



“

*An effort to create and distribute a free
encyclopaedia of the highest possible
quality to every single person on the
planet in their own language*

”

Wikipedia

An encyclopaedia made by a
community all over the Internet

What is Wikipedia?

- ❏ Wikipedia is a project of encyclopaedia
 - Free
 - GNU Free Documentation License
 - Wiki concept
 - MediaWiki software
 - Large community over the Internet
 - Multilingual
 - <http://www.wikipedia.org>
 - Sister projects

Brief history of Wikipedia

- ❏ **Founded January 15, 2001**
 - Jimmy Wales
 - president of Wikimedia foundation
 - Started as a complement to Nupedia
 - March 9, 2000: Review process ; too slow
 - “Neutral point of view”
 - After 1 year: 20 000 articles, 18 languages
- ❏ **Boosted by search engines, Slashdot**
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia>

How big is Wikipedia today?

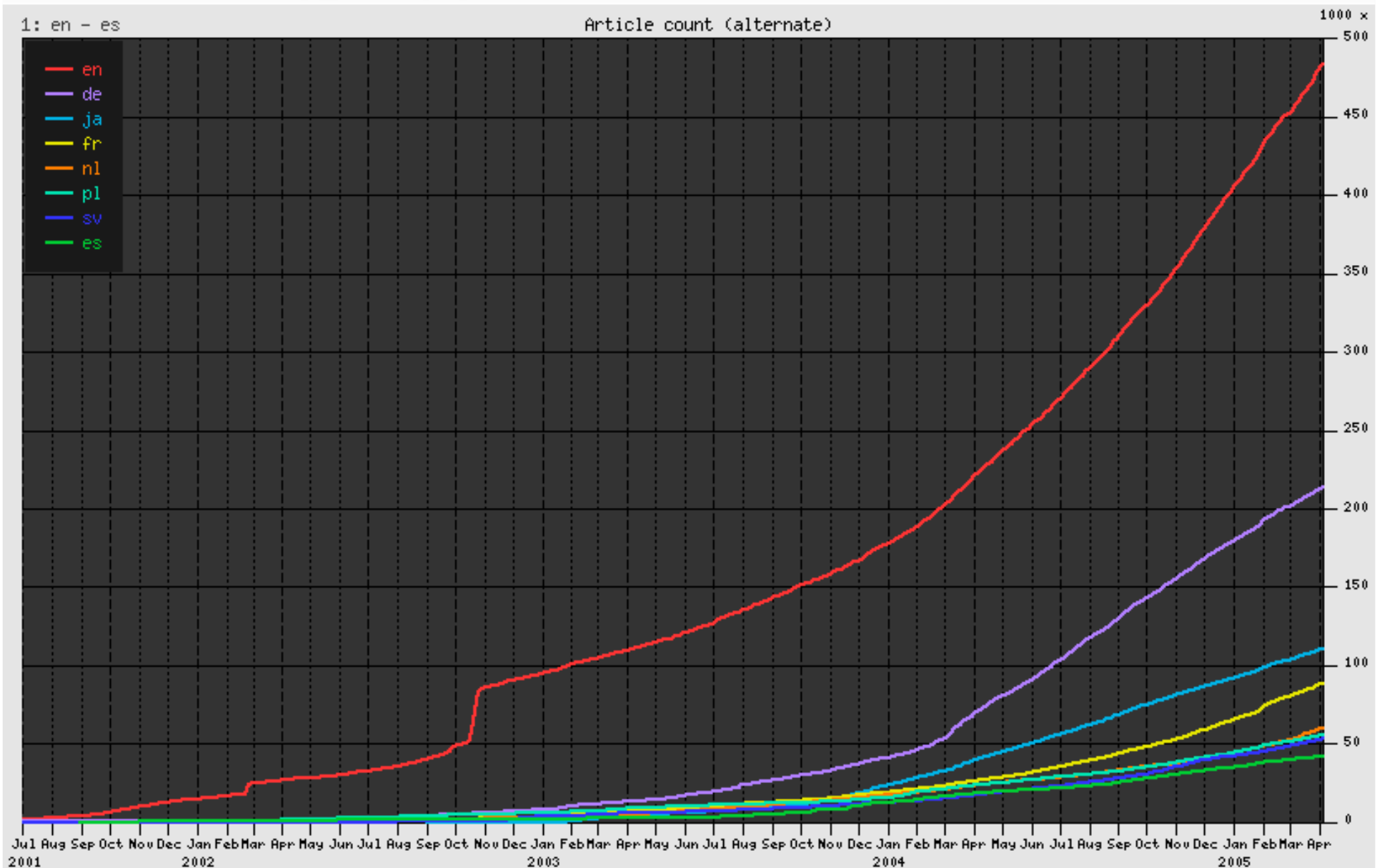
 1.7 million articles (April 2005) >100 languages

