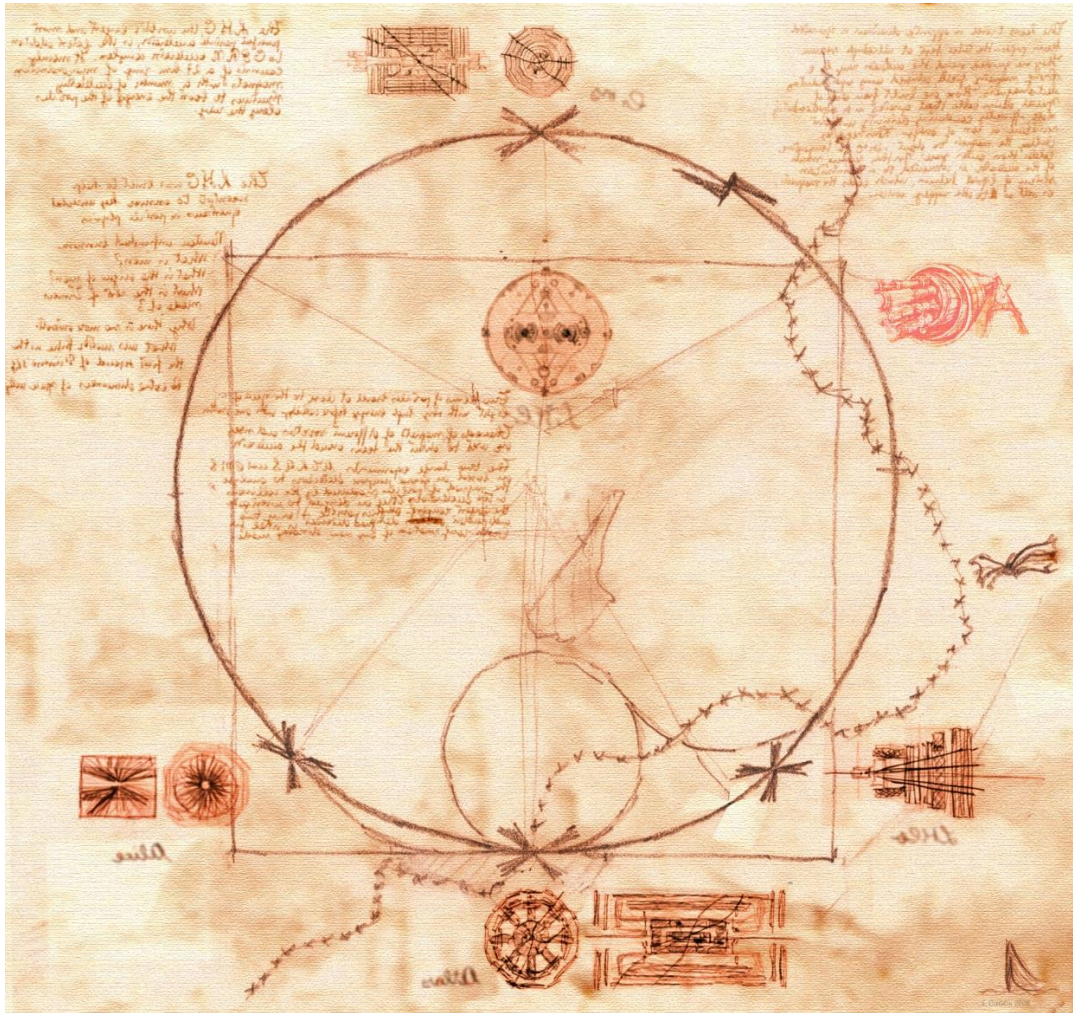




LHC ring, drawn in the style of Leonardo da Vinci
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(<https://cds.cern.ch/record/1157741>)

2019 Summer Student Program Work Project Report

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Abstract

This report is a summary of the work done by a summer student while working at CERN in summer 2019. The scope of the work is editing Wikipedia articles related to CERN. Wikipedia is one of the most important sources for the public as it's the first website people use to look up when they face an unfamiliar term in their life. Therefore being able to represent CERN in Wikipedia in a satisfying manner is very important to let people know the latest advancements in science and to eliminate incorrect beliefs and suspicions which may spread among public time to time. The work reported in this document consists of extensions and updates on some existing Wikipedia articles to make them competent enough for possible readers and to update the outdated or possibly mistaken information.

Introduction

Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, is “a multilingual online encyclopedia created and maintained as an open collaboration project”¹ according to its own Wikipedia article. It’s the modern replacement of old encyclopedias and written by people for people. As it’s very common, famous and reachable it’s mostly the first source for students to use when they need to do research for their projects and for grown-ups to find details about the things they wonder and keep up with the ever-expanding world around them.

The content on Wikipedia is licensed with a license called Creative Commons which allows users to “share, use, and build upon a work”² that created by others. This licensing technique is really useful to share and cumulatively develop information as even the “unlicensed” work on the web is copyrighted, contrary to popular belief.

