

Edukalibre Project: Wiki Editor

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EdukaLibre

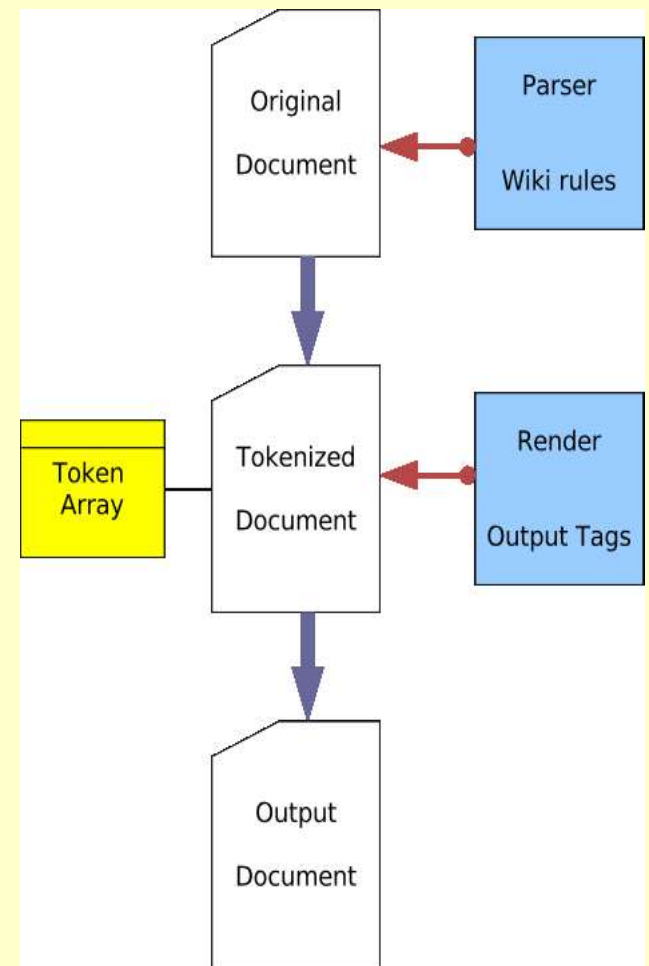


Wiki

Wiki is an online collaboration model and tool that allows users to edit content through a simple browser

It is unnecessary to know tags, the syntax is comprised entirely of punctuation characters

The PEAR TextWiki package has been used to convert Wiki to Docbook.



Tools Developed

- ◆ Wiki to Docbook converter
- ◆ Docbook to Wiki converter
- ◆ Wiki Editor
- ◆ Equation Editor
- ◆ WikiEduka Moodle Module

Wiki Editor Features

- ♦ Formating buttons
- ♦ Assisted image insertion
- ♦ Equation editor + preview feature (using Latex or Mimetex)
- ♦ Docbook / Wiki document Import / Export
- ♦ Locked section editing
- ♦ Editing-time expiration warning
- ♦ It is possible to know who is editing each section
- ♦ Previous versions access
- ♦ Working in progress: application of the AJAX technology to save and preview functions

Case Study

This case study enrolled students of the Engineering Faculty of the Porto University, which have little previous experience in collaborative writing (CW).

Case Study: Objectives

The aim of this study was to show that the use of a CW tool stimulates and, consequently, improves the performance in the writing process.

Moreover, it shows that the Wiki format may be used to write scientific documents.

Case Study: Design

The collaborative writing process was supported by the LCMS Moodle.

The document was written on-line through the WikiEduka module

The writing strategy was Parallel Partitioning, where each collaborator is responsible for a section

Case Study: Methodology

A questionnaire composed of twenty questions aiming to know the participants' previous experiences, had been previously presented.

Productivity was evaluated through qualitative analysis of synchronous and asynchronous communication (chat and forum), and post quantitative/qualitative analysis of member contributions.

Case Study: Analisis

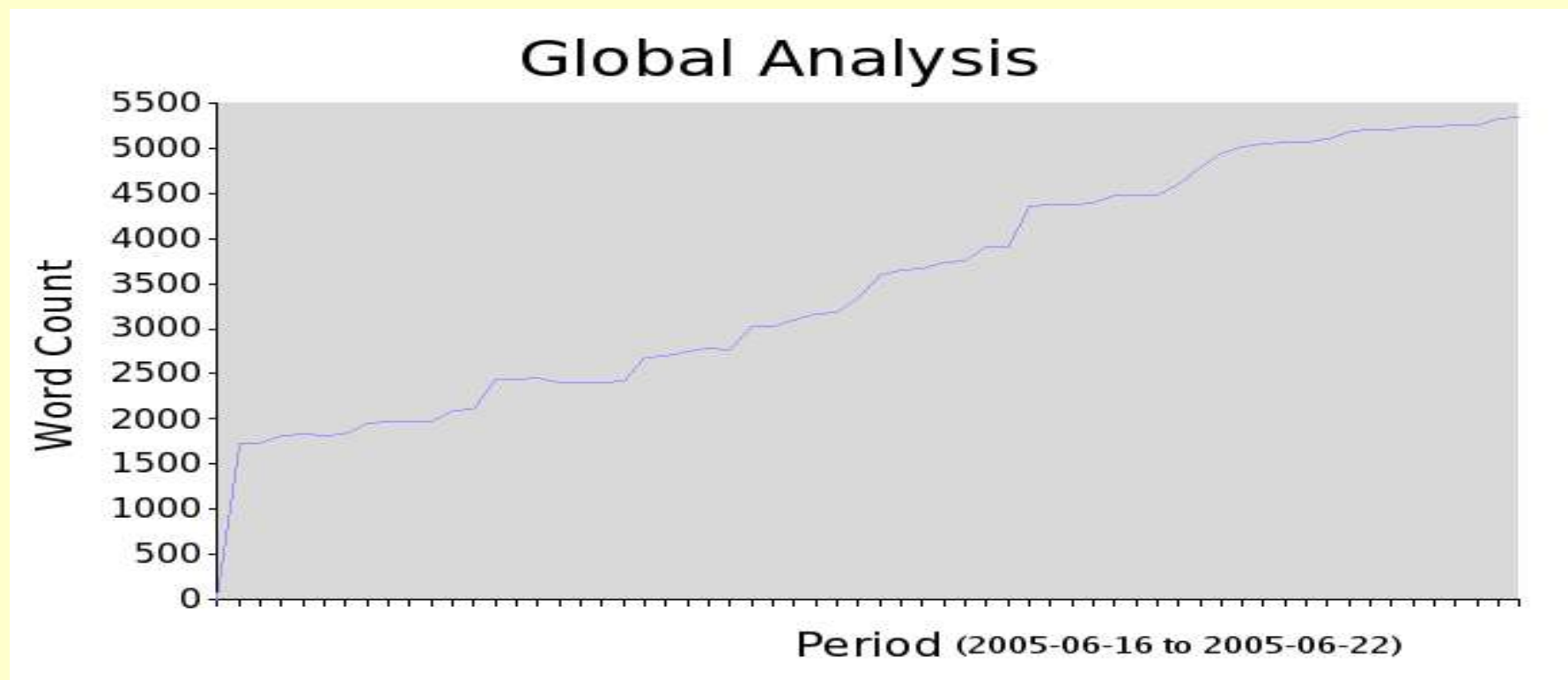
The answers to the questionnaire showed that all participants had just little prior experiences with collaborative writing.