- +7% per month, +3 500 per day
- 438 million words, +9% per month
- 28 million links, 5 million interlingual links
- 3.7GB of text for article bodies (1 DVD)
- 556 000 images

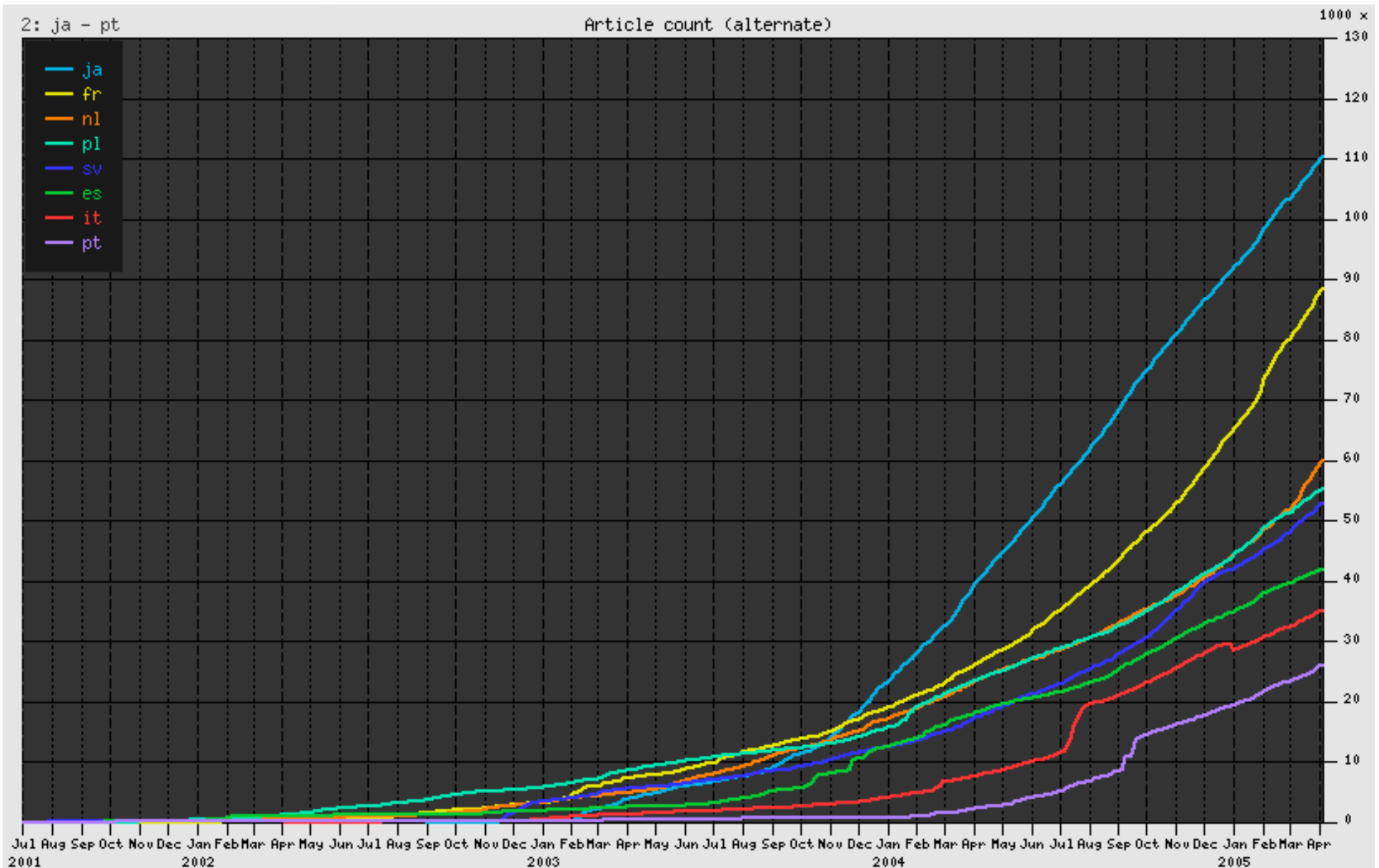
