



Digital Commons Meetup

Wikimania 2012

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Wikimedia movement & friends

Incredible progress. Things that were dreamy only a few years ago are almost reality! And important part of coalitions against new bad laws.

Much progress from related free knowledge and free software movements.

Super excellent!

Enclosure movement

Proprietary knowledge and software has also made incredible progress.

Bad law&policy continues to increase.

:-(

At least 3 methods of promoting and protecting commons

law&policy

building

extralegal

Each has reactionary and progressive aspects

Let's scrutinize and optimize each and all together

Commoners at great disadvantage due to non-concentrated benefits of good policy.

But, we can and should take a longer view...

Law&policy

A few rear guard defense actions successful

We need a non-tepid progressive agenda, including challenging assumptions, emphasizing primacy of freedom and equality

Recognize the political significance of building...

Building

Free knowledge & software invalidates assumptions of, mitigates, and builds constituency against bad policy.

Each contribution to a commons is a strike against bad policy and dystopian future. That's something to celebrate and proclaim!

Extralegal

Intensive curators of non-free material are fundamentally like Wikimedians.

How can we engage with them, including making more contributors to free projects?

Cost of exclusion

Differential use of public domain and restricted material on Wikimedia projects an interesting but tiny indication of cost.

Only underground mass collaboration to preserve and build on almost all of contemporary culture demonstrates massive cost. Imagine a world in which Wikipedia is not unusual.

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in ~~the sum of~~ all knowledge.

Wild speculation: the Wikimedia movement is awesome, but where is the wiki vanguard?

Non-wild speculation: we need to learn from history of and share with non-digital commons movements.

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