

GENEALOGÍA NAVAL WIKI: GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE SHARED OVER THE INTERNET¹

Lorena Martínez Solís²; Celia Chaín Navarro³; Juan José Sánchez Baena⁴
Cátedra de Historia Naval, Campus de Excelencia *Mare Nostrum*, Universidad de Murcia,
España
loremart@um.es; chain@um.es; baena@um.es

ABSTRACT

This paper presents *Genealogía Naval Wiki (GNWiki)*, a tool that has been created to share information and to generate knowledge collaboratively among users interested in Naval Genealogy. The application was built on *Google Sites* and received nearly 1,000 visits in its first six months of running. These visits supposed consultations of more than ten thousand pages as well as coming from links from other prestigious websites within the sphere of Genealogy and Naval History.

Key words

Genealogy, Naval History, Management of Information, *Genealogía Naval Wiki*, *GNWiki*, Shared Knowledge, Science 2.0.

1. INTRODUCTION

Like other authors (Torres Salinas and Delgado López-Cózar 2009, 534-39), we believe that the social web is a novel and potential means of disseminating scientific findings. We have, therefore chosen one of the tools available - *wikis* – with the idea of sharing some of the findings of one of the lines of research undertaken by the *Cátedra de Historia Naval* research group. At the same time, we believe that the tool can become a powerful means for acquiring important, enriching information through contributions by users.

Moreover, as the report “Ciencia 2.0.: aplicación de la web social a la investigación” (*REBIUN* 2010, 3-4) clearly indicates, a feature of the social web is that all its services are participative. Users of 2.0 technologies can interact easily and openly with each other; they can share resources and communicate quickly and simultaneously. Research benefits from participative technologies as groups can share reflections, methodologies, resources and findings. Social web applications for research can be placed in three main blocks: sharing research, resources and findings.

¹ This paper is one of the results of research projects *Argos II*, 11936/PHCS/09, supported by the Fundación Séneca.

² Grantholder FPI (Formación de Personal Investigador) of the Fundación Séneca-Agencia de Ciencia y Tecnología de la Región de Murcia.

³ Professor in Librarianship and Information Science.

⁴ Lecturer in History and Director of the *Cátedra de Historia Naval*.

The main aim of this study was to create a *wiki* as an ideal means of sharing information among users interested in the subject matter and, at the same time, to receive information from them that, after review by the collaborators of the work group, might be of value in completing or extending the research being undertaken in naval genealogy. In other words, we have two way system in which research results can be made available quickly to interested parties, who in turn can consult these and make their own contributions to enhancing the product offered.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOOL

Given the above, *Genealogía Naval Wiki* (*Naval Genealogy Wiki*) was developed as a tool designed to share information and to generate knowledge collaboratively with users interested in naval genealogy. The tool is located at <https://sites.google.com/site/genealogianavalwiki/>.

Figure 1: Home page of *Genealogía Naval Wiki* (*GNWiki*).

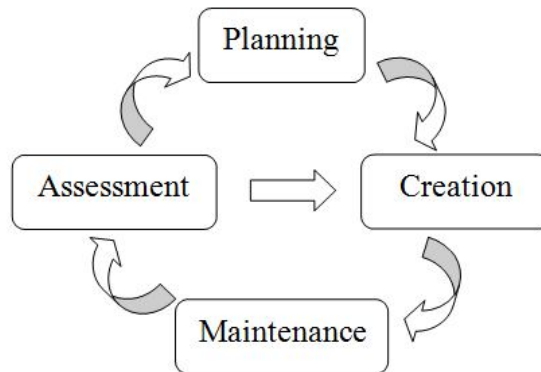


Source: own.

Following Klobas (2006, 153-63), the web hosted *wiki* model was chosen to generate the application, since it is the most simple and is generally free. The next step was to locate the tools classified within the model and, after consulting several directories, *Google Sites* was chosen. The official website describes it as: “Application that enables information to be gathered at a single site (videos, calendars, presentations, attached files and text) and to share it with just a few people, your whole organization or with any Web user” (*Google Sites* 2011).

The tool management process was then performed. This involved four steps: planning, creation, maintenance and assessment.

