

# Wikipedia: Successful Against All Odds

Jos Damen (African Studies Centre, Leiden)

Librarian, ardent Wikipedian and project leader of  
*Wikipedians in Special Residence* (with 12 Dutch heritage institutions)

Wikipedia for Grey Resources – Library of Congress, 2 May 2016

# Wikipedia: overview



- Started January 15, 2001
- Name: *Wiki* (website type / “quick” (Hawaiian) + *encyclopedia*)
- Jimmy Wales and/vs. Larry Singer
- 2016: 290 language editions / 130,000 active editors
- Wiki-EN 5M articles, Wiki-SV 2M, Wiki-DE / NL 1,8M articles
- 18 billion page views per month, 500M unique visitors p.m.
- Only non-commercial website in top-10 popular websites



# Criticism



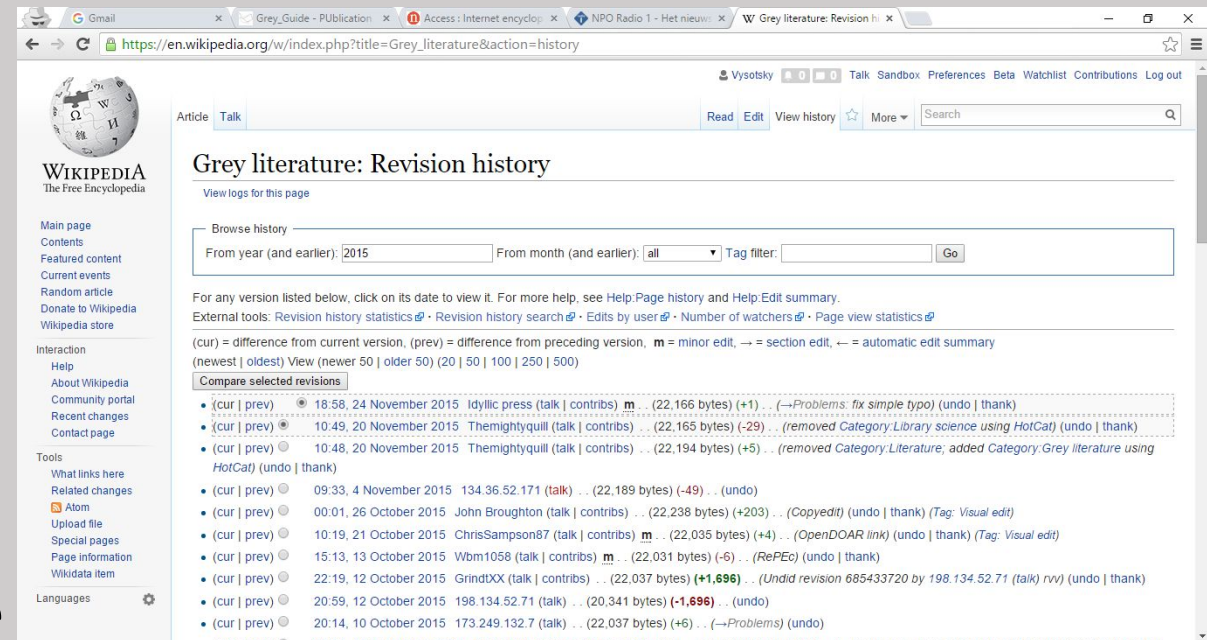
- Not written by experts (*“the lunatics have taken over the asylum”*)
- Peer review by everyone
- Lack of accuracy
- Coherence & quality of writing
- Coverage of topics
- Vandalism



