Wikis

Preserving group memory of Green Party CAs and translating collaboratively

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"All things are impermanent, All things are imperfect, All things are incomplete." -- Wabi Sabi

Examples of collaborative tools

Real world examples: white board, black board, paper board

Examples of wikis:
- Wikipedia.org
- Wikitravel.org
- Wikinews.org
- Revision of New-Zeland Police Act
- gp-wiki.bpwiki.org
  (Ottawa-area proof of concept)
- Shane Jolley's Locomotive project
  http://localmotive.wikispaces.com/

Ressources

- Commons Craft video "Wikis in Plain English"
  http://tinyurl.com/23y3wp
- pbwiki.com
- https://gpo-agm-2007.pbwiki.com/ - try it out yourself. Password is
- Julien Lamarche (see contact information above)
- phpwiki.sourceforge.net – good for dialup. But need a computer geek to install it.
- Mediawiki.org
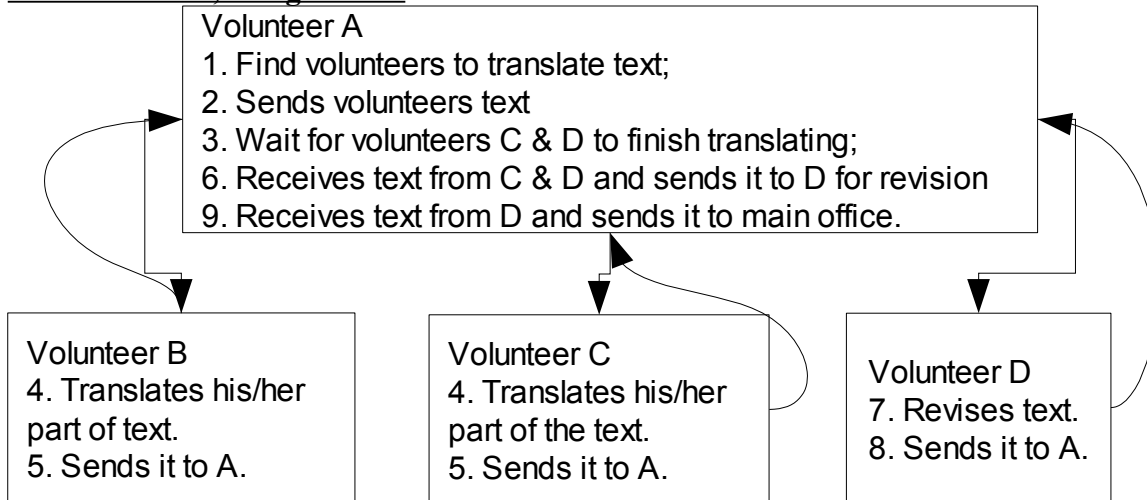
Creating a wiki with pbwiki.com

1. Go to pbwiki.com
2. Click on "create a wiki"
3. Indicate your site name, e-mail address and weather its for individual, commercial or educational purpose
4. Wait for the confirmation e-mail. Click on the approval link once you receive the e-mail.
5. On the password page:
   a) Pick a password and re-type to confirm it
   b) Decide if you want your wiki viewable by the public or not. Your pbwiki always require passwords to edit.
   c) Agree to the terms of service.
   d) Decide if you want a "Classic" editor or a "Point-and-Click" editor.
   e) Click on "Next: choose wiki features"
6. On the "Upgrade Your Wiki!" page, scroll down to "Continue trying out the free version" and click "No thanks, just take me to my wiki"
7. Follow the instructions to make your first wiki edit!
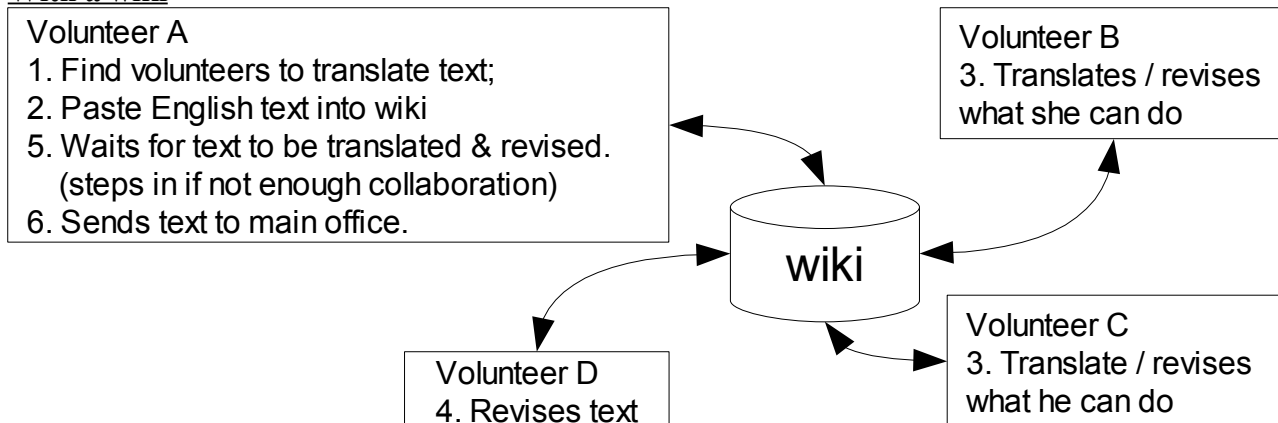
Template for event organizing

1. Possible venue / Date, time & location
2. What we need
3. What we want
4. Agenda
5. After-thoughts
   a) What to bring next time
   b) What we should have done differently
   c) Other remarks
   d) Links to blog posts & pictures

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Process charts for translation

Without a wiki, using e-mail:

Volunteer A
1. Find volunteers to translate text;
2. Sends volunteers text
3. Wait for volunteers C & D to finish translating;
6. Receives text from C & D and sends it to D for revision
9. Receives text from D and sends it to main office.

Volunteer B
4. Translates his/her part of text.
5. Sends it to A.

Volunteer C
4. Translates his/her part of the text.
5. Sends it to A.

Volunteer D
7. Revises text.
8. Sends it to A.

With a wiki

Volunteer A
1. Find volunteers to translate text;
2. Paste English text into wiki
5. Waits for text to be translated & revised.
   (steps in if not enough collaboration)
6. Sends text to main office.

Volunteer B
3. Translates / revises what she can do

wiki

Volunteer C
3. Translate / revises what he can do

Volunteer D
4. Revises text

Advantages of using a wiki:
- No need for a volunteer to coordinate;
- Work is available immediately for revision, rather for it waiting to be finished;
- Volunteers can revise the work of each other. More people revising the work;
- "Lower barriers to entry": volunteers can edit as much or as little as they want.

Some principles & practice to take into consideration:
- Be bold
- Be prepared to be edited.
- If possible, assign a bottom liner to make sure things get translated
- Edit with care: you do not want to loose your volunteers.
- Have a glossary of recurring terms.