

Slidewiki Alpha Test, ULEI Team
Leipzig University, Department of Computer Science,
Contact: graebe@informatik.uni-leipzig.de

<http://bis.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/de/Forschung/SlidewikiAlphatest/>

Interview, provided by Prof. Hans-Gert Gräbe and sent at 2018-09-07 to Alexandra Garatzgianni

The questions to be answered for the interview were provided by the SlideWiki team.

Q: SlideWiki, an EU-funded project, enables the collaborative creation of free teaching and learning materials. These include, for instance, slide sets, lecture notes and course content. What is special about this platform?

A: SlideWiki is a platform capable to pool open educational material, mainly slides and decks, aggregate it in playlists and thus to go beyond classical scenarios of inner university courses. Promising but not yet reliably worked out is the concept of multilingual decks. There are several deficits yet that prevented us to use the platform in the planned way for a course:

- the very experimental state of the platform (we compiled more than 70 issues so far),
- the rudimentary collaboration tools focusing on the technical but less on the social needs of a collaborate editorial process,
- the weak quality assurance process concerning the material uploaded so far to SlideWiki.

Q: According to your opinion, which are the target groups that can best benefit from using the SlideWiki platform?

A: You can best benefit from using the SlideWiki platform if you plan to open course concepts and course material to a wider audience. This was even our motivation to participate with our interdisciplinary courses <http://bis.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/de/Lehre/Graebe/Inter> in the SlideWiki trial.

Q: How do you evaluate the importance of Open Course Ware and Open Educational Resources for all educational levels?

A: I see a big potential in Open Course Ware and Open Educational Resources if it is properly organized in the spirit of Open Culture. Unfortunately, although claiming to support such Open Culture SlideWiki in its present form prefers a resource model close to Dublin Core to manage intellectual property. This prevents SlideWiki in the current setting to unfold the potential of cooperate editing to the full range.

Q: How does your organization plan to use the SlideWiki platform beyond the duration of the project?

A: We do not plan to use the SlideWiki platform until it isn't available in a stable reliably working form that meets also our requirements in collaborate editing.

Blogpost, compiled by Prof. Hans-Gert Gräbe as requested by Sandra Bartsch, 2018-11-07

Another external InfAI partner testing the SlideWiki platform is the Interdisciplinary Teaching Project of the Computer Science Department at Leipzig University. With this project we revive the old academic tradition of a discourse across disciplinary boundaries within a more and more splattered university. Since the summer term 2013 the project each term offers a lecture course, a seminar and also practical work on digital projects to both computer scientists and students of the humanities.

Our first idea was to use the – as claimed – fantastic interactive facilities of SlideWiki within our course program. But even a short pre-term evaluation revealed many problems that prevented us to use Slidewiki as accompanying tool for a regular course. Instead we decided to concentrate on importing our course material into SlideWiki, to explore the SlideWiki problems on such a task in a more systematic way and to set up that as one of the digital projects in the current course.

The project core team was completed by 5 students from the humanities enrolled in the course. We set up a gitlab environment to conduct the project. The students imported more than 400 slides from two of our courses into SlideWiki, see the playlists <https://slidewiki.org/playlist/43> and <https://slidewiki.org/playlist/46> – a hard piece of work, since they had to overcome many SlideWiki obstacles and find out a great number of workarounds. All that was accurately documented in more than 80 issues, that were passed to the SlideWiki development team and partly also discussed with the developers. In a second stage of our trial we assembled a number of biligual students to translate the slides from one of the playlists to different target languages (English, Chinese, Arabic, Greek) thus evaluating the SlideWiki multilingual concept available in the production platform only since August 2018, see <https://slidewiki.org/playlist/87>.

In particular we expected to use SlideWiki to present our course concept through a multilingual version of our slides to a broader audience. Unfortunately the translation process turned out to be very cumbersome and several of the slides were destroyed due to wrong assignment of languages during the edit process. Due to the numerous instabilities and design flaws of the platform we do not plan to use it in the near future within our courses.