Figure 2: Life cycle of the management of a *wiki*.



Source: own.

In the planning stage the purpose of the application was defined, and the resources, timing and technologies available were established. The actions to be performed during the procedure were also listed.

In the creation stage the *wiki* was implanted in *Google Sites* and was given the name *Genealogía Naval Wiki (GNWiki)*. The visual design was made and the content to be shared was stored. It was tested for correct functioning within the website and its existence was made known in order to attract would-be users.

As a final stage in the management process of the *wiki*, a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the website was made. For the former the tool used was *Google Analytics*, a web application that offers information about website traffic and the efficiency of the marketing plan (*Google Analytics* 2011). Analysis covered the six-month period January 25, 2011, when the website began to be publicized, through to June 25. Two actions were made for the qualitative assessment. A type of log was made for the “repercussions” the application had from its set-up and a survey was prepared and sent to all the users, who had previously been invited to take part in the same during the dissemination campaign. The idea was to ascertain their opinions and satisfaction regarding *GNWiki*. The questionnaire was also displayed on the homepage of the website for unidentified users who might be interested in responding.

3. STRUCTURE OF *GENEALOGÍA NAVAL WIKI*

The original structure of *Genealogía Naval Wiki* is shown below (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Original structure of *GNWiki*.

- **Homepage.**
- **Project definition.** Who we are; what we want to do; what are our aims; how can we achieve them; limitations and opportunities of the project.
 - **Historical context** (the framework of the project)⁵.
 - **Midshipmen** (main aim of the study)⁶.

⁵ The historical context of the content is the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the period which spans the creation, activity and disappearance of the Military Naval Academies in Spain.

- **Wiki** (definition of this type of 2.0 tool).
- **How to participate.** This includes: how to apply for membership of the website; how to collaborate; how to create new websites with genealogies of individuals; how to improve existing websites; reminder of the subject matter treated under the application.
 - **How to create a new page for a person.** All the necessary information is given for a user to be able to create a new page within the website.
 - **Example of a page for an individual.** This page offers users a model.
 - **How to improve an existing page.** Explanations on how to modify, enlarge, etc. an existing page on the website.
- **Directory of members.** A list of the users participating in the website (including names and emails).
- **Genealogies of people.** A page which provides the genealogies of the midshipmen and their families. A sample extract is provided below:
 - A.
 - Arnola.
 - de Ambulodi y Arnola, José.
 - B.
 - C.
 - Calvo.
 - Calvo de Castro, Micaela.
 - de Ambulodi y Calvo, Miguel.
 - Cárdenas.
 - Cárdenas y Guzmán, Jerónima.
 - Quijano y Cárdenas, Diego.
 - (...).
 - Carrillo.
 - Martínez [de Espinosa] Carrillo, Juan José.
 - D.
 - de Ambulodi.
 - de Ambulodi y Arnola, José
 - de Ambulodi y Calvo, Miguel.
 - (...).
- **Links of interest.** Directory of links and web resources related to genealogy, naval history and social and family history which may be of interest to the user.

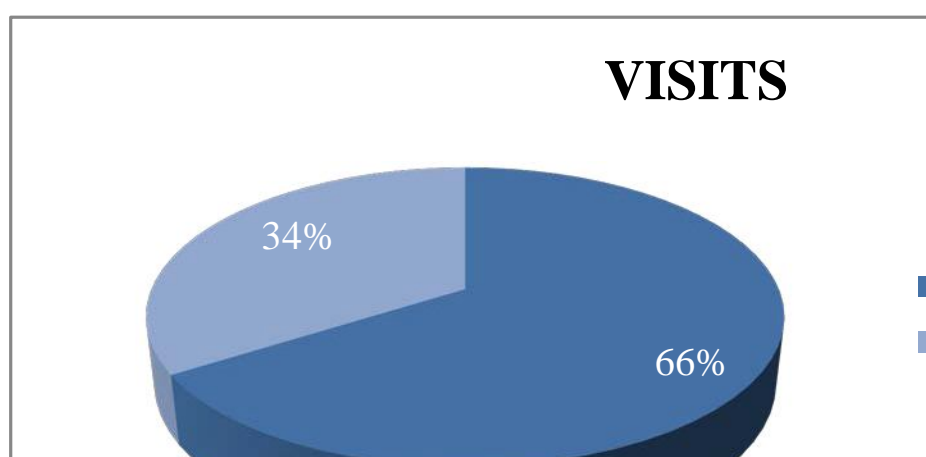
Source: own.