 English version only

- Largest encyclopaedia ever made
- Larger than Britannica + Microsoft Encarta

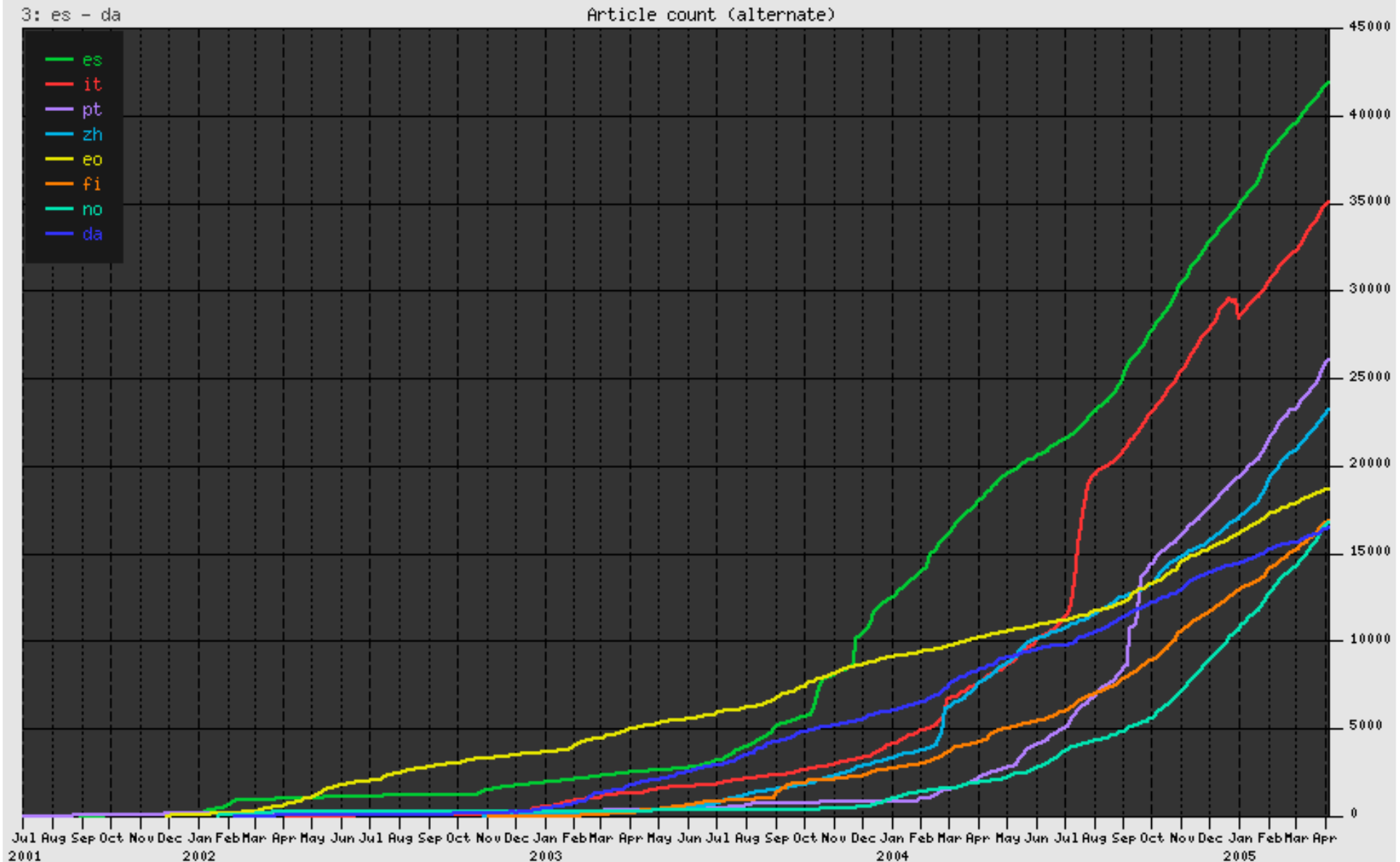
Statistics April 9, 2005 (1/3)



