Annual Report

Submitted to the General Assembly 2008 for approval

WIKIMEDIA CH

Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge

Facts and Figures

As of 10.03.2008, Wikimedia CH has 62 members.
Thereof, 6 are supportive members. Further, 4 members are legal entities.

Between 24.08.2007 and 14.05.2008, the board of Wikimedia CH consists of

Michael Bimmler, President
Frédéric Schütz, Press speaker Romandie
Robin Schwab, Treasurer (since 15.12.2007)
Christian Seidl, Member
Nando Stöcklin, Press speaker Deutschschweiz
Rupert Thurner, Treasurer (until 15.12.2007)
Ilario Valdelli, Press speaker Ticino

The new board, elected by the General Assembly 2008 will take up its work on 14.05.2008, 60 days after the General Assembly.

Christian Seidl has submitted that he will not seek re-election in this year's Assembly; his resignation will be effective on the 14.05.2008
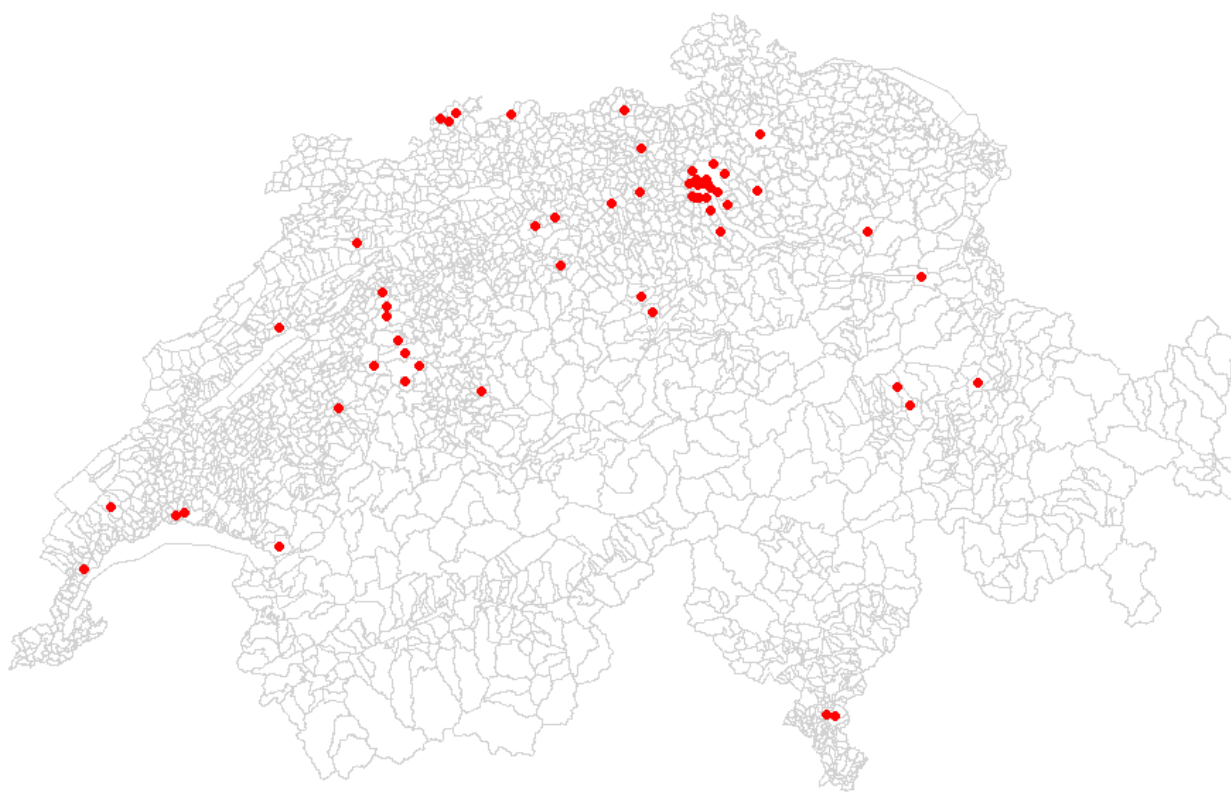We would like to thank Christian, who has been active as board member since the foundation of Wikimedia CH, very much for his efforts and for his always valuable contributions to our discussions. We hope that he will continue to be involved with Wikimedia CH as a member.

In the same time period, auditors of Wikimedia CH have been

Patrick Kenel
Jürg Studer

Chief Information Officer of Wikimedia CH is Manuel Schneider

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Map showing the locations of members of Wikimedia CH

This map was created by Frédéric Schütz, using the boundary data set "GG25" from SwissTopo, which Wikimedia CH bought in 2007 for the benefit of all Wikimedians.

