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Civic Epistemologies – Workshop on the Roadmap, Leuven, 20 February 2015

From Warburg to Wiki

Multidimensionality and Democratisation of Culture in the Age of the Semantic Web

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CIVIC EPISTEMOLOGIES

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Warburg's Atlas of Memory: *Mnemosyne*

Inspiring concepts:

- Mapping cultural memory through images
- Expressing semantics through intertextual links between images

Utopia:

- wooden panels only allow to express poor links between items
- Individual curation of a specialist (positive factor for originality, negative factor for a shared vision)

Civic epistemologies:

a contemporary agenda for mapping culture

- The **semantic web** allows us to modulate a multidimensional network of items, in which
- every item potentially is the central node of a network of knowledge

- **Collective curation** of cultural memory brings specialists and citizen scientists into interaction

- Shared curation of culture increases **social cohesion** and may help for the creation of new economic opportunities

Hybridisation in the curation of culture

- Top-down (research) + bottom-up (citizens' engagement) → something new
- The 'democratic challenge' : governing COMPLEXITY

- crowd-sourcing meets citizen science → towards expert sourcing?

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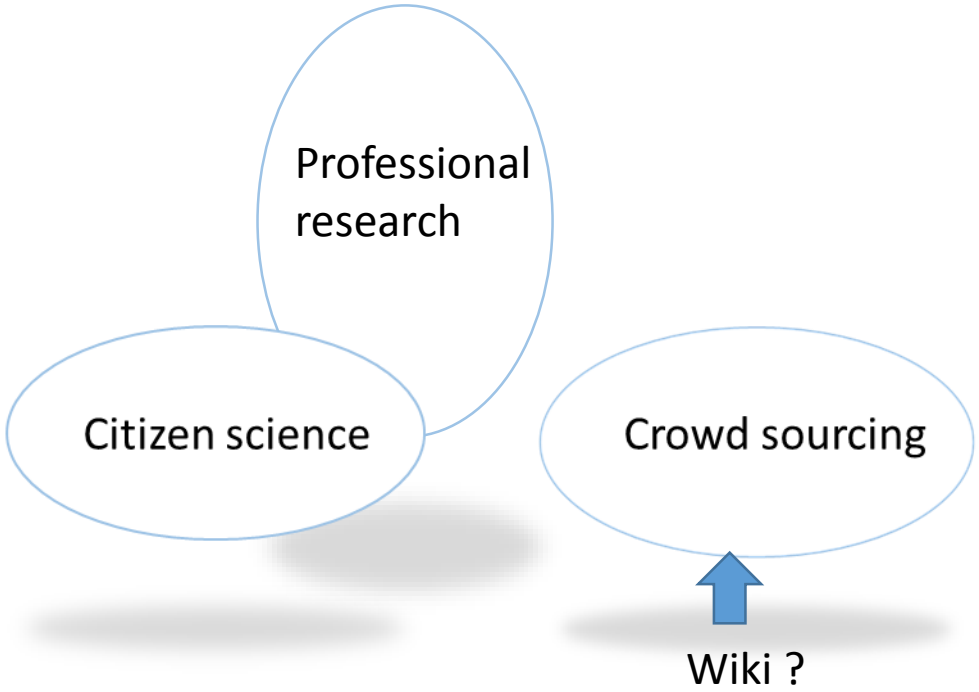

- Swartz, *Who writes Wikipedia?*, 4/09/2006
- J. Pekel, *Wikipedia and the Utopia of Openness: How Wikipedia Becomes Less Open to Improve its Quality*, 23/12/2010

