



WIKIMEDIA
CH

Annual Report

Prepared for the General Assembly
2009

Facts and Figures

As of 22.03.2008, Wikimedia CH has 80 members, which is an increase of about 30% compared to one year before.

Between 14.05.2008 and 27.05.2009, the board of Wikimedia CH consists of

Michael Bimmler, President
Frédéric Schütz, Press speaker Romandie
Robin Schwab, Treasurer
Nando Stöcklin, Press speaker Deutschschweiz
Rupert Thurner, Treasurer
Ilario Valdelli, Press speaker Ticino

The new board, elected by the General Assembly 2009 will formally take up its work on 27.05.2009, 60 days after the General Assembly.

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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PLACEHOLDER FOR IMAGE

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>

Activities

Cooperation with Zentralbibliothek Zürich

The Zentralbibliothek Zürich (Zurich Central and University Library) has joined Wikimedia CH as supporting member and now officially adds content to the German Wikipedia under their own user account, focusing on people with a Zurich background or with connections to the Zentralbibliothek.

Moreover, together with the Zentralbibliothek, Nando Stöcklin has organised an event about Wikipedia for the public as well as a colloquium for the Zurich scientific community in autumn 2008.

We would like to thank Head Librarian Oliver Thiele and the two interns Magnus Wieland and Oliver Schihin for their enthusiasm and cooperation!

Informatica08

On the occasion of the Year of Computer Science in Switzerland, Wikimedia CH aimed to launch its own project: Famous people should write articles for Wikipedia or illustrate existing articles. In order to gain access to the Swiss celebrities, we intended to cooperate with a popular TV emission, "Leben live" on SF1. The "Leben live" team was very interested in making a feature or even a small series displaying those celebrities as they write articles, make pictures or short movies for Wikipedia. Unfortunately, the plans for this project came to an untimely end when SF removed "Leben live" from its schedule in Summer 2008.

SATW workshop

Wikimedia CH has been represented by Robin Schwab at a workshop of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences on November 6th and 7th. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the topic of electronic governance and to formulate recommendations for the federal administration. Wikimedia CH proposed that works which have been created or are preserved by the government should be made available in the Public Domain or under a free license, if possible this should also apply to all works where the majority of financial support comes from the government (e.g. the movie "Mais im Bundeshuus"). The first part of this system is already in use in the United States, however we aim for a more

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comprehensive system which also includes cantonal administrations. We hope that this idea will now receive more publicity than before.

Free content

We have launched a coordinated effort in order to “liberate” images in Switzerland, particularly in cantonal administrations, following the good cooperation with the Federal Chancellery and the Swiss Parliament. Different cantons, both in the Romandie and in German-speaking Switzerland have been contacted and requested to provide images of politicians. This is an ongoing action but all responses so far have been positive.

Wikipedia Offline / openZIM

Wikimedia CH encourages the development of a free standard for Wikipedia offline content as well as all necessary tools to create and read such data. We support these efforts by providing the project team around Tommi Mäkitalo and Manuel Schneider with a server and a budget for developer meetings. A first meeting has been held on 21 February 2009 and initial results have been announced for the “LinuxTag 2009” conference in June.

Wikimania 2008

With financial support from Wikimedia CH, Manuel Schneider and Patrick Kenel participated at the Wikimania, the 4th international conference of the Wikimedia movement, at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria (Egypt) from July 17-19. Main conference topics included communities, free knowledge, technical infrastructure and the scientific track. There was considerable participation by local Egyptians. At the conference, Manuel spoke about the Zeno File Format for 45 minutes and Patrick intervened on behalf of the above Informatica08 project in one session of short “lightning talks”.

Chapters meeting

On behalf of Wikimedia CH, Ilario Valdelli and Rupert Thurner participated at the Wikimedia chapters meeting in Nijmegen, NL. The outcomes, as reported by them:

- Cornerstones of doing fundraising in future have been discussed, and how a cooperation between chapters and Wikimedia Foundation could work out. The target would be to split donations in a country in a 50-50

ratio; if the donation was due to an involvement of the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). the 50% part of the WMF would be paid directly to the WMF or spent with the agreement of the WMF.

- General brainstorming on how the chapters could develop further. It was agreed to report regularly so other chapters could pick up ideas
- Discussion on how to fill the seats on the WMF's board of trustees which the chapters are asked to nominate candidates for. The outcome did not prove practicable afterwards, but the people knew each other sufficiently to find a workable solution.

Wikimedia CH also financially supported Wikimedia Austria's attendance.