4. RESULTS OBTAINED WITH THE TOOL

The quantitative and qualitative results obtained from assessment with the tool showed that during the first six months of the project most users were surfers who made a single visit to *GNWiki*, made a series of consultations and then left (Figure 4).

⁶ Midshipmen were usually young men between 16 and 18 years old from aristocratic or upper class families who would study at the Military Naval Academies before taking commissions as officers with the Spanish Royal Navy.

Figure 4: Types of visits.



Source: own.

While contributions have not been huge (nearly one thousand visits and ten thousand pages consulted), there are many surfers who consult the information displayed on the website – many of them international - (see Figures 5 and 6), and links have been used from websites of prestige within the sphere of Genealogy and Naval History. Some users have also recommended that their acquaintances visit the website.

Figure 5: Visits from different countries (table).

	Country	Visits	Pages/Visit	Average time at site	Percentage of new visits	Bounce rate
1	Spain	695	12.44	00:07:57	62.73%	26.19%
2	United States	59	8.19	00:03:13	74.58%	33.90%
3	Argentina	51	4.92	00:01:24	80.39%	33.33%
4	France	34	10.32	00:02:05	76.47%	44.12%
5	Mexico	19	3.95	00:02:51	57.89%	52.63%
6	United Kingdom	11	4.45	00:03:58	18.18%	18.18%
7	Chile	10	7	00:01:24	100%	30%
8	Puerto Rico	10	12.70	00:04:09	80%	40%
9	Uruguay	9	4.56	00:02:07	88.89%	44.44%
10	Italy	8	4.25	00:05:13	25%	25%

Source: own.

Figure 6: Visits from different countries (graph).



Source: own.

Websites that direct traffic to *GNWiki* include the forum of *Todoavante*⁷, the website of *Todoababor*⁸, the genealogy blog *Genealogía Blog*⁹, the website of *Genealogía Hispana*¹⁰, and the *Online Campus* of the course “Introducción a las Fuentes Documentales para el estudio genealógico y de la Historia de la Familia”, under section “Bibliografía”, and its sub-section “Enlaces web de interés”, where there is a link to *Genealogía Naval Wiki* (Figure 7).

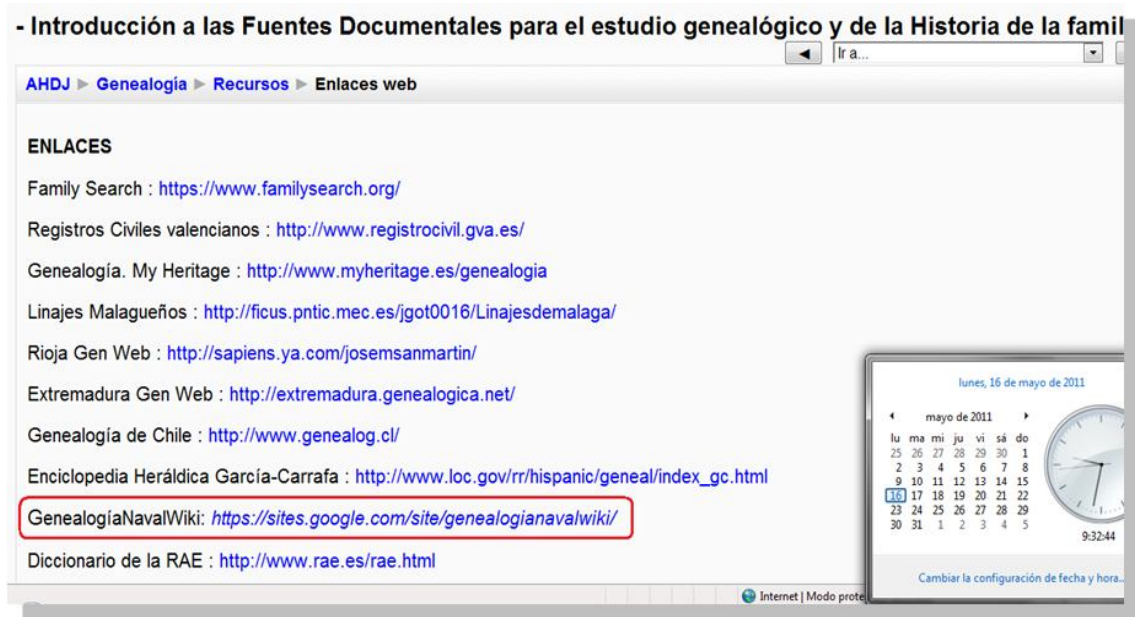
⁷ Available at <<http://www.todoavante.es/index.php/Portada>>.

