WIKIPEDIA IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON FACULTY
PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES

Eduard Aïbar, Maura Lerga, Josep Lladós, 
Antoni Meseguer, Julià Minguillón

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya 
Barcelona, Spain

Funded by RecerCaixa program (2011-2013)
-ongoing project-
1. Wikipedia in Higher Education

• Wikipedia is in the classroom. Is everybody happy?

• Empirical evidence
2. Research project: Aims

• Who uses Wikipedia for teaching?

• Attitudes of University faculty towards Wikipedia as an educational tool

• Key factors and faculty profiles
3. Research project: Design

- Online survey. Universe size = 2,128 people (full-time and part-time professors)
- 800 respondents sample size
- Questionnaire: characterization data + 41 questions with 5-point Likert scales
4. Findings I: Usage

- Wikipedia is seen as a useful tool for teaching but its use is scarce
- There’s no big problem with students using Wikipedia, but few faculty recommend or cite it
- Most faculties are regular (passive) users of Wikipedia
5. Findings II: Usability & Quality

- Easy to use

- More sceptical about quality

- No clear positions on editing and reviewing process
6. Findings III: Role models

- Most faculties think the use of Wikipedia is not well seen by colleagues.

- Most faculties show a “sharing attitude” even though intensive use of web 2.0 tools is rare.
7. Discussion

• Easy and useful but they don’t use it for teaching purposes

• Everybody uses it privately but nobody talks about

• Standard academic procedures vs open collaborative model of peer production
8. Further research

• Beyond the photo: clustering, user profiles and TAM analysis

• More empirical data

• Compilation of teaching experiences
Contact information

- Blog: http://oer.uoc.edu/wiki4HE/
- Email: wiki4he@uoc.edu