Chapters workspace

As many chapters requested to be able to use a 'workspace' independently from the Wikimedia Foundation's server, Wikimedia CH sponsored a mailinglist and a wiki to which all chapters board members have access. Currently, it is mainly used to discuss the nomination for the "chapters seats" on the Wikimedia Foundation's Board of Trustees, but it can be used for other discussions in the future.

Contact with like-minded organisations

Frédéric Schütz has been actively meeting other organizations in Switzerland, particularly in the Romandie, which are active in the Free Software / Open Content movement. Two reunions were held in 2008.

Domain management

Several Wikimedia-related domains in Switzerland and Liechtenstein have been registered by third parties and used to serve advertising. We have ourselves registered all the domains that were still available and have contacted the other domain holders and requested them to transfer the domains. Some domains have been transferred, with regards to others, correspondence is continuing.

E-bills

On the initiative of our treasurer, Wikimedia CH was one of the first associations in Switzerland to participate in a system of electronic bills set up by the Swiss banks and PostFinance. This will significantly decrease the administrative effort of Wikimedia CH to levy its membership fees as well as of the individual member to pay them. The

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service will be more broadly publicised in 2009 after a successful pilot phase with board members.

Presentations

- 8 November 2007: "Enciclopedia e strumenti di trasmissione del sapere giuridico" - IULM (University of Language and communication) Feltre/Milano (Ilario Valdelli)
- 30 March 2008: "Wikipedia naturalmente bella" - Galassia Gutenberg, book fair, Naples (Ilario Valdelli and Frieda Brioschi, President of Wikimedia IT)
- 24 May 2008: "Wikipedia in der Schule - Verboten oder verwenden?" Open Source Software im Unterricht, EB Zürich (Nando Stöcklin)
- 17 July 2008: "Wikipedia Offline - a technical framework , the Zeno File Format, free readers and indexer", Wikimania 2008, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Manuel Schneider)
- 29 September 2008: "Wikipedia - gewusst wie", Zentralbibliothek Zürich (Nando Stöcklin)
- 15 October 2008: "Wikipédia: quelle fiabilité?", Centre Romand de Formation des Journalistes (Frédéric Schütz)
- 28 October 2008: "Nicht zitierfähig (?) - Wikipedia und Wissenschaft", Zentralbibliothek Zürich (Nando Stöcklin)
- 14 November 2008: "Wikipedias Bottom-Up-Management: Qualität dank Offenheit". Conference "BIT in Action", Federal Office of Information Technology and Telecommunication (Nando Stöcklin)
- 8 December 2008: "Wikipedia und Wissenschaft: Begegnung zweier Welten". Wikipedistik-Workshop, Universität Basel (Nando Stöcklin)

Press Review

General Press Review

- May 2008 – Marketing & Kommunikation, 3/08: „Im Gespräch“
- 6 May 2008 – DRS 1, Treffpunkt: „Händ Sie gwüsst, dass...?“
- 26 September 2008 – Radio 1, Die Afterwork-Sendung: „Wikipedia: Wie richtig nutzen“
- 18 October 2008 – Basler Zeitung: „Die Wissen-Schaffer“
- December 2008 – Spectrum (University of Fribourg): „Homo wikipedianus“
- 19 March 2009 – Tribune de Genève: „Chez Wikipedia – tout est autorégulé“
- 23 March 2009 – 24 heures : „Chez Wikipedia – tout est autorégulé“
- 24 March 2009 – Radio Suisse Romandie : „Médialogues“

Press releases

- 30 December 2008 – Public Domain Day 2009
- 14 January 2009 – Wikimedia CH supports the stats server of Wikimedia Foundation

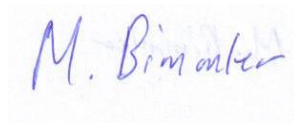
Statement by the President

As I am retiring as President and Board member at this General Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity again to thank everyone who worked with me in the last years: especially the other board members, the auditors and our Chief Information Officer. I would also like to extend my appreciation to our contacts and colleagues at the Wikimedia Foundation and other Wikimedia chapters for their advice and kind collaboration. Last but not least, I wish to thank all members of Wikimedia CH, who have supported us with their enthusiasm for the movement for Free Knowledge, both financially and by volunteering their time in divers activities. Without you, Wikimedia CH truly would not be where it is today.

To the incoming board, I give my best encouragements for your endeavours, I am confident that you will keep Wikimedia CH on the good path it is now and will do everything to further its goals!

Namárië!

Zurich, 20 March 2009



Michael Bimmler
President