⁸ Available at <<http://www.todoababor.es/enlaces/index.htm>>.

⁹ Available at <<http://genealogiablog.blogspot.com/2011/01/genealogia-naval-wiki.html>>.

¹⁰ Available at <<http://www.genealogiahispana.com/espana/Genealog-a-Naval-Wiki-GNWiki-11045.html>>.

Figure 7: External link from a specialist course in Genealogy.



Source: own.

It can be seen that the two periods of most visits coincide with the contacts made with users: the publicizing of the website in January and the surveys in June 2011 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Total visits over the whole period analyzed.



Source: own.

5. FINAL ROUND-UP

In general, the social web allows research results, sources and findings to be shared (REBIUN 2010, 3-4). Specifically, *wikis*, tools embedded in web 2.0., are virtual spaces for asynchronous cooperative work that allow efficient dynamic preparation of contents, which means that knowledge can be generated, enhanced and shared with users all over the world.

In the particular case of our study, based on naval genealogy, the application *Genealogía Naval Wiki*, a social web tool, has given users access to part of the findings of our research while also offering them the chance to cease to be mere passive readers and to become active editors and providers of information.

6. REFERENCES

- CATTAFI, R., and ZAMBRANO, N. 2008. Comunicación colaborativa: aspectos relevantes en la interacción humano-humano mediada por la tecnología digital. *Enl@ce: revista venezolana de información, tecnología y conocimiento* 5 (1). http://www.scielo.org.ve/scielo.php?pid=S1690-75152008000100004&script=sci_arttext (3.8.2011).
- CHAIN NAVARRO, C., MARTINEZ SOLIS, L. and SÁNCHEZ BAENA, J. 2008. Motivar desde la innovación en la enseñanza universitaria: el “blog calidad”. *RED. Revista de Educación a Distancia* 21. <http://www.um.es/ead/red/21/chain.pdf> (28.2.2012).
- CONCEPCIÓN BÁEZ, C. M. 2008. Wiki, intranet y repositorios documentales. *Acimed: revista cubana de los profesionales de la información y la comunicación en salud* 18 (6). http://bvs.sld.cu/revistas/aci/vol18_6_08/aci141208.pdf (20.6.2010).
- eWeek. 2011. 25 Tips for a Better Wiki Deployment <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Messaging-and-Collaboration/25-Tips-for-a-Better-Wiki-Deployment/> (25.8.2011).
- FICHTER, D. 2005. Intranets, wikis, blikis, and collaborative working. *Online Magazine* 29 (5). <http://www.allbusiness.com/technology/computer-networks-intranets/10574433-1.html> (3.8.2011).
- FICHTER, D. 2008. Wiki while you work. *Medford*. http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb3328/is_200805/ai_n32273530/?tag=content:col1 (25.8.2011).
- FISH, S. 2004. Which open source wiki Works for you? *Onlamp.com. Lamp: the open source web platform* http://onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2004/11/04/which_wiki.html (5.9.2011).
- GONZÁLEZ GUERRERO, K., PADILLA BELTRÁN, J. E. and ARIAS ARIAS, N. C. 2011. Análisis de los estilos de aprendizaje en la implementación de actividades a través de una wiki. *Revista Virtual Universidad Católica del Norte* 32. <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=3417650> (27.02.2012).
- KLOBAS, J. 2006. *Wikis: Tools for Information Work and Collaboration*. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2006, 153-163.
- MARTÍNEZ SOLÍS, L. 2009. Family Tree Builder como posible herramienta para la construcción de un árbol genealógico. Ejemplo práctico de la familia Tacón y Herves. *Naveg@mérica. Revista electrónica de la Asociación Española de Americanistas* n. 2. <http://revistas.um.es/navegamerica/article/view/55681> (28.02.2012).
- MARTÍNEZ SOLÍS, L. and SÁNCHEZ BAENA, J. J. 2010. Programas informáticos genealógicos en español. Análisis, comparación y evaluación. *Biblios: Revista*

