Enhancing MediaWiki Talk pages with Semantics for Better Coordination

A Proposal

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**Talk pages need semantics**

- **Lots of conversations**
  - Viégas [11]: “the fastest growing areas of Wikipedia are devoted to coordination and organization”

- **When are people agreeing/disagreeing?**
  - Not well understood!

- **Very little study of Talk pages**
  - Largest study: 60 pages, 2 types. Discovered: Featured Articles have 10x discussion!

- **Immense variation between pages**

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Data from Stvilia [10]
Talk:Semantic Web

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This article is within the scope of WikiProject Internet, a collaborative effort to improve the coverage of Internet on Wikipedia. If you would like to participate, please visit the project page, where you can join the discussion and see a list of open tasks.

This article has been rated as Start-Class on the project's quality scale.

This article has been rated as High-importance on the project's importance scale.

Contents [show]

link error?

not sure, but does the link below link back to the parent page. The link can be found in the section on Linking Open Data (think it was)


avaiki (talk) 09:36, 28 March 2009 (UTC)

Yes. Look for '#Triplify' in that section.
Since there is no heading of that name in the article it will link back to the top.
(No idea what to do about this!)

Hynek (talk) 11:04, 30 March 2009 (UTC)

This refers to the Triplify project at http://triplify.org. It may have been present in earlier versions of the article (did not check). I cannot say or do more than that due to WP:COI. Jens Lehmann (talk) 10:32, 16 November 2009 (UTC)

Opening sentence

Could somebody please put examples of 'semantic web' immediately after the opening sentence? Otherwise it just sounds a bit waffly and, more importantly, the intelligent lay reader is lost. Thanks. 86.42.96.251 (talk) 10:38, 30 March 2009 (UTC)

Merges

Rule Interchange Format

I'd support having Rule Interchange Format merged into this article (or removed altogether?). DBpedia is significant enough to have an article on it's own. Nloth (talk) 04:32, 16 November 2009 (UTC)

If you oppose, please just state so rather than removing the tags. RIF certainly should be merged or redirected. The DBpedia issue is currently in AfD, which will likely decide its merge fate as well. -- Collectorian (talk · contribs) 04:48, 16 November 2009 (UTC)
Classifying edits in Talk pages

- Classified into 15 types:
  - 11 based on Viégas [11]
    - References to (1) vandalism, (2) wiki guidelines & policies, (3) internal wiki resources
    - Requests for (1) editing coordination, (2) information, (3) peer-review
    - Off-topic-remarks
    - Polls
    - Info boxes
    - Images
    - Other
  - 4 new comment types
    - Based on a manual analysis of 100 Wikipedia talk pages
### Our 4 New Comment Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference to...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources outside the wiki</td>
<td>... Not sure where to put it but I’ll leave it here as somebody might find it useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverts, removed material, or controversial edits</td>
<td>I noticed some people edit the page into what it will be in 10 minutes but someone is reverting it...just let it be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edits the discussant made</td>
<td>Added the About.com review since the review was part of the reception section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with another article, portal, etc.</td>
<td>This is just to invite attention to the page Facebook statistics just created...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structuring Talk pages with semantics

- **Reusing existing models (FOAF/SIOC)**
  - Article: sioct:WikiArticle
  - Link to the Talk page: sioc:has_discussion
  - Discussions: sioc:Thread
  - Individual comments: sioc:Post
  - Commenter: foaf:Person / sioc:UserAccount

- **New elements from the previous categorization**
  - [http://rdfs.org/sioc/wikitalk](http://rdfs.org/sioc/wikitalk)
  - Focus on references and requests:
    - Difficult to imagine people marking their own comment as off-topic; however, labeling “request for help” is plausible
    - Relevant for querying and retrieving information
SIOC WikiTalk

- **ReferenceItem**
  - ReferenceToEdit
  - ReferenceToGuidelinesOrPolicies
  - ReferenceToRevertsOrControversialOrRemovedMaterial
  - ReferenceToSources
  - ReferenceToVandalism

- **RequestItem**
  - RequestEditingCoordination
  - RequestHelpElsewhere
  - RequestInfo
  - RequestPeer-review
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<h2>
<span class="editsection"><a href="/w/index.php?title=Talk:Semantic_Web&action=edit&section=2" title="Edit section: Opening sentence">edit</a></span>
<span class="mw-headline" id="Opening_sentence">Opening sentence</span></h2>
<p about="#post_1" id="#post_1" typeof="siocwt:RequestEditingCoordination" rel="sioc:has_container" href="#Opening_sentence" property="content:encoded">Could somebody please put examples of 'semantic web' immediately after the opening sentence? Otherwise it just sounds a bit waffly and, more importantly, the intelligent lay reader is lost. Thanks.
</p>
</div>
Current work: annotate & extract

- **Hand markup of Wikipedia Talk pages with RDFa**

- **Developing a JavaScript RDFa Highlight plugin**
  - Show comment types meeting specified criteria, e.g. RequestEditingCoordination or ReferenceToVandalism

- **User evaluation (in progress)**
  - Browsing talk pages with & without highlight plugins to identify particular comments
  - First results show that users say they’re willing to specify the comment type when they add a comment in Talk pages
  - Further tests planned with MediaWiki / Wikipedia editors
Future Work

- **Annotation plugin**
  - Collect comment types, automatically generate RDFa markup in Talk pages

- **Enhance highlight plugin, based on user feedback**

- **SPARQL queries to get ‘views’ of the data**
  - “Find all references to vandalism posted in the last 2 days”
  - “Find all comments mentioning a source outside Wikipedia”

- **Automatically collate comments**
  - e.g. Transclude requests for information to the Wikipedia Reference Desk for a topic
Thank you!

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