Statistics April 9, 2005 (2/3)



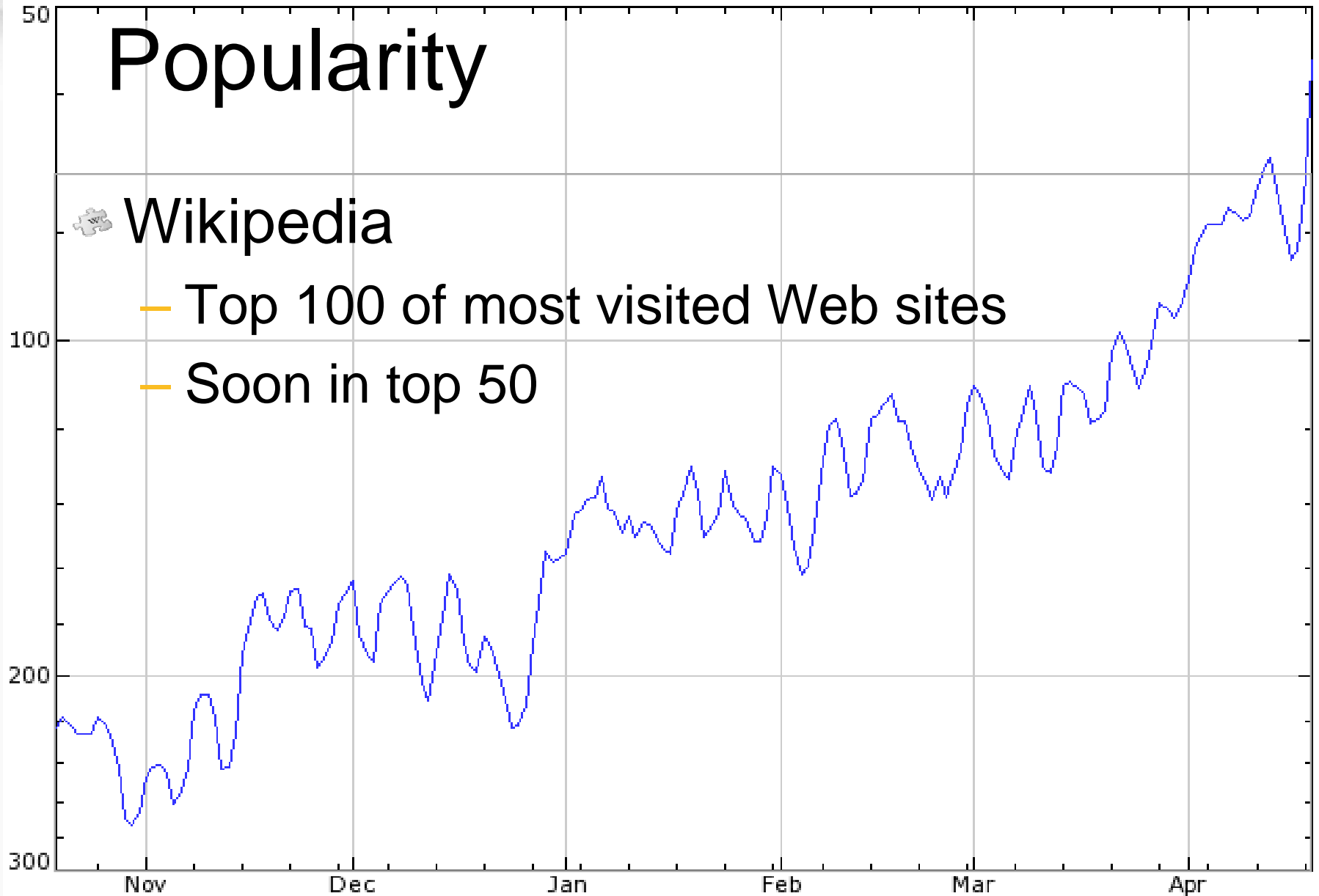
Statistics April 9, 2005 (2/3)



