Submission # 68

Name: Jorge Vargas

Organization: Wikimedia Foundation

Country/Region:USA

How would you define the stakeholder community or communities to which you belong?
Civil society

Are there any suggestions that you wish to make in respect of the proposed themes, questions and indicators which are included in the framework as it stands?

There shouldn't be any additional themes or questions in addition to those already listed. There are some themes we at the Wikimedia Foundation consider can be explored further, and where indicators that include Wikipedia and Wikimedia content may add value to the overall Internet Universality Indicators (IUI). We are more than happy to take this conversation forward and would like to collaborate further with UNESCO in order to have Wikipedia metrics as indicators that will make the IUI more robust. The comments below are listed by category and theme.

THE INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS – CATEGORY R – RIGHTS
THEME B – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
B.1 Is freedom of expression guaranteed in law, respected in practice, and widely exercised?

We believe that governments that ban access to Wikimedia projects (https://blog.wikimedia.org/2018/03/11/turkey-wikipedia-block/) impose excessive restrictions to the exercise of freedom of expression. We encourage UNESCO to look into the governments that ban access to Wikipedia along with other Wikipedia projects, as part of their review of how these rights are respected in practice. We also suggest that the 2017 World Press Freedom Index (https://rsf.org/en/ranking) is included as an indicator.

B.5 What proportion of the population generates online content, including social media?

Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects are a fabulous repository of content in over 300 languages, and it shows a way in which local populations are generating online content with the creation of articles and overall participation in our projects. We can support UNESCO by providing stats of the different articles created in each relevant language, for example, to include that as an indicator.

THE INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS – CATEGORY O – OPENNESS
THEME D - OPEN CONTENT
D.1 Does the government actively promote access to knowledge through its policies for education, culture, and science?

We suggest having as an indicator a review of governments that are already working actively to promote Wikipedia and Wikimedia content, as well as the inclusion of local cultural and heritage content to our projects. For example, the Mexican Ministry of Culture has recently signed a cooperation agreement with Wikimedia Mexico, supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, as evidence of its active promotion around access to knowledge. This kind of collaboration furthers access to knowledge, as local government and agencies have the scope and network to promote access to local cultural, educational, and heritage content to all their citizens. In the cited example, the Ministry of Culture in Mexico overviews all public museums, film, and audio archives in the nation. By their public commitment to make this content available on Wikimedia projects, they are guaranteeing and promoting access to knowledge through culture and education policies.

THEME E - LOCAL CONTENT AND LANGUAGE
E.2 Is a substantial and growing volume of content about the country available online, including locally-generated content? Indicator: • Number of Wikipedia articles/words concerning the country, compared with other countries, including source (proportion generated in-country)

The fact that UNESCO has selected the number of Wikipedia articles concerning the country as an indicator for local content and language is a testament to the hard and good work of Wikimedia volunteers around the world. We think that in addition, Wikipedia content can be very valuable to measure the overall theme of "local content and language" in other ways, including the amount of content generated per country, by language, the number of page views or unique devices accessing it, among others. Another important way to see a substantial growth of volume on country-relevant content online is to look at the local heritage information available online, such as information and media on local culture, monuments, or historical elements. The Wikimedia movement encourages the preservation of such content through contests like "Wiki Loves Monuments", which would help as an indicator for this.

E.3 Are services available which enable citizens to access and use local scripts and languages online? Indicators: Availability of local languages on major online platforms

Looking into the availability of Wikipedia content in local languages is a good indicator for this theme. Wikipedia is available in over 300 languages, but all these act as separate projects which not mirror one another. For instance, English Wikipedia has more articles than Arabic Wikipedia, but there could be content that is more relevant for the Arabic speaking community in Arabic Wikipedia than English Wikipedia. We would be happy to provide further information on how to properly measure this.

E.4 Is there a substantial and growing volume of Internet content in diverse local languages, including locally-generated content? Indicators:

Wikimedia content (relevant articles on local language Wikipedias, multimedia files on Wikimedia Commons, language entries on Wiktionary, materials, and content in local languages on WikiSource or Wikibooks, among others) is definitely the best indicator for this. It is possible to see the depth of the content on diverse and local languages, as well as whether this content is locally generated.

UNESCO INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS – CROSS-CUTTING INDICATORS
GROUP A – GENDER

We think a new theme can be added to the gender group, specific to the gender divide of available content about Women. A way to measure this unfortunate circumstance is Wikipedia. For example, 1 out of 5 biographies on Spanish Wikipedia is about a woman, which serves as an indicator to speak about the gender divide in content available about women and their representation online.

Are there any suggestions that you wish to make in respect of the proposed themes, questions and indicators which are included in the framework as it stands?

THE INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS – CATEGORY A – ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL THEME B – CONNECTIVITY AND USAGE

B.4 What barriers to access are identified by users and non-users of the Internet? Indicator: • Perceptions of barriers to Internet access and use

We would like to know if UNESCO has further considered the definition of those "perceptions" that would constitute this indicator. This indicator seems to rely heavily on qualitative studies, where there are other more concrete indicators to measure barriers to Internet access already developed. For example, the GSMA's mobile connectivity index (http://mobileconnectivityindex.com), has used the availability of Wikipedia articles to measure the content gaps as a barrier to Internet access.

What sources and means of verification would you recommend, from your experience, in relation to any of the questions and indicators that have been proposed?

We have added the relevant recommendations in the previous sections. Specific to Wikipedia stats, please visit https://stats.wikimedia.org/v2