The dataset GG25 contains all national, cantonal, district and municipality limits of Switzerland in vector form, see

http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/products/landscape /gg25.html

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Wikipedia Day Berne

On September 29, 2007 the third Swiss Wikipedia Day took place at the College of Education in Berne (PHBern). It was mainly sponsored by the PHBern. Further sponsor were Migros-Kulturprozent and Digitale Allmend. The content of the Wikipedia Day aimed at 'science workers' such as teachers, lecturers, students and journalists. The introductory speech was held by Nadine Masshardt, youngest member of the parliament of the Canton of Berne.

Further speakers were:

- Dr. Donat Agosti, Natural History Museum, Berne
- Dr. Peter Haber, University of Basel, and Jan Hodel, College of Education at the University of Applied Sciences Nordwestschweiz, Aarau
- Dr. Marco Jorio, Editor-in-chief, Historical Dictionary of Switzerland
- Michail Jungierek, Administrator, German Wikisource
- Delphine Ménard, Chapters Coordinator, Wikimedia Foundation
- Dr. Emanuel Meyer, Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
- Irmgard Wiesner, Administrator, German Wikipedia

A workshop about Wikipedia was held by Christian Seidl, Administrator in the German Wikipedia and board member of Wikimedia CH. The Wikipedia day was moderated by Wolf Ludwig, co-president of Comunica-ch.
More then 60 visitors were counted at the time of the first speech. By guess, another 20 visitors came later. Our member Manuel Schneider transmitted the speeches live in the internet; about 80 additional persons used this service. The speeches are now available as audio and video files on http://www.wikipediatag.ch/master.php?lang=de&pag=/ed03/03.

Media were very interested in the Wikipedia Day in Berne. It was mentioned in multiple broadcasts of Swiss Radio DRS and in several newspapers. The Tagesschau of Swiss TV (SF) was present with a team and brought a substantial report in the main edition on the same evening. (See also Press Review, below)

Thanks a lot to the organising committee, Daniel Boos, Robin Schwab and Nando Stöcklin for this outstanding event!

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Wikipedia Day Lugano

The second Wikipedia Day had been scheduled for the 4th and 5th May 2007 in the SUPSI (Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana), in Manno, near Lugano. It was organized by Wikimedia CH with the collaboration of Wikimedia Italia and SUPSI.

The subject of the 2nd Wikipedia Day was: "Open Software, Open Content and its main aim was to explain and make clear the difference between these two concepts.

So far, software was the thing one would think of when hearing the term "open content", but with Wikipedia a new chapter began, applying concepts like the GFDL to texts, images, videos, and so forth.

The first day introduced free software and the licenses which go along with it, the second day explained what Wikipedia is, and what Wikimedia is.

Workshops during the Wikipedia Day included 'Making articles', 'Wikification and format', 'Patrolling', 'Related projects', 'Equipments to write' and 'Equipments to control'.

The following people have given speeches on Wikipedia Day Lugano:

- Frieda Brioschi, (former) President, Wikimedia Italia
- Lorenzo de Tomasi, Creative Commons Italia, Frontiere Digitali
- Luca Mascaro, User Experience Architect
- Oscar Van Dillen, Wikimedia Foundation
- Felix Würz, SOPlink

Wikipedia Day Lugano received a lot of media coverage, with reports in RTSI, Retetre and Varesenews (see also Press Review, below).

Thanks a lot to the organising committee, Lorenzo Sommaruga, Ilario Valdelli and Mauro Cassina for this truly successful event!

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Further activities

CD2

Wikimedia CH is taking part in a project called "Collaborative Distributed – Content Development", which is led by the Libresoft Group at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid. Quoting from the project description:

"The main goal of the CD2 project is to develop a new technical infrastructure to support the deployment of large coordinated collections of multimedia materials. The architectural design of this infrastructure will be based on the premises of exploiting opportunities for decentralisation (including large scale usage of donated resources hosted at user locations), collaborative enhancements to the collection (including collaborative editing) and production and improvement of materials by consumers of information (prosumers). The project will use extensively Wikipedia and other Mediawiki projects as case examples, for gaining knowledge about their social usage, and for establishing test beds dealing with real problems. The infrastructure will be based upon emerging technologies (wikis, peer to peer networking and the Web 2.0) for improving data accessibility and system availability. The project will also analyse and present convenient strategies for the exploitation of the new solutions developed inside this research initiative. All of this is expected to be a basis for the next generation of multimedia digital libraries."

This project is currently applying for EU funds under the "FP7 ICT" programme. While it did not succeed in the first call of the programme, it is currently submitted for a further round and we will provide updates as soon as an EU decision has been communicated.

175 years Public School Zurich

Wikimedia CH advised and helped in the "175 years Public School Zurich" event series, specifically in a part about Wikipedia. Christian Seidl held workshops with several classes and explained Wikipedia. Further, Wikipedia (which was deemed a 'resource' for the purposes of this government project) was featured in all official documentation of the Department of Education (Zurich) concerning this jubilee.