Popularity

 Wikipedia

- Top 100 of most visited Web sites
- Soon in top 50



Wiki concept

 Wiki means “quick” in Hawaiian

 Web site

- Allows several users to add and edit content
- Anonymously or not
- Page creation: from a link in any existing page
- Edition: simple Wiki syntax
- Version control: history
 - Concurrent edition control: sections, conflict help

MediaWiki



Open source

- Apache, PHP, MySQL, (Linux), open standards
- GNU General Public License
- <http://wikipedia.sourceforge.net>

Under development

- Article validation. PostgreSQL, etc.

Wiki engine (January 25, 2002)

- Wikipedia, Wikimedia sister projects
- Other projects, other Web sites

What is an article in Wikipedia?

 Alkarex [my talk](#) [preferences](#) [my watchlist](#) [my contributions](#) [log out](#)

[article](#)

[discussion](#)

[edit this page](#)

[history](#)

[move](#)

[unwatch](#)

Article

— Article

- Links to other articles, other languages, categories
- Links to articles that are not existing yet are **in red**

— History

— Discussion

What is not an article?

— Associated pages

- Categories, images, redirections, homonymy, portals, etc.

— Community pages

- Decisions, votes, help, bigger discussions, etc.

Mediawiki Wiki syntax



```
'''Copenhagen''' is the capital of [[Denmark]].  
Copenhagen was founded around year 1000.
```

```
[[Image:The Little Mermaid.jpg]]
```

```
== Places of notes ==
```

- * [[Christiania]]
- * [[The Little Mermaid]]

```
[[Category:Denmark]]
```

```
[[Category:Coastal cities]]
```

```
[[da:København]]
```

```
[[fr:Copenhague]]
```

Flat Earth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 17:40, 12 Feb 2003

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

okay, I'm done. Comments?

[← Older edit](#)

Revision as of 17:42, 12 Feb 2003

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

second para

[Newer edit →](#)

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 ==

Community

Contributors (April 2005)

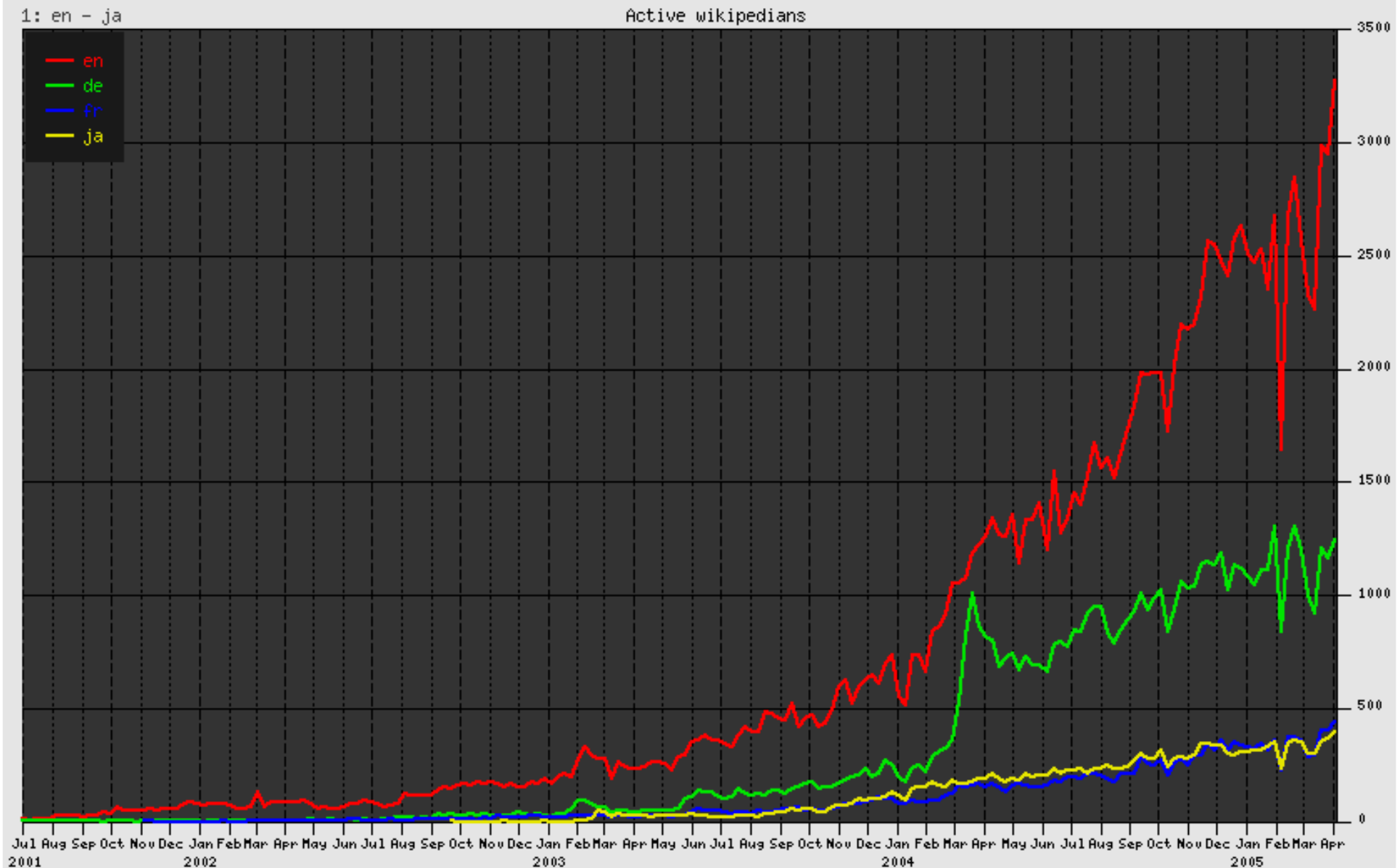
- Started with a core of computer nerds
- Now from all the disciplines
- Random visitors: anonymous or new users
 - ~50 000 Wikipedians (>10 edits), +6%/month
 - ~15 000 active Wikipedians (>5 edits last month)
 - Bots
- Collaboration with schools, universities

Languages (~200)

- 23 > 10 000 articles ; 60 > 1000 articles



Statistics April 9, 2005



Social innovation

- ❧ All the required “ingredients” already existed 6 years before Wikipedia
- ❧ Scalability
 - Tools : hardware (50 computers) and software
 - Community : mediation, wiki-love, fun
- ❧ Freedom, neutrality, flexibility
- ❧ Diversity of people, collaboration







