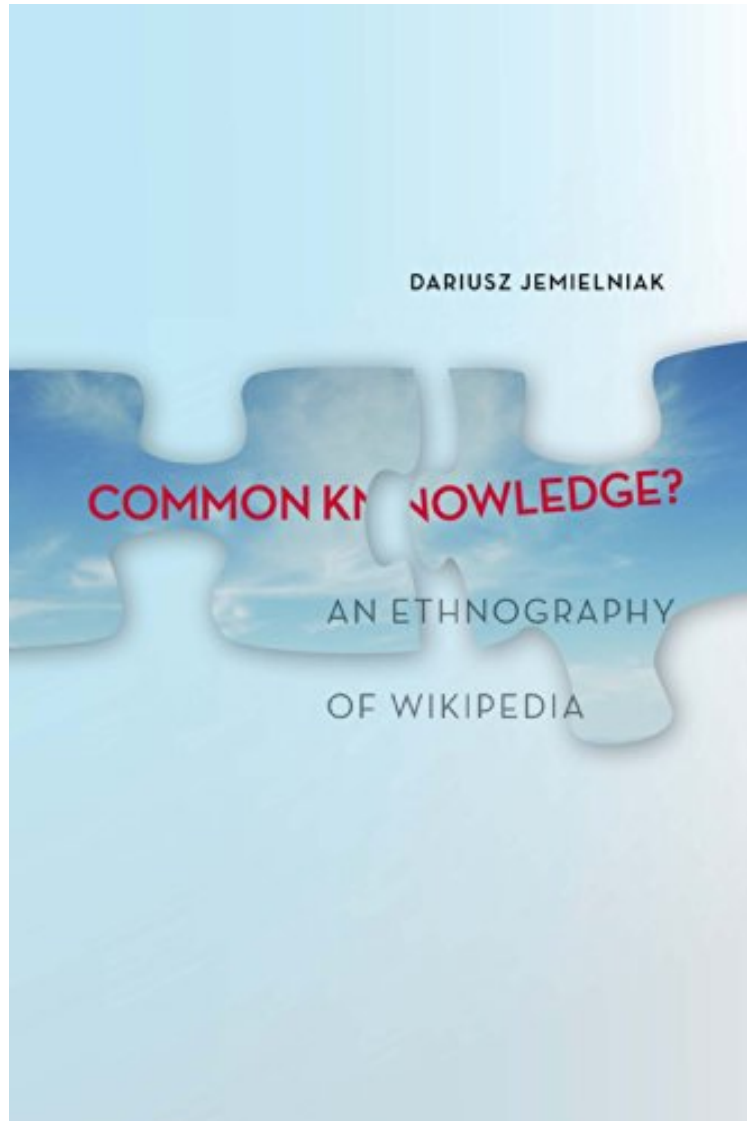


(Library ebook) Common Knowledge?: An Ethnography of Wikipedia

Common Knowledge?: An Ethnography of Wikipedia

Dariusz Jemielniak

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#1481307 in eBooks 2014-05-14 2014-05-14 File Name: B00KNPNL2G | File size: 63.Mb

Dariusz Jemielniak : Common Knowledge?: An Ethnography of Wikipedia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Common Knowledge?: An Ethnography of Wikipedia:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this book. By Wuxtra - Read All About It A thorough academic assessment of Wikipedia structure and politics written from the inside by a longtime insider. Could be considered boring unless you yourself are already interested in the subject. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Truth isn't pretty. By Michal As a long time Wikipedia contributor who knows the high and the lows of Wikipedia it was a very bittersweet read for me. I'm not going to spoil your read but Wikipedia is a weird place, it takes a special person to survive this jungle that's a mix of hard line bureaucracy and soft-as-you-go democracy that's

more about lobbying than anything else. When you get into it, it's like entering another world occupied by Humpty Dumpties (When I use a word, ' Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, `it means just what I choose it to mean -- neither more nor less) who try to outdo each other while you realize you become one of them. Dariusz describes an imperfect world full of imperfect people who try to create a perfect depository of all knowledge and despite the apparent impossibility almost manage it to a large degree. Like his famous countryman, Bronisaw Malinowski (shame on you if you don't know who it is, just look it up on Wikipedia), Jemielniak has totally emerged himself in the culture he is describing and his insider views, real life examples and comments really make this book. It is a little too academic and dry at places when he tries too much to distance himself from his real love to the Wiki ideas but it wasn't enough to make me put it down with a shrug. Oh well, enough of that crap, I'm back to editing Wiki (again). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Analysis of Wikipedia and the rise of the non-expert, work that matters, and hints of dystopia By Greeny This is Dariusz Jemielniak's account of the world's largest open source project and its unique hacker-like culture. It's also a story of interest to anthropologists. This story and analysis made the idea of a virtual, open-collaboration community fascinating to me. I now appreciate that it will influence the future of work for all of us. A casual observer may be satisfied in knowing the simple purpose of Wikipedia -- to build an encyclopedia. But Jemielniak shows how the Wikipedia process works exceptionally well in terms of quality and scale even while under continual threat of parts of itself forking off into other organizations. Its theoretical target is to get to the point where all humans can freely share in humanity's entire collective body of all knowledge in every language. Prior to our current post-industrial turn, hired experts from academia built encyclopedias. Now over 25 million named editors through an open-collaboration-organization movement are building Wikipedia at breakneck speed. And they're doing it without financial remuneration! To imagine the Wikipedia phenomenon as merely due to technology is to miss what is of special interest to anthropologists. The way people work together in the Wikipedia subculture is with complete disregard for academic and experiential credentials existent outside the subculture. Organizations willing to change in order to remain competitive might want to adopt a peer-production and open-collaboration culture. They can look at the Wikipedia experience for guidance. Jemielniak says this organization model "resembles a chaotic bazaar with its independent agents rather than a cathedral." He explains the processes, policies, hierarchies, and attitudes of this chaotic bazaar. Wikipedians are manic about protecting the open source movement and individual privacy. Because one trusts the methods, nobody needs a resume or the vetting of credentials. It's considered good that outside credentials don't matter, since this way legitimizes and encourages a vast army of non-expert contributors. Jemielniak discusses what this means for the future of our society. Scarce products (access to vast high-quality knowledge) are being produced at great scale and made freely available due to the inputs of "massive unpaid labor." This is going to have, is having, huge impacts on many types of jobs. Further, human history is not characterized by benign episodes following a great challenge to the status quo. We may get "increased surveillance, corporate control, and abuse through unpaid labor." This book attracted me to the crazy Wikipedia culture. My admiration for Wikipedia Editors grew.