electrónica de bibliotecología, archivología y museología 37.
<http://www.scielo.org.pe/pdf/biblios/n37/a02n37.pdf> (28.02.2012).

MARTÍNEZ SOLÍS, L., CHAÍN NAVARRO, C. and SÁNCHEZ BAENA, J. J. 2011. Continuar aprendiendo sin coincidir ni en el espacio ni en el tiempo: propuesta para la asignatura “Archivística, Documentación y Tecnología” del Posgrado en Historia Naval. En: *Congreso Internacional de Innovación Docente*. Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, del 6 al 8 de julio de 2011.

MORAL VILLALTA, M. 2007. Una herramienta emergente de la Web 2.0: la wiki. Reflexión sobre sus usos educativos. *Unión: revista iberoamericana de educación matemática* 9: 73-82. <http://www.mendeley.com/research/una-herramienta-emergente-la-web-20-la-wiki-reflexin-sobre-sus-usos-educativos/#page-1> (19.6.2010).

PENNESI, M. 2011. ¡Devolvamos el protagonismo al alumnado! En: HERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA, J., PENNESI, M., SOBRINO LÓPEZ, D. and VÁZQUEZ GUTIÉRREZ, A. (coord.). *Experiencias educativas en las aulas del siglo XXI: innovación con TIC*. 145-148. <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=3772873> (27.02.2012).

REBIUN. 2010. *Ciencia 2.0.: aplicación de la web social a la investigación*. http://eprints.rclis.org/bitstream/10760/3867/1/Ciencia20_rebiun.pdf (26.8.2010).

REINOSO PEINADO, A. J. 2009. Análisis de la incorporación de una plataforma wiki a la docencia de la asignatura “nuevas tecnologías de la información”. *RED U: Revista de Docencia Universitaria* 5 (Ejemplar dedicado a: Wiki y educación superior en España (II parte)). <http://revistas.um.es/red/article/view/92931> (22.6.2010).

RICHMOND, S. A., SPENCE, P. R. and FULLER, B. D. 2011. Using the Wiki in the college classroom. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. 15 (2): 103.

RODRÍGUEZ, J. A. 2007. La gallina de los huevos de oro de nuevo está en peligro. *Signo y pensamiento* 26 (50): 126-147. <http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/redalyc/src/inicio/ArtPdfRed.jsp?iCve=86005009&iCveNum=9198> (3.8.2011).

SÁNCHEZ BAENA, J. J. and CHAÍN NAVARRO, C. 2009. El Patrimonio Histórico Documental de la Armada y su difusión en la sociedad del conocimiento. *Patrimonio cultural y derecho* 13: 247-264.

TORRE, A. 2006. Web Educativa 2.0. *Edutec: Revista electronica de tecnología educativa* 20. <http://edutec.rediris.es/Revelec2/revelec20/anibal20.pdf> (3.8.2011).

TORRES SALINAS, D. and DELGADO LÓPEZ-CÓZAR, E. 2009. Estrategia para mejorar la difusión de los resultados de investigación con la Web 2.0. *El profesional de la información* 18 (5): 534-539. <http://ec3.ugr.es/publicaciones/f30653777t353626.pdf> (30.4.2010).

ÜLLE MUST, A. M. 2000. Nuevas Tecnologías en la enseñanza y en la difusión de la Historia: Informática e Historia en la Universidad de Estonia. En: ARANDA PÉREZ, F. J., SANZ CAMAÑES, P. and FERNÁNDEZ IZQUIERDO, F. (coords.). *La historia en una nueva frontera = History in a new frontier*. Cuenca: Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha.