Rhizomatic Wikipedia
What It Will Look Like

Stephan Ligl

University of Regensburg

Weinweg 51

Regensburg, 93049 Germany

Ligl@schulevonathen.de

Abstract

"Rhizomity of Wikipedia in main namespace of the german language version" in the topic of my dissertation project. In short: Is Wikipedia a rhizome? Before I will be able to answer to that, there are prior questions. These are: What are the elements of a rhizome in philosophy, biology and art? What connects these definitions? I use a critical hermeneutical method for that part and a modified software configuration-management method for the second part: the creation of a rhizomatic access to Wikipedia. At WikiSym I will present a prototype of this new approach.

Keywords

Rhizome; Wikipedia; User Interface; Architecture; Hypertext; Hypermedia; Structure; Links

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.4 [**Information Systems**]: Information Interfaces and Presentation – Hypertext/Hypermedia

General Terms

Theory

Research Question

- What are the characteristics of a rhizome?
- Is Wikipedia a rhizome?
- If it is not, what would we have to do, to make it a rhizome?

Work in Progress

I currently develop a prototype of the rhizomatic access to Wikipedia, so I can present it at WikiSym. On the theoretical side I am discussing the principles of a rhizome in different areas, like biology, philosophy and art.

Expected Contributions of the Dissertation

My dissertation is looking for a new presentation of the contents of wikipedia – a presentation in a rhizomatic way.

Expectations for this doctoral symposium

I took part in the doctoral symposium two years ago at WikiSym, so I already know what to expect. I look forward to present some of my work in a foreign language and to meet other doctoral students. Johanna Niesyto, another participant two years ago, organized a conference of her own and invited me and my Ph.D. Advisor, so I know of the possibility of networking at the symposium. Furthermore I am very interested in feedback to my thesis. In the past it seemed somewhat

hard to explain to a technical public, but with my prototyp it will be much easier.

Biographical sketch
Conferences:

- 9.-11. Internationales Symposium der Informationswissenschaft, 2004, 2007, 2009
- WikiSym, 2010
- WikiMania, 2010
- Wikipedia – Ein kritischer Standpunkt, 2010
- IV. & V. Regensburger Symposium, 2011, 2012
- SciCoRe Herbsttagung, 2011

Publications and Presentations:

- Rhizomity of wikis – with special observation of empty spaces in german wikipedia, WikiSym Doctoral Symposium, 2010
- Interdisziplinärer Austausch durch Rhizome - Wikis als neuer Weg der Kommunikation, in: Paradigmata – Zeitschrift für Menschen und Diskurse, 1 (2010), H1, S. 80-85.
- Rhizomität von Wikis, Short Presentation and Poster at Dies Academicus 2010.
- Rhizome und Wikis, Poster at IV. Regensburger Symposium, 2011.
- „Wissenschaftler in/für die Wikipedia, Presentation at SciCoRe II, 2011.

Research interests:

- Rhizome in Biology, Philosophy and Art
- Hypertext
- Wikis
- More information on my PromoWiki page.

PH.D. mentor
Prof. Dr. Rainer Hammwöhner, chair of information science, Institut für Information und Medien, Sprache und Kultur (I:IMSK), Universität Regensburg, Universitätsstrasse 31, 93053 Regensburg, Rainer.Hammwoehner@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de
His main research interests are quality and interlingual aspects Wikipedia.

Curriculum Vita
Born in Weiden i.d.Opf, Germany on March 31, 1978, currently residing in Regensburg, Germany.

Education:
1998   University entrance-diploma, Kepler-Gymnasium, Weiden i.d.Opf., Germany
1998 – 1999   Community Service at ARV
1999 – 2001   Studies in Business Administration, University of Regensburg
2001 – 2007   Studies in Information Science and History of Science, University of Regensburg
2007 -   PH.D. Student in Information Science, University of Regensburg

Professional:
2006 -   Working part time for Omniga