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Fundraising

While the financial report of the treasurer will provide a detailed account of the association's financial success, it should just be briefly pointed out that Wikimedia CH has had a most positive year in terms of fundraising. Due to increased visibility of Wikimedia CH on Wikipedia and Wikimedia pages, we have been the second most successful chapter (in absolute revenue) and even the most successful chapter (in revenue per inhabitants).
Due to this overwhelming success, we were able to donate CHF 5000 to the Wikimedia Foundation, as support for the maintenance of the Wikimedia projects.

Official Pictures

Due to the efforts of Frédéric Schütz, we have been able to 'liberate' federal official pictures, namely portraits of historic and current Federal Councillors and Chancellors as well as all pictures from the website of the Federal Assembly. All of them can now be used on Wikimedia projects under an "Attribution only" license. We will continue working with Federal Departments and cantonal authorities in order to obtain similar licenses for further images.

Finance

We are currently professionalizing our financial structures, both in terms of accounting and in terms of billing. We are initiating electronic billing systems and are setting up a sophisticated members database which will also allow for reminders of due membership fees.

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Planned projects

Informatica 08 / Celebrities write for Wikipedia

Wikimedia CH is planning a project during which Swiss celebrities are asked to and assisted in writing and submitting Open Content (texts, pictures, recordings) for Wikipedia in areas which they are knowledgeable in. The project, which was started in response to a Call for Projects of 'informatica 08 – Swiss Year of Information Technology", will be carried out in 2008. We are currently discussing the exact form of the project and are negotiating with possible partners.

University Library Zurich (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)

We are in contact with the University Library Zurich and are planning an event in cooperation with them in 2008. The form of the event is not yet decided but could either be a Wikipedia Day or a series of lectures / workshops in the University Library. The audience would be students, other university members and high school students on the one hand and the general public on the other hand. A detailed concept is yet to be established.

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Press Review

General Press Review
- 20 January 2007 - Le Temps: Elle sème à tout vent (presentation of Florence Devouard, president of the Wikimedia Foundation)
- 9 March 2007 - Tagesanzeiger-Podcast: Digitalk 20: Wikipedia
- 14 March 2007 - Symlink: Kolumnen: OpenExpo 2007 vorbei - nächste in Planung
- 16 June 2007 - Swissinfo: Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia senza frontiere
- 5 March 2008 - Kulturplatz, SF 1: Wikipedias Erfolg hat Folgen – über die Grenzen des weltumspannenden «Wissens»

Press Review: Wikipedia Day Lugano
- 29 April 2007 - Varesenews: Wikipedia Day 2007 a Lugano
- 01 May 2007 - Il disinformatico Incontro con la Wikipedia alla SUPSI presso Lugano Incontro con la Wikipedia alla SUPSI
- 02 May 2007 - Punto Informatico: Wikipedia Day a Lugano
- 05 May 2007 - RTSI (Telegiornale): La sfida di Wikipedia
- 05 May 2007 - Retetre (Baobab)

Press Review: Wikipedia Day Berne
- e-ducation 4/2007 (Amtliches Schulblatt des Kantons Bern): Wikipedia-Tag an der PHBern
- 17 September 2007 - Nachrichten.ch: 29. September 2007: Wikipedia-Tag in Bern
- 20 September 2007 - PCtipp: Wikipedia-Tag in Bern
- 24 September 2007 - NZZ: Der Wissensarbeiter
- 25 September 2007 - Klein Report: Samstag, 29. September: Wikipedia-Tag in Bern
- 28 September 2007 - Der Bund: Dritter Wikipedia-Tag
- 28 September 2007 - Uniaktuell: Wikipedia an der Uni: Verpönt, aber rege genutzt
- 28 September 2007 - Radio DRS2, DRS2 aktuell: Wikipedia, hinterfragt von der Wissenschaft

- 28 September 2007 - Radio DRS1, Tagesgespräch: Wikipedia - Perspektiven eines Netzprojekts
- 28 September 2007 - Badische Zeitung: Wikipedia-Tag live im Äther
- 29 September 2007 - SF1, Tagesschau: Wikipedia
- 05 Oktober 2007 - Swissinfo: Wikipedia: Frei manipulierbares freies Wissen?
- 05 Oktober 2007 - Radio DRS 3, Digital Plus (Podcast): Wikipedia-Tag

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Concluding statement

I would like to sincerely thank all the board members, officials and volunteers of Wikimedia CH for their help and support. Their efforts have made 2007 to a truly outstanding year for Wikimedia CH and it was a great pleasure to work with everybody. I am looking forward to a successful 2008 and I'm counting on the assistance from all of you in order to achieve this.

Zurich, in March 2008

Michael Bimmler
President