



LM1 higher school examples.zip

The Ark of Life

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1) What do we want to include in the ark?

- The pre-investment online market research found that most people would rank their preferences as follows:
 1. Record of life on Earth
 2. History of human civilization
 3. Popular culture
 4. Copy of Wikipedia
- Essentially a better organized version of Wiki so disregarded. Thought it would be more important to include a record of our scientific knowledge up until that point as such a key part and would help discoverers place the development of our civilization.

2) How can this information be organised logically so that it is easily accessible?

- Wikipedia is highly unorganized. Many things are placed in the wrong categories eg. a separate Nature category when all of its content should be classed under Biology.
- So I have set up a different system using some of the more logical ideas Wikipedia does have.

Initial entry point

Launch straight into teaching pack of the key language (with a skip option after it has been run once) then comes up with a welcome message and icons leading to the other sections of the archive.

Languages

Although the main language will be general to the archive languages are such an important part of our culture that we want to preserve as many as possible. Therefore a section where language can be learnt would be invaluable. It would also be good if, like Wikipedia, the main archive pages could be translated. The public could be involved in making recordings and ensuring accurate translations.

Life

An interactive Earth that allows you to click on it and take you to a homepage for that area from where you can further choose options leading right down to sub-species or if space limitations are too tight some of the logic could be left out.

Plant Animal Bacterial Viral

Life is pre-categorised so it is just a case of organising as such. So what should be included?

Genetic Profile (if known)
Images/video of both male and female
Anatomical information
Vocalizations
Habitat
Diet
Social life

What diseases it causes
(bacterial/viral)

Human History

So varied across the globe that again an interactive globe would be ideal.

Country with timeline specific to itself

Summary page for each 100 years

Specific pages for the most important events as voted for by that country's people

If relevant a restricted number of personal experiences ie 3-8 again, as voted for by the public

Culture

From the interactive earth each country could be split into 7 sections.

Art

Timeline or else most significant artists with a biography and images of their works.
A section on key art materials including how they are made and who used them.

Music

Key composers and musicians
Audio files and sheet music to be included of their most important works.
Try to ensure that it is relevant to each country.

Literacy

Most important authors/playwrights/film directors and actors

Biography and extracts of their work. dependent on space.

Food

Recipes and images.

Sport

Rules/images/major achievers

Religion

Main teachings and significance of it in specific culture.

Other Science

Broadly split into these categories

Biology Chemistry Physics Medical Sciences Earth Sciences

and then splitting it down further- could be based upon the structure of university lecture courses and textbooks?
Information can be very compressed, eliminating un-needed words as we can assume a certain level of ability to bulk it out as they have managed to find the archive in the first place.

3) How are we going to make the archive understandable to a potentially alien race?

- We do not know what language they will speak- it's highly unlikely to be in existence today or even similar to any of our most used languages so how will they understand the archive?
- Needs to have a universal language across the archive with translate options into all the other languages. More logical, easier for potential discoverers.
- Needs to launch straight into a teaching programme in this language as nothing else will be understandable. As we have no reference language this will have to be via flashcards and video clips to start with. Like a child learns. Sound before reading and writing.
- Cannot have political connotations as it will put people and possibly countries off participating in the archive. Fortunately we have Esperanto.

Esperanto

- Esperanto was published in 1887 with the aim of fostering peace and international understanding. Contrary to popular belief it was never intended to make other languages become redundant but instead be a second language for international communication.
- It is mainly based on European languages
- it is recognized by UNESCO and is estimated to have up to 2 million people familiar with it. It is easy to learn as grammar is simple and it is based upon the Latin script. Studies have shown that it makes acquiring other languages easier therefore it would be ideal to have as an introductory language for the archive.
- Esperanto already has a history in space- a message was recorded and included in Voyager 1's Golden disc.

Public engagement

- Much of the content of the culture and history sections will require decisions on what needs to be included and this could be decided through voting.
- The languages will require accurate translations and audio files with a teaching programme for Esperanto needing to be created. Could be used to encourage schools to provide Esperanto lessons at all stages, maybe in lunch times or afterschool club with sample lessons or if no teachers speak Esperanto it could be used to encourage interest in other, less often taught, languages like Hindi.
- The science and life sections will need developing and checking- could be outsourced to unis and schools as projects. Each school getting maybe 5-10 species to research and create pages on (after being sent a template similar to the structure of a Wiki page), with genome information, translation and checking being done by specialists as volunteers in spare time.
- Images, recordings and audio will all need to be provided and sorted through for every section.
- Make the completed archive available on the internet :D

Amendments

- One interactive Earth for the whole archive (plus a separate science section and language section) as Life, Culture and History can all be classified by area.
- Wikipedia already has a section organizing History by country- could be used as a template
- People participate in their own language then feed it into an automatic translator to Esperanto which also has a translate back option so errors can be picked up. Final version can then be submitted via the web. So far tests show that this works extremely well- including French to Esperanto
- Over 3 billion people use the Latin script so Esperanto is a viable option
- Some Esperanto speakers in countries with non-latin script. These could be contacted via lernu and asked to help set up a system

Useful links

- www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses
- Also has a section on free language lessons- could be adapted for the languages section
- en.lernu.net
- The major Esperanto learning/teaching website
- www.komputeko.net/index_en.php
- Computer technical terms in Esperanto
- www.wikipedia.org

Thanks for listening!

- Any questions?