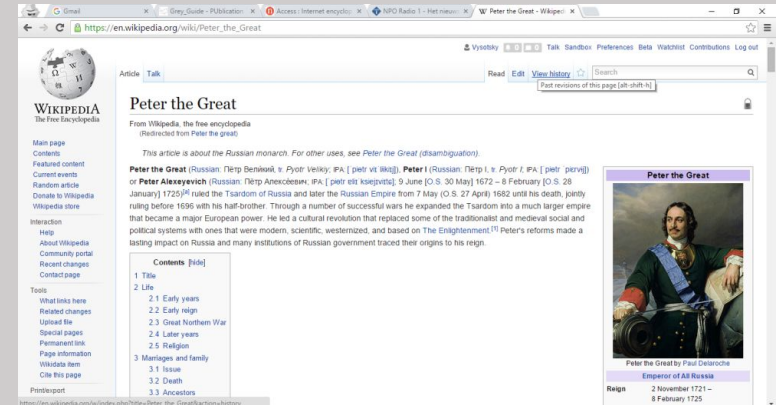
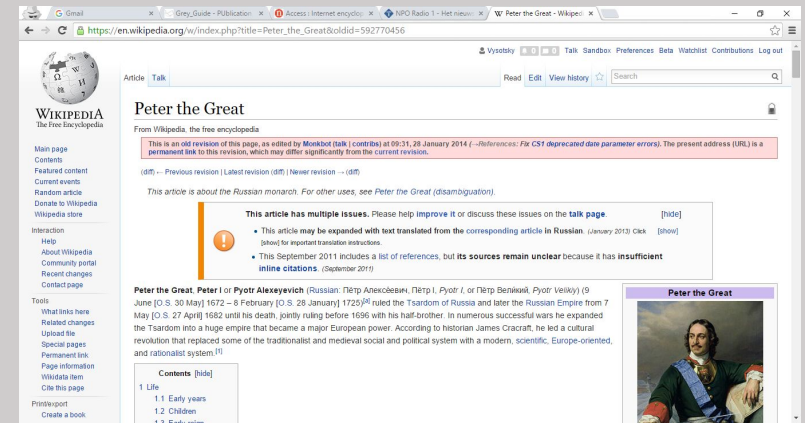
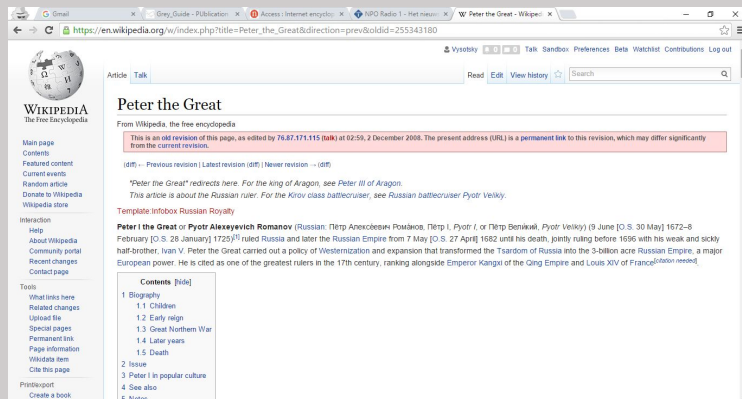
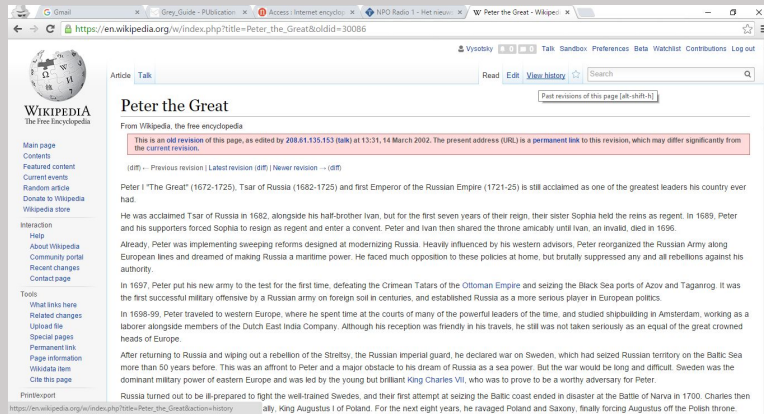
# Success factors



- Free access
- Easy interface
- Google ranking
- Understandable language
- Mass (37M articles)
- Anyone can edit
- Clear structure / all edits visible
- Prizes (*Erasmus Prize 2015*) -> credibility