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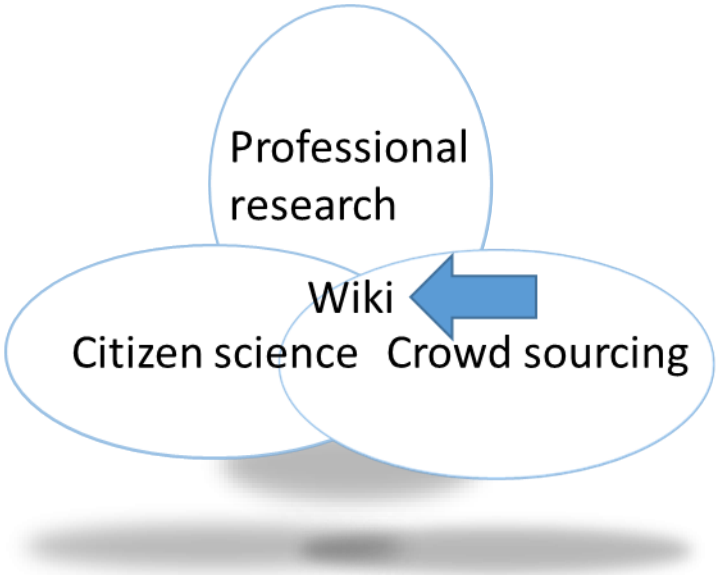

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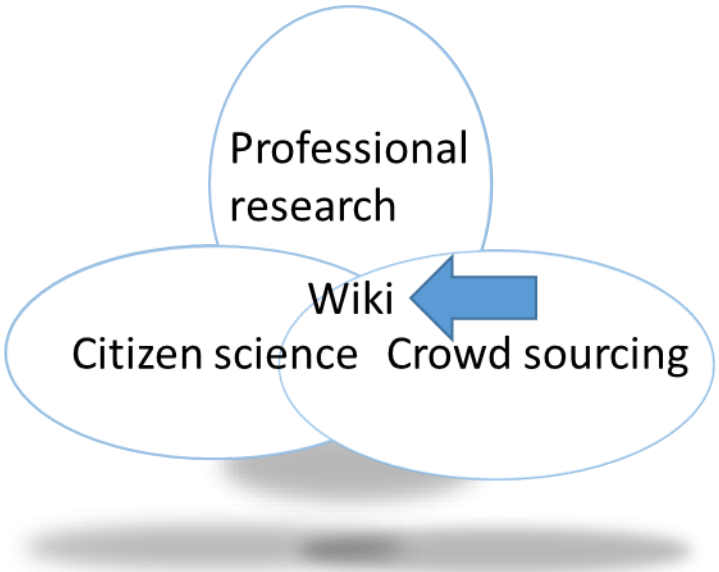

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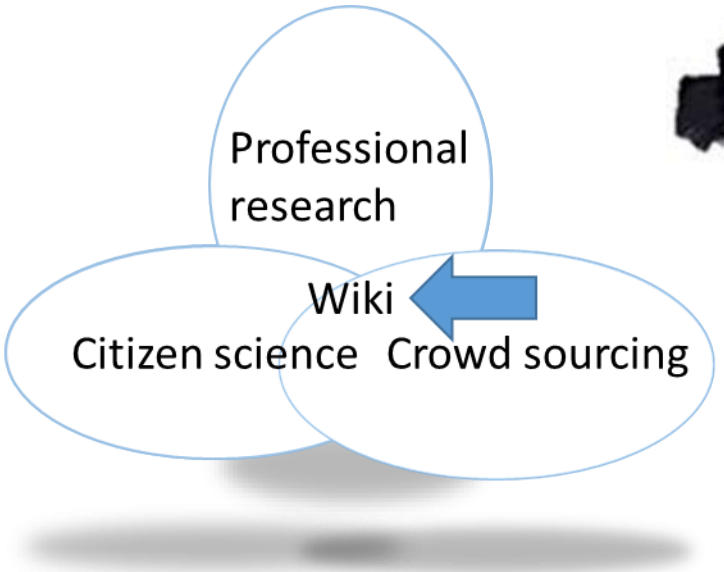

Wikipedia Takes [YOUR CITY]

WIKI loves monuments

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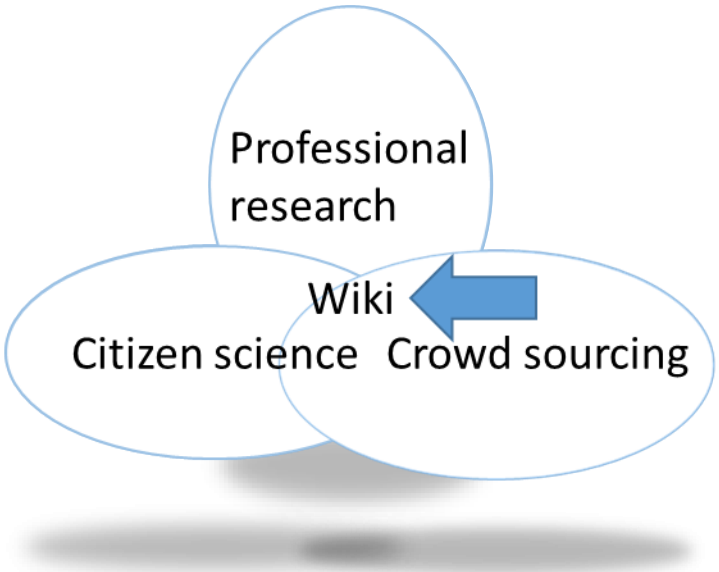

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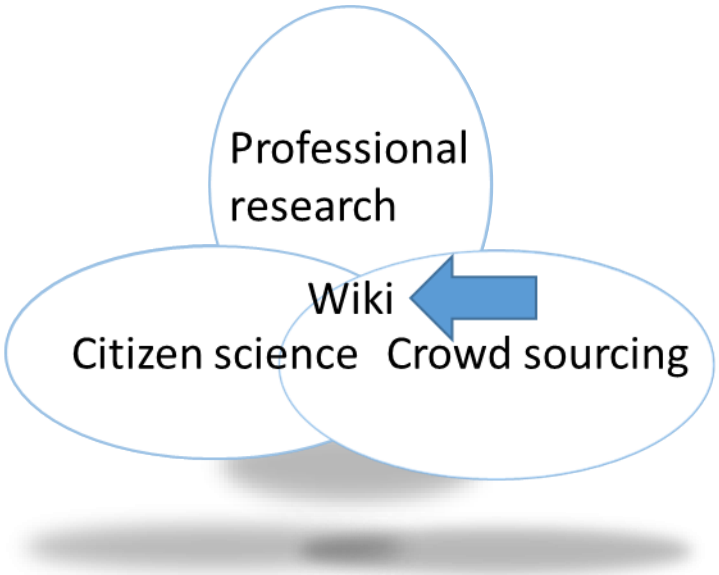

Wikipedia Education Program

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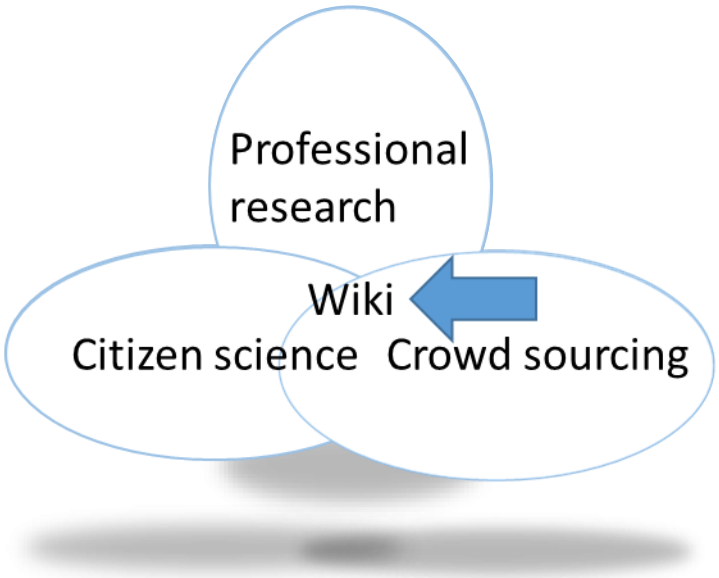

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Thanks!

For questions, please contact

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