

## Planetary Coding? : Wikipedia, Free Software and Encyclopedic Babel

MediaWiki, the software platform that has enabled the Wikipedia project is Free Software licensed under the GPL's copyleft provisions. The principles behind the Free Software movement have animated many of the concerns of the Wikimedia Foundation and its founder, Jimbo Wales.

Not much has been written about the role of wikipedia in creating dialogue between different language communities. This process of intermediation has, like the overall project, grown dramatically in the last three years. Currently the Wikipedia project covers some 250 different languages.

This presentation will examine how the Wikipedia has affected the interaction between different language communities and will address the degree to which open access models such as Wikipedia have facilitated or resisted neo-liberal forms of globalization.

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