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Sum of all knowledge: Wikipedia and the encyclopedic urge

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Epilogue

While this study has achieved its initial goals, the journey has left me with more questions than answers. The breadth and reach of *Wikipedia* ensures its popularity as an object of research. The impact *Wikipedia* continues to have over education and learning in general is a topic of singular importance as the lessons to be learned are relevant not only for improving education throughout the world but they might prove to be central in sustaining the *Wikipedia* community.

Another issue of major importance is the international reach of *Wikipedia*. While for the purposes of this study I have limited my focus to the English version of the online encyclopedia, the project is active in 285 languages. Given that *Wikipedia* is the only encyclopedia available in most of those languages, local attitudes towards knowledge and authorship is bound to be very interesting areas of study along with the potential for interaction among these communities that might not have the opportunity previously.

While future research might illuminate other aspects of the deep and multifaceted aspects of *Wikipedia*, its community and the interaction of its model with the wider cultural spheres beyond the Anglophone world, this study has proven that *Wikipedia* is, albeit a very curious and so far unique, part of the encyclopedic urge that is as old as culture and should be evaluated along those lines.