23.02.2010, 05:26

cottrells

Internal links coded as external links

Many links to articles in the wiki are currently coded as external links when it would be preferable to use the syntax for internal links. The two following links provide lists of the hundreds of external links to internal pages

- External links using http://wiki.familysearch.org/en/
- External links using https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/

· **Does it matter?**

As long as the page exists, following an external link to a page within the wiki will not seem any different. However some pages will be listed as orphaned pages if all links to it are only coded as external. Another benefit of using internal links is that pages will be listed under the *What links here* menu item of the target page. If a page is being moved/deleted, then pages linking to it will be missed if they are linking via an external link.

23.02.2010, 10:29

Thomas_Lerman

I agree . . . they should be listed as internal links. Maybe some training is needed for those that are creating them as external links.

23.02.2010, 10:42

JensenFA

I agree with both comments. The problem is the training. I think the training might need to be one-on-one training when they occur. Any other ideas?

23.02.2010, 14:40

laraleepn

I don't suppose it could be a software solution - if the link address is for the wiki that it could automatically convert it to internal? Alternatively, but still a software solution - to provide a notification that this link appears to be for another page in the wiki and is best formatted in 'this' manner?

Training is a good idea - also they could part of cleanup projects - at least if there isn't a global way of doing it automatically, or semi-automatically.

_____

Laralee Nelson

FamilySearch Patron Services

23.02.2010, 15:06

Thomas_Lerman

The difficulty with global search & replaces would be if the page has moved, the replace would not fix up the link. Maybe something automatic can be created especially for this initial instance and make sure training can be taken care of.

23.02.2010, 17:29

Thomas_Lerman

I had a thought during the meeting, but the more I think about it, it may not work very easily. Basically I was thinking:
1) Take the list of these links
2) Write a program, which would be easy to do for a programmer, that would
a) take the current
b) see if the page exists
c) Create two lists, one for pages that exists and another for pages that do not exists

Then what to do?
1) Global search & replace the pages that do exists . . . on an individual basis?
2) Change the name of the links to pages that do not exist to be fixed up later and global search & replace the others bulk.

I do not see the options for what to do very easy, but maybe it can be done.

It was brought up in the meeting that the ones with "action=edit" comes from the {{stub}} template. I tried several ways to see if the link could be reformatted to be internal instead of external. So far, I did not find a way to do that within the template. It sure seems like this SHOULD be possible. I did check out the template a couple of other places and it looks like we copied the template from them. I did not check very deep, but did not find these type of pages listed in the same list. They may exist . . . I just did not spend too much time going from page to page.

23.02.2010, 22:35

ckwahlquist

If new contributors read the help pages, they will learn the difference between creating internal links and external links. Perhaps a direct statement about NOT using an external URL to create an internal link would be helpful.