Analyzing the forum and chat contents we realized that there was little redundancy of ideas and that, immediately after an item had reached consensus, the document was modified.

Case Study: Analysis (2)

This first contributions were mainly new text insertions. After that, the number of words grew continuously during the rest of the testing period.

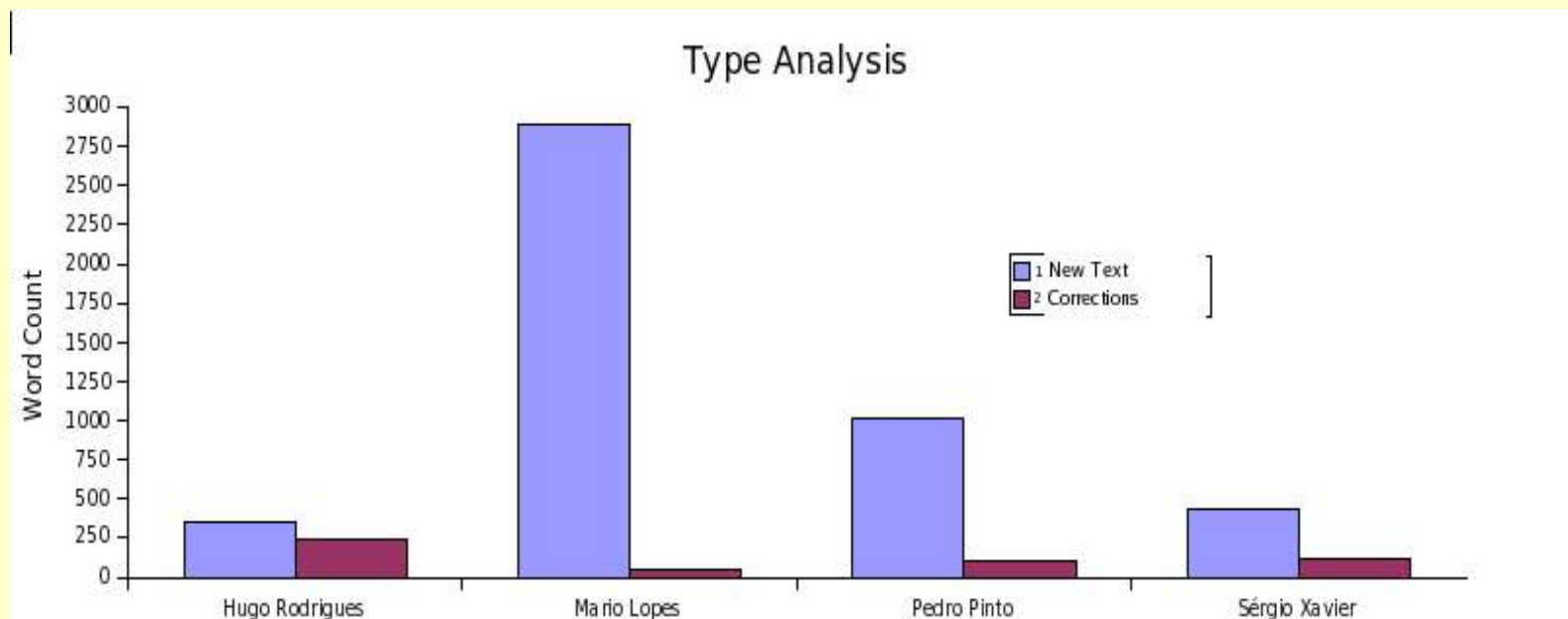
It can be concluded that the participants developed a constant effort during the rest of the time



Case Study: Analysis (3)

Analyzing the nature of the interventions of each participant, it is possible to tell who preferred insertion of new text and who dedicated more time to corrections.

Moreover it was possible to infer the amount of work dedicated by each participant.



Final Considerations

One of the most visible outputs coming out of the Edukalibre project is the Edukalibre Platform.

In the spirit of the free software movement, it was decided from the beginning of the project that the authors should have the freedom to choose the typesetting tools they use.

Thank you
Questions?

www.edulivre.fe.up.pt