

## Wikimedia Foundation: Definitions of Research Terms

- *Active editors* refers to registered users who have made five or more edits in the previous month. Active editors cycle in and out of the projects regularly as people take wiki-breaks for various reasons. So, the fact that an individual person doesn't get counted as an active editor doesn't mean they have stopped editing permanently: it just means that they didn't edit in the previous month. The active editors number also includes very active editors.
- *Very active editors* refers to people who have made 100+ edits in the previous month. Very active editors are a subset of active editors (about 1/10th in the English Wikipedia).
- *Editor -1* (also E-1) refers to Wikipedia readers who have never formed the intent to edit. They may or may not know that editing is possible, and they might or might not become editors in future.
- *Editor 0* (also E0) refers to Wikipedia readers who have formed the intent to edit and may have taken concrete steps (e.g. rating an article, creating a user account), but who have not yet successfully completed an edit. A person could stay at the Editor 0 stage of the lifecycle for seconds or for years. This group includes vandals, pranksters and scammers, as well as good faith newbies.
- *Editor 1-99* (also E1-99, also inexperienced editors) are people who have successfully completed at least one edit, but are probably not yet committed to editing on an ongoing basis. This group includes vandals, pranksters, spammers and good faith newbies. The potentially excellent editors in this group are vulnerable to becoming demotivated or disenchanted.
- *Editor 100-999* (also E100-999, also experienced editors) have successfully completed at least 100 edits. They have basic wiki skills and understand basic editorial policies and practices. There are probably fewer vandals, pranksters and spammers in this group than in E1-99, although there may still be some.
- *Editor 1000+* (also E1000+, also very experienced editors) are people who have successfully completed at least 1000 edits. They have good wiki skills and a good understanding of editorial policies and practices. This is the group that's likeliest to include admins, stewards, patrollers, Arb Com members, and so forth.
- *Lapsed editors* (also inactive editors) are people who used to be active or very active editors, who have not made 5+ edits in the previous month, and who have not made a decision to stop editing permanently. Lapsed editors can be inexperienced, experienced or very experienced. Server log data can't help us distinguish between lapsed/inactive editors and former/departed editors.
- *Former editors* (also departed editors) refers to people who used to be active editors, but who have not made 5+ edits in the previous month, and who have made a decision to stop editing permanently. Lapsed editors can be inexperienced, experienced or very experienced. Server log data can't help us distinguish between lapsed/inactive editors and former/departed editors. The Former Editors Survey aspired to survey former/departed editors, but ended up surveying a mix of former and lapsed editors, because it was not possible to exclude the latter.

- *New Wikipedians* refers to people who have made their 10th edit in a given month. (So, a person who makes their 10th edit in January 2011 would be considered a New Wikipedian in January, but would cease being one in February.)