With an emphasis on peer-produced content and collaboration, Wikipedia exemplifies a departure from traditional management and organizational models. This iconic "project" has been variously characterized as a hive mind and an information revolution, attracting millions of new users even as it has been denigrated as anarchic and plagued by misinformation. Have Wikipedia's structure and inner workings promoted its astonishing growth and enduring public relevance? In *Common Knowledge?*, Dariusz Jemielniak draws on his academic expertise and years of active participation within the Wikipedia community to take readers inside the site, illuminating how it functions and deconstructing its distinctive organization. Against a backdrop of misconceptions about its governance, authenticity, and accessibility, Jemielniak delivers the first ethnography of Wikipedia, revealing that it is not entirely at the mercy of the public: instead, it balances open access and power with a unique bureaucracy that takes a page from traditional organizational forms. Along the way, Jemielniak incorporates fascinating cases that highlight the tug of war among the participants as they forge ahead in this pioneering environment.

"Jemielniak confronts the fascinating politics of Wikipedia as an insider, relaying the healthy clash of cultures and values that ensues as people try to get it right. This is a wonderful, detailed account of Wikipedia's rules and hierarchies, culture of consensus, internal power structures, governance, and leadership especially in its English and Polish incarnations." (Jonathan Zittrain Harvard University and author of *The Future of the Internet And How to Stop It*) "This is a trailblazing study of Wikipedia a phenomenon that is so much in our daily lives, while remaining mysterious to most of us. We should be thankful to Jemielniak for this study. As a seasoned user, an insider, and a scholar, his thorough account introduces us to Wikipedia's inner mechanisms, productive processes, quality controls, splendors, and miseries as a treasury of knowledge that is without precedence and, increasingly, without competition." (Zygmunt Bauman University of Leeds) "*Common Knowledge?* is the first fully ethnographic study of Wikipedia culture. This thoughtful and intellectually provocative study sheds new light on a community behind the largest

collaborative movement of humankind, and is a must-read for all interested in open collaboration movement." (Jimmy Wales founder of Wikipedia)"It's the first anthropological study of an internet hive mind now entering its adolescence. The book pulls off a near-impossible double act, serving as both primer and detailed study on the habits of Wikipedians. It presents Wikipedia as a 'parahierarchy' thriving on its own conflicts, where even the dense catalogue of house rules is subject to reinterpretation . . . [Jemielniak's] depiction of its present and past shows how much the free encyclopaedia has already developed to become a worldwide movement." (Roisin Kiberd Motherboard)"Of all the social artifacts we've built on top of the internet, Wikipedia is at once the strangest and the most familiar. Half a billion people visit every month, but almost no one knows how it works or why. Dariusz Jemielniak has written a thoughtful and multi-faceted account of Wikipedia's culture, contradictions, and challenges." (Clay Shirky New York University and author of Cognitive Surplus: Creativity and Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations)"Wikipedia is breathtakingly important, but it's new enough that it hasn't been studied much yet. This well-informed, thoughtful book from management professor and longtime Wikipedian Dariusz Jemielniak takes readers behind the scenes, exploring how Wikipedia works and why it matters. It's an important addition to the existing literature." (Sue Gardner 2007-2013 Executive Director of Wikimedia Foundation)"Jemielniak presents an evenhanded look at Wikipedia, showing how policy along with a balance of bureaucracy work well. The author explores the problems editors and the Wikimedia Foundation (the nonprofit organization supporting Wikipedia projects) are trying to work through. His criticism is constructive, focusing on situations and issues that have improved or can improve Wikipedia, including how founder Jimmy Wales's role has shifted . . . Methodology, glossary, and an extensive bibliography are included for Wikipedia novices and interested researchers . . . Recommended." (S. Marks CHOICE)About the AuthorDariusz Jemielniak is Professor of Management at Kozminski University in Warsaw, Poland, where he heads the Center for Research on Organizations and Workplaces. Beyond academia, he is a heavily-engaged Wikipedian and was elected in 2015 to the Board of Trustees of Wikimedia Foundation