# 1 article, 100 versions

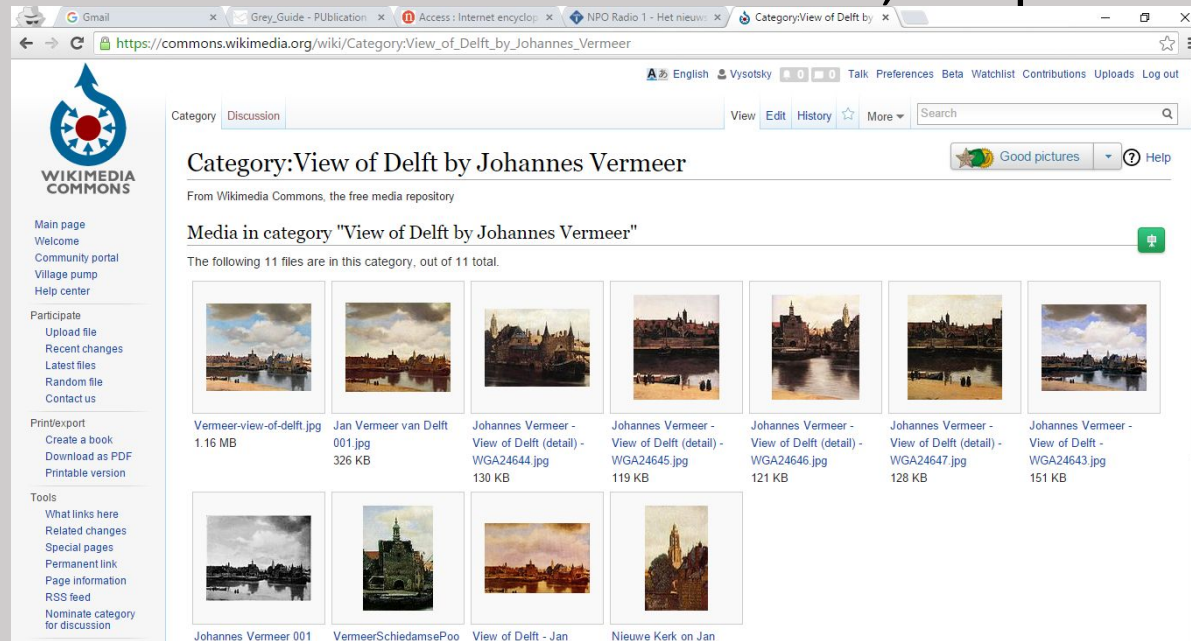
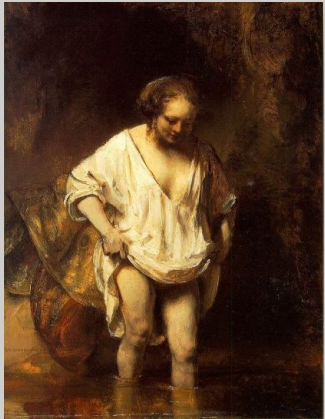




# Images: Wikimedia Commons

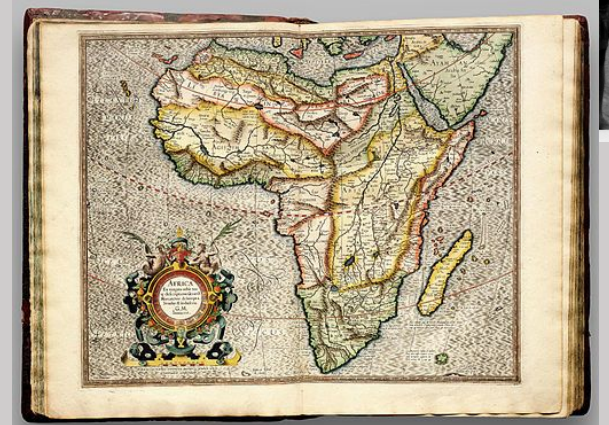
31M “free” images

Wiki loves monuments 2015: 230,000 photos



# *Wikipedian in Residence & GLAM*

- First Wikipedian in Residence (2010): British Museum
- 100. Wikipedian in Residence (2015/16): Bodleian Libraries
- Awareness, uploads, (much) more usage (x1000)
- GLAM-NL: 900,000 uploaded images  
(Dutch National Archives, Naturalis, Rijksmuseum, African Studies)
- Library of Congress: >70,000 images  
(maps, National Photo Company, US FSA/OWI et al.)
- Wellcome Trust: >100,000 images





# Mass uploads

Batch uploading, GLAMwiki toolset (importance of metadata)

2 examples NL:

