Local EA Wiki Discussion

Please feel free to add notes, it would be useful to add your name/initials for more important points.

Henry Stanley has created an EA wiki, **eawiki.org**.

General Questions

1. What are the pros and cons of a local wiki? Are there any major risks?

Pros

- Add ideas and thoughts that wouldn't have a wikipedia page
- More control over format (i.e. could add INT framework for cause profiles, etc.)
- Consolidating movement-wide knowledge into one place, vs. wikipedia where there are individual articles for the most part

Cons

- Making information doesn't go out of date
- Ben West: Less trafficked than Wikipedia, harder to get engagement

Major risks

2. How would a local wiki fit into the current information ecosystem? e.g. how will we ensure it's well-integrated and there aren't duplicates of information?
    a. How would something like David's [directory/groups discussion board](#) fit?
3. What are the downsides of multiple platforms for discussions?

Setting up the wiki and maintenance

1. Importing existing data
    a. Henry has already imported the old wiki, but there was little usable content and he has pruned many pages.
    b. There are a number of introductory readings per cause area on the hub: https://resources.eahub.org/learn/reading-lists/
    c. There is also information on http://priority.wiki/

2. What incentive structures should we use to ensure the wiki is continually updated and doesn't lose steam over time?
    a. A small percentage of dedicated users will likely provide most of the content
    b. The wiki would need to be well-integrated with existing resources and provide value for people to know it exists and use it regularly
        i. Perhaps the Forum could have a link in the sidebar to other EA resources? Like the Hub/Wiki
        ii. The EA hub could have a link to this wiki instead of the priority wiki
3. What kind of userbase should it have?
    a. Can we ~~import~~ use the userbase from EAHub? The forum?
4. What kind of cheap tests can we do to see if it works?

Wiki content

1. How should information be organised?
    a. Should information be hierarchical?
        i. When people use wikipedia, I think that most arrive to pages through google search, and inner or outer links.
        ii. I think having some overarching structure would be useful if people want to poke around, it probably doesn't have to be very detailed - i.e. cause areas, orgs, career paths, etc.
    b. How should posts be organised?
        i. i.e. "I'd like something like a top/bottom research agenda on "how to do the most good", that ends with concrete problems"
    c. Basic categories: cause area, career paths, moral philosophy, EA organisations, EA frameworks

Other

Modifying the forum to be the wiki

1. (Edo) I'm interested in whether the forum can serve as a base for the wiki.
    a. Considering the coming tagging system, this might make it easier to have a hierarchical structure.
    b. Maybe it is possible to have wiki posts where anyone can edit.

Vaidehi : I'm skeptical because:

- Technically unlikely. the forum relies on the LW codebase, and they are pretty dependent on LW for any major changes. e.g. many people have suggested a tagging system and they are yet to do it. So unlikely to have a wiki format.
- I like a wiki format where people can add directly to the source material instead of adding comments. The content is also more objective/neutral than relying on forum posts as info, which often have an argument they are trying to make, or some other objectives.

My thought: I think keeping it separate for now is fine, but keeping the option for integration with the EA Hub open if there's more funding down the line may be better.
- The Hub already has a significant user base an a lot of other services and features
- I think it may be possible to get funding for specific projects, like a wiki. I am in process for getting funding for the EA Chats service, which will be hosted on the hub.

Ben West: I agree it's technically easier to create a wiki from scratch than to integrate with the forum, but my guess is that the hard part of this is not the technical part but rather getting engagement. So doing it on the forum exchanges a marketing problem for a technical one, which is probably a good trade.

(Note that both LW and the forum are open-source, in case people want to contribute that way.)

Creating "review" articles is one MVP of wiki-like material.

Starting off with resources for groups
(Edo) Perhaps the first use-case should be group material and resources that is needed for local groups. Perhaps in the lights of posts [like this](#).
- If this is also the first audience of David's discussion board, then a good start might be with some volunteers that take content from Q&As on the discussion board and writes that to the wiki.

Vaidehi: I think the EA Hub is doing this already and there are places for group organisers to discuss already (slack/fb/forum), so i think the more valuable use would be for cause area/industry/intervention knowledge. I think our ideal vision of the EA Hub is that all the resources would be like google docs, where people can comment suggestions or critiques and those are then incorporated into the doc. That way, we still get up to date information but the resource itself is still easy to read and use.

Edo: 👍

WIKI as a project hub

(Edo) A possible alternative use-case is to use the wiki to document discussions and actions on collaborative projects in the EA community. E.g we could have worked on the wiki project itself in the wiki (and use the discussion board for that as well, actually. Or the forum). The benefit of working on these kinds of projects in a wiki is that it is easy to see changes (and who makes them) and the result is a document.

What platforms exist and what features do we want?

Vaidehi: I think since there's so many platforms being discussed it may be useful to list them out and state what we think each one is or should be used for

Current platforms (* indicates its being used)
- EA Forum*
    - Long and shortform posts
- EA Hub*
    - User and group profiles
    - Resources for learning and group organisers
- EA wiki
- Discussion Board
    - Cause-area, profession, industry specific boards
- Facebook groups*
    - Cause-area, profession, industry specific
- Private platforms (say Slack groups)

A list of features we would like:
- Kind of information
    - Group organiser resources
    - Cause area/industry/intervention knowledge
    - EA concepts/principles
- Information
    - User-friendly (i.e. easy to navigate)
    - Up to date information (people can discuss and are incentivized update/contribute to knowledge)

- Community/Discussion
  - A place to have EA discussions and ask for resources/information
- Projects Platform
  - Where people can collaborate on projects (i.e. Edo's idea above)
  - (less related) To coordinate collaborators and funders

How to fix the incentives problem

- Research on wikis more generally and if there are any best practices
- Create a structure with a mostly complete list of placeholder articles and let people fill in themselves. Have some people who are experts in the field go over it when its almost complete to make any fixes.
- Treat the v1 of the wiki as a project and get a small group of people to work on it in a more dedicated fashion, then let people update and make changes (e.g.. what is happening with the EA hub resource)
- Who runs the LW wiki? We could ask them how they maintain it
  - We could also look at that structure as a way of doing the EA wiki
  - I broadly agree with this [EY Post](#) on how to use the wiki
    - Interesting [paper](#) on blog/wiki combo from the comments
- Interview past major wiki contributors in the community and ask them what they would like to see
- Quick poll/survey to ask people who contributed to the old wiki:
  - If they contributed, for how long/how much
  - If they stopped, why
  - Would they want to contribute to a wiki in the future?
  - Where would they like the wiki to be housed or linked?
    - Forum, ea hub, fb groups, other

Proposed wiki format:

https://www.lucidchart.com/invitations/accept/c8063e0c-fcf6-47ce-8fef-663f8229c67b

Structure notes:
- This is a very high level doc, meant mostly to illustrate the different sections. A lot is taken from the current ea hub resources structure
- It would be good in most sections to have a 'past' section or a 'history' section. To have a record of past events to preserve institutional memory
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