Sister project: Wikicommons

- ❏ Shared media repository
- ❏ Multilingual multimedia database
 - Can be used directly in all Wikimedia projects
- ❏ Only free licences
 - Public Domain
 - GNU Free Documentation License
 - Creative Commons



Other sister projects



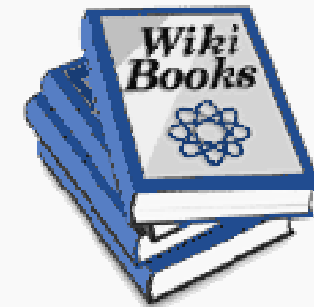
-  **Wiktionary**
 - Dictionary and thesaurus
-  **Wikisource**
 - Free source documents
-  **Wikibooks**
 - Free textbooks and manuals
-  **Wikiquote**
 - Collection of quotations
-  **Wikinews**
 - Free content news source
-  **Wikispecies**
 - Directory of species

a multilingual free
encyclopedia

Wiktionary
[ˈwɪkʃənri] n.,
a wiki-based Open
Content dictionary
Wikeen [ˈwɪkɪ kærɪ]



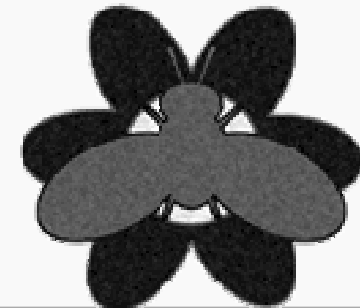
WIKIMEDIA



Think free. Learn free.



WIKINEWS



WIKISPECIES
free species directory

Wikimedia governance

Policies

- Consensus: most of the problems are solved by peer to peer dialog
- Democracy: votes are frequent
 - Elected administrators with more power
- Monarchy
 - Resistant problems can be solved by the king-president

National foundations

- Communication, social events, funding

Financial issues (Q1 2005)

- 🧩 Q1 budget: \$130,000.00
- 🧩 Individual donations
 - PayPal
- 🧩 Foundations
 - Lounsbery Foundation grant (\$40,000.00)
- 🧩 Works
 - Wikibooks
 - Beck Foundation \$10K (junior)
- 🧩 Free hosting
 - Yahoo!, Google, etc.



Organisation of the community

Communication

- Special pages, IRC, e-mails, *real* meetings

Votes



WIKIMANIA 2005
THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WIKIMEDIA CONFERENCE
FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY
4 - 8 AUGUST, 2005



- For naming, deletion of articles, etc.

List of Wikipedians

- Language, country, interests, skills, etc.

Watch lists, RSS

Maintenance work

-  Revert vandalisms
-  Wikify articles
 - Links, categories, interlingual links
 - Mark as ‘sensitive’, ‘stub’, ‘to clean’, ‘copyright’, etc.
 - Spelling, structure, layout, pictures
-  Improve articles
 - Formulations
 - Add, check information
-  Help newcomers
-  Check licences, copyright
-  ToDo lists!

Future development

Better quality insurance

- Notation of articles
- Release reviewed versions of articles
 - Possibility to modify the “beta” version, as today
- Wikipedia 1.0

Spread Wikipedia in the world

- In 2004, \sum other languages > English
- DVD, wikibooks
 - Countries with little technological infrastructure

More information?

Search Wikipedia!

- Wikipedia search engine
- Categories, portals
- Related links
 - Via other languages

From other search engines

- Google: [define:Concept]
- Yahoo!: [site:wikipedia.org Some words]

Conclusion

- ❏ Wikipedia is one of the best thing one could expect from the Internet development
- ❏ Come with us!
- ❏ <http://wikipedia.org>



- ❏ Presentation
 - *Creative Commons BY-SA FR*