With its 20 billion average views per month,³ Wikipedia is an important tool of introduction for people who are not familiar with CERN. Being created and edited collaboratively it’s an easy and cheap way of representation but this comes with some drawbacks. The information on Wikipedia can easily be changed by vandals⁴ or some incorrect edits can easily be made by inattentive editors. Also, updating the existing articles with new information is crucial for appropriate representation of the organization. For these reasons, employing some staff for editing Wikipedia articles is important for CERN.

Over the past few years, some summer students worked on editing Wikipedia articles about CERN. This work is successor of past contributions and this report is conducted to summarize the edits done in 2019.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons_license

³ <https://stats.wikimedia.org/v2/#/all-projects/reading/total-page-views/normal|bar|2-year|~total|monthly>

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandalism>

The Work

First collaboration made in summer 2019 was editing references of an article and adding inline citations to make the sources of information clear. Before changes,⁵ the article had a template denoting that it lacks inline citations. There were three references but it was not possible to track down and check information sources. By using the existing references, search engines and an online tool called Internet Archive Wayback Machine⁶ a few more references and related pages discovered along with the possible source of the text in the Wikipedia article. After verifying the reliability of the found sources by making further search about their authors, promising ones added to the article with corresponding inline citations. The template about insufficiency of inline citation has been removed. However the article is still a stub⁷ and waiting⁸ for possible collaborators to expand it.

The second collaboration done in the scope of the work was editing an article about the CPLEAR experiment which was initially written by another summer student in the past. The article had been reviewed by a specialist knowledgeable about the experiment and some changes had been suggested.⁹ Although the editor needs to understand the topic of the article more or less in any case, applying suggested changes was relatively easier. Therefore we can conclude that it's really important for individual teams working at CERN in different experiments to check the integrity of the Wikipedia articles written about their work time to time, and provide feedback about them. The article is now waiting¹⁰ for its next review and maybe it will be a first task for future summer students.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=PS210_experiment&oldid=880457893

⁶ <https://archive.org/web/>

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Stub>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=PS210_experiment&oldid=914102772

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=CPLEAR_experiment&oldid=897709250

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=CPLEAR_experiment&oldid=910039902

The next Wikipedia article that got edited was about the CERN's first accelerator, Synchro-Cyclotron. The article was a stub¹¹ before edits and it was in a bad shape for the very first accelerator of CERN. This task was different than the ones before as it was about extending an article instead of just editing it and as already stated in the introduction section it is easy to put incorrect information on articles in case of lacking rigorous search. As the topic of the article dates back to the 50s, the first pieces of the documents in the CERN archive were needed to collect the information. By using the printed copies of the Synchro-Cyclotron Divisional Reports from the archive, the book History of CERN from CERN library and some other resources cited in the article the historical information in the article extended. The article became long enough to remove the stub template, but it still lacks some technical details and can be further extended.¹²

Another Wikipedia article about Compact Linear Collider¹³ also edited according to feedback given by a specialist. It was the easiest task of the summer thanks to helpful collaborations made by experienced people in the field.

Last but certainly not least task of the summer was the extension of the Wikipedia article about the ISOLDE facility at CERN. In the beginning, this article was a stub too.¹⁴ By using two laboratory portraits published in 2000 and 2017, the ISOLDE facility website and some other resources cited in the article, historical and technical information in the article has been extended. The article is ready¹⁵ for its stub template to be removed and a review is being done by a specialist from the experiment. It will be further improved based on the feedback.

¹¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Synchro-Cyclotron_\(CERN\)&oldid=860867627](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Synchro-Cyclotron_(CERN)&oldid=860867627)

¹² [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Synchro-Cyclotron_\(CERN\)&oldid=911838856](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Synchro-Cyclotron_(CERN)&oldid=911838856)

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compact_Linear_Collider

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=On-Line_Isotope_Mass_Separator&oldid=885950082

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=On-Line_Isotope_Mass_Separator&oldid=915971703

Concluding Remarks

The contributions made in the scope of the CERN Summer Student Program 2019 consist of 74 edits¹⁶ of various sizes. The articles were about some old topics as well as new ones. With the new ones attracting the most attention the edited articles have a daily average of 61 views, and a total views of 1,899 throughout August 2019.¹⁷ The daily average view count for CERN Wikipedia page is about 1000, which is also a good indication of the importance of work done on Wikipedia articles about CERN.

¹⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:Contributions/EnesGonultas&offset=&limit=100>

¹⁷ [https://tools.wmflabs.org/pageviews/?project=en.wikipedia.org&agent=user&pages=Synchro-Cyclotron_\(CERN\)|On-Line_Isotope_Mass_Separator|PS210_experiment|Compact_Linear_Collider|CPLEAR_experiment&start=2019-08-01&end=2019-08-31&platform=all-access](https://tools.wmflabs.org/pageviews/?project=en.wikipedia.org&agent=user&pages=Synchro-Cyclotron_(CERN)|On-Line_Isotope_Mass_Separator|PS210_experiment|Compact_Linear_Collider|CPLEAR_experiment&start=2019-08-01&end=2019-08-31&platform=all-access)