Rhizomatic Wikipedia
What It Will Look Like

Stephan Ligl
University of Regensburg
Weinweg 51
Regensburg, 93049 Germany
Ligl@schulevonathen.de

Abstract
“Rhizomity of Wikipedia in main namespace of the german language version” in the topic of my dissertation project. In short: Is Wikipedia a rhizome? Before I will be able to answer to that, there are prior questions. These are: What are the elements of a rhizome in philosophy, biology and art? What connects these definitions? I use a critical hermeneutical method for that part and a modified software configuration-management method for the second part: the creation of a rhizomatic access to Wikipedia. At WikiSym I will present a prototype of this new approach.

Keywords
Rhizome; Wikipedia; User Interface; Architecture; Hypertext; Hypermedia; Structure; Links

ACM Classification Keywords
H.5.4 [Information Systems]: Information Interfaces and Presentation – Hypertext/Hypermedia

General Terms
Theory

Research Question
- What are the characteristics of a rhizome?
- Is Wikipedia a rhizome?
- If it is not, what would we have to do, to make it a rhizome?

Work in Progress
I currently develop a prototype of the rhizomatic access to Wikipedia, so I can present it at WikiSym. On the theoretical side I am discussing the principles of a rhizome in different areas, like biology, philosophy and art.

Expected Contributions of the Dissertation
My dissertation is looking for a new presentation of the contents of wikipedia – a presentation in a rhizomatic way.

Expectations for this doctoral symposium
I took part in the doctoral symposium two years ago at WikiSym, so I already know what to expect. I look forward to present some of my work in a foreign language and to meet other doctoral students. Johanna Niesyto, another participant two years ago, organized a conference of her own and invited me and my Ph.D. Advisor, so I know of the possibility of networking at the symposium. Furthermore I am very interested in feedback to my thesis. In the past it seemed somewhat
Biographical sketch

Conferences:

- WikiSym, 2010
- WikiMania, 2010
- Wikipedia – Ein kritischer Standpunkt, 2010
- SciCoRe Herbsttagung, 2011

Publications and Presentations:

- Rhizomity of wikis – with special observation of empty spaces in german wikipedia, WikiSym Doctoral Symposium, 2010
- Rhizome und Wikis, Poster at IV. Regensburger Symposium, 2011.

Research interests:

- Rhizome in Biology, Philosophy and Art
- Hypertext
- Wikis
- More information on my PromoWiki page.

PH.D. mentor

Prof. Dr. Rainer Hammwöhner, chair of information science, Institut für Information und Medien, Sprache und Kultur (I:IMSK), Universität Regensburg, Universitätstrasse 31, 93053 Regensburg, Rainer.Hammwoehner@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de

His main research interests are quality and interlingual aspects Wikipedia.

Curriculum Vita

Born in Weiden i.d.Opf, Germany on March 31, 1978, currently residing in Regensburg, Germany.

Education:

1998 University entrance-diploma, Kepler-Gymnasium, Weiden i.d.Opf., Germany
1998 – 1999 Community Service at ARV
1999 – 2001 Studies in Business Administration, University of Regensburg
2001 – 2007 Studies in Information Science and History of Science, University of Regensburg
2007 - PH.D. Student in Information Science, University of Regensburg

Professional:

2006 - Working part time for Omniga