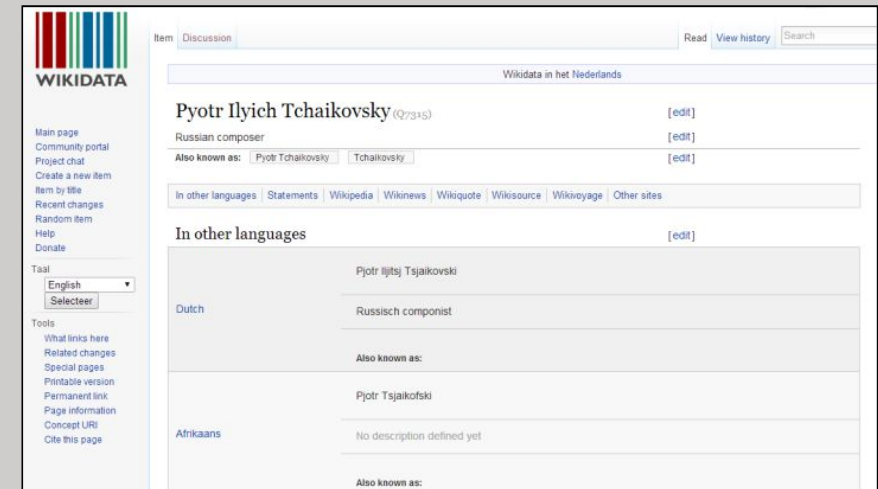
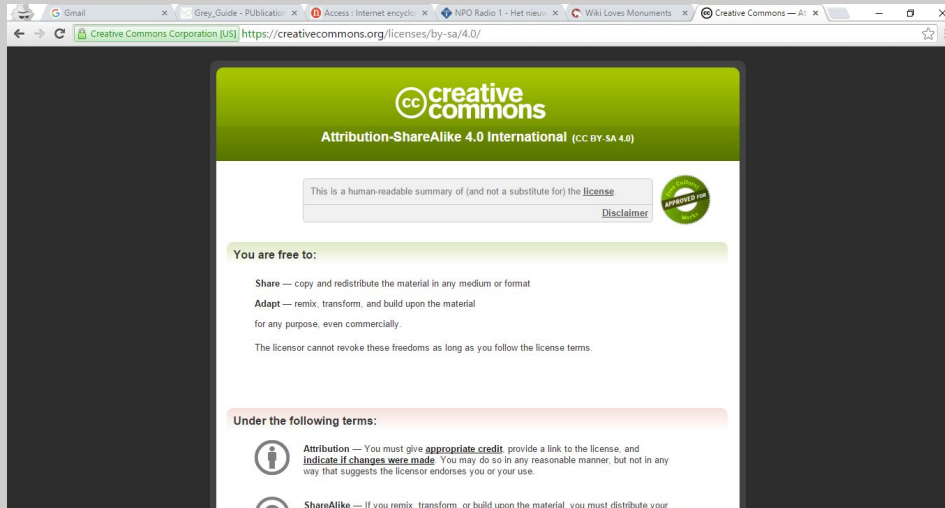
- Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (480,000 images)
- Museum Naturalis (275,000 images)





# More Wiki's & copyright

- WikiSource (>1M books)
- WikiData (structured data, -> bots)
- Copyright: Creative Commons
- CC-BY-SA-4.0



# The Story of the Anne Frank Picture

Anne Frank 1940 - Montessorischool, Niersstraat 41-43, Amsterdam

- US copyright & Dutch copyright
  - “photographer unknown”
  - “published” vs. “made public”
  - Anne Frank Foundation: Basel vs. Amsterdam
- 
- Wikipedia: deletion request, but kept



# Grey organizations & Wiki

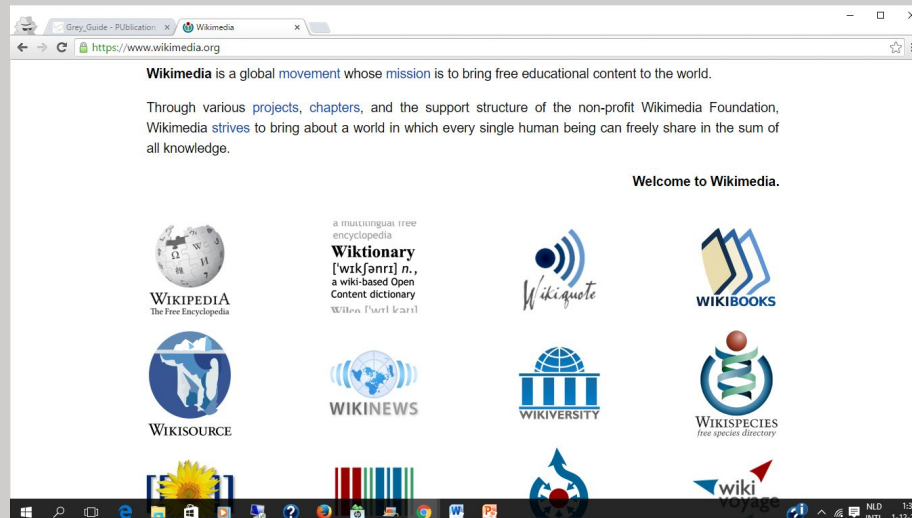
- Look at related Wiki-entries -> facts, images, links
- Think about image donations
- Look at your own collection from the outside
- Beware of POV
- Respect copyright
- No link spam



# Want to know more?

- Wikipedians in Residence

[https://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedian\\_in\\_Residence/nl](https://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedian_in_Residence/nl)



Jos Damen (African Studies Centre, Leiden) [jdamen@ascleiden.nl](mailto:jdamen@ascleiden.nl)