consensus
- ❖ Democracy
- ❖ Aristocracy
- ❖ Monarchy
- ❖ Wikipedians are flexible about social methodology: results over process

Community Challenges

- ❖ How can such a large community scale?
 - Through software features
 - Through policy (mediation, arbitration)
 - Through an atmosphere of love and respect

Neutral Point of View policy

- ❖ NPOV - Neutral Point of View
- ❖ Diverse political, religious, cultural backgrounds
- ❖ Kept together by our “NPOV” policy
- ❖ NPOV is a social concept of co-operation, avoids some philosophical issues.

Community Self-Regulation

- ❖ **Quality control features:** recent changes, watchlists, related changes, page histories, user contributions lists
- ❖ **Community features:** talk pages, user profiles, access levels, user-to-user email, message notification.

Organisation by the Community

- ❖ The free-form nature of the wiki software lets the community determine how it wants to interact
 - Example: *Votes For Deletion*

2.27 Twisted Issues

[edit]

This is supposed to be an underground punk film from 1988, but it miserably fails the Google test^[22], suggesting that its fame is doubtful. [JFW](#) | [T@lk](#) 15:53, 18 Nov 2004 (UTC)

- Delete please [JFW](#) | [T@lk](#) 15:53, 18 Nov 2004 (UTC)
- **Delete**. Non-notable. [力伟](#) | [☉](#) 18:29, 18 Nov 2004 (UTC)
- ~~Tentative weak~~ **Keep**. If it's [this](#) "1989 Charles Pinion film Twisted Issues -- a 'psycho-punk splatter-comedy' which [Film Threat](#) Video Guide named to its list of 'Twenty Underground Films You Must See!'" - its notability is at worst debatable. [Samaritan](#) 19:45, 18 Nov 2004 (UTC)
- Clean Up: It needs a lot of work, but it's possible. (N.b. we're going to be in rough shape if we try to replicate the Psychotronic book or Film Threat.) [Geogre](#) 20:43, 18 Nov 2004 (UTC)
- Keep, real movie -- <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0249209/combined> -- but cleanup. [RickK](#) 21:29, Nov 18, 2004 (UTC)
- **Keep** and cleanup. [DCEdwards1966](#) 03:49, Nov 20, 2004 (UTC)
- **Keep** it. [RaD Man](#) ([talk](#)) 19:31, 20 Nov 2004 (UTC)

International Community

- ❖ Interlanguage linking of articles
- ❖ Choice of language interface
- ❖ Global newsletter: *Quarto*
- ❖ “Translation of the week”



Conclusion

- ❖ Wikipedia is a community
- ❖ Automated and artificial Slashdot-style reputation metrics are not needed and may not be desirable
- ❖ Achieving quality levels equalling or exceeding traditional publishing models can be expected without “emergent” magic