

Open Edit and Source Centric User Model for Family History

Ron Tanner
13 March 2008



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- Source Centric = the ability to identify, upload, and associate source information to conclusions in the public conclusion tree
- Open Edit and Source Centric User Model = a system behavior that allows for the introduction and association of source material to conclusions that are freely editable.

Why would we want this?

- The ability to easily correct information.
- The ability to prove the conclusions are accurate with source references and images.
- Invite greater peer review and collaboration.
- Allow for the evolution of a combined human family pedigree.





You mean
someone else can
change my data?



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change my data?

Yep. And possibly
make it even better!

WIKIPEDIA

English

The Free Encyclopedia

2 268 000+ articles

Deutsch

Die freie Enzyklopädie

718 000+ Artikel

Français

L'encyclopédie libre

631 000+ articles

日本語

フリー百科事典

474 000+ 記事

Nederlands

De vrije encyclopedie

414 000+ artikelen

Español

La enciclopedia libre

339 000+ artículos

Polski

Wolna encyklopedia

477 000+ haseł

Italiano

L'enciclopedia libera

421 000+ voci

Português

A enciclopédia livre

364 000+ artigos



Svenska

Den fria encyklopedin

277 000+ artiklar

search · suche · rechercher · szukaj · 検索 · ricerca · zoeken · busca
 buscar · sök · поиск · 搜索 · søk · haku · suk · cerca · căutare · ara

English

>

Wikipedia

- 🌐 Started in 2001
- 🌐 Currently contains 2,276,608 English articles
- 🌐 Hundreds of thousands of articles in 255 languages

Grand Total

Articles	Total	Edits	Admins	Users	Images
9 871 655	33 385 149	455 416 543	4 461	11 140 536	1 538 050

Articles = encyclopedia articles

Total = articles + user pages + images + talk pages + project pages + categories + templates

In 2006 a review of Wikipedia was done by Library Journal where a panel of librarians evaluated articles on popular culture, current affairs and science.

The review concluded that “While there are still reasons to proceed with caution when using a resource that takes pride in limited professional management, many encouraging signs suggest that (at least for now) Wikipedia may be granted the librarian’s seal of approval.”



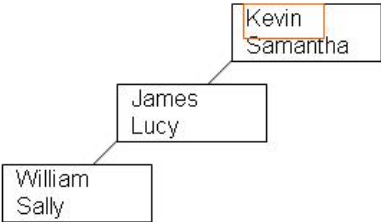


Basic prototypes of an open edit and source centric system was done on a set of people with a broad range of experience with Internet and genealogy.

- You are William and select your grandfather Kevin.
- What do you believe is the information on the right?
- Would you feel comfortable editing the data?
- If so, why?

Slide 3

Welcome to FamilySearch



```
graph TD; WS[William  
Sally] --- JL[James  
Lucy]; JL --- KS[Kevin  
Samantha];
```

1920 Census
Homestead Photo
Family Photos
Samantha's Thoughts
Family.ged
BlahBlah: kim@bleeorg.net

Name: Kevin

Spouse: Samantha

Date: Blah

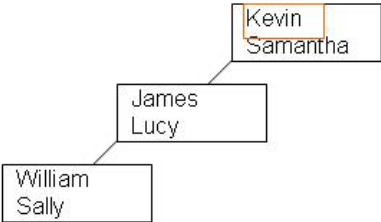
Location: Blah

Contact: Blah

- You decided to edit the date information.
- What makes you feel comfortable about the change you made?

Slide 4

Welcome to FamilySearch



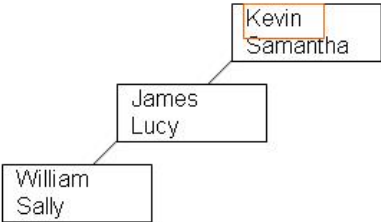
1920 Census
Homestead Photo
Family Photos
Samantha's Thoughts
Family.ged
BlahBlah: kim@bleeorg.net

Name: Kevin
Spouse: Samantha
Date: January 3rd, 1842
Location: Blah
Contact: Blah

- You return to Kevin and see the data.
- What are your feelings regarding the details of your grandfather?
- How does it make you feel that others can edit information for your grandfather?
- Is there anything the system can do to make you more comfortable about this?

Slide 6

Welcome to FamilySearch



```
graph BT; WS[William Sally] --- JL[James Lucy]; JL --- KS[Kevin Samantha];
```

1920 Census
Homestead Photo
Family Photos
Samantha's Thoughts
Family.ged
BlahBlah: kim@bleeorg.net

Name: Kevin
Spouse: Samantha
Date: March 18th 1864
Location: Blah
Contact: Blah

Prototype overall conclusions:

- Patrons can become comfortable with a public tree that is freely editable
 - sources are used as evidence
 - they can find out who changed the data
 - why and how to contact them
 - optionally notified when changes occur.
- Patrons want to hook their data to reliable and verified sources.
- Patrons can easily recognize the relationship between public conclusions and sources.
- Patrons uniformly want their sources to be protected and only modified by the contributor.
- Patrons believe their living memory is a valid source.

An Open Edit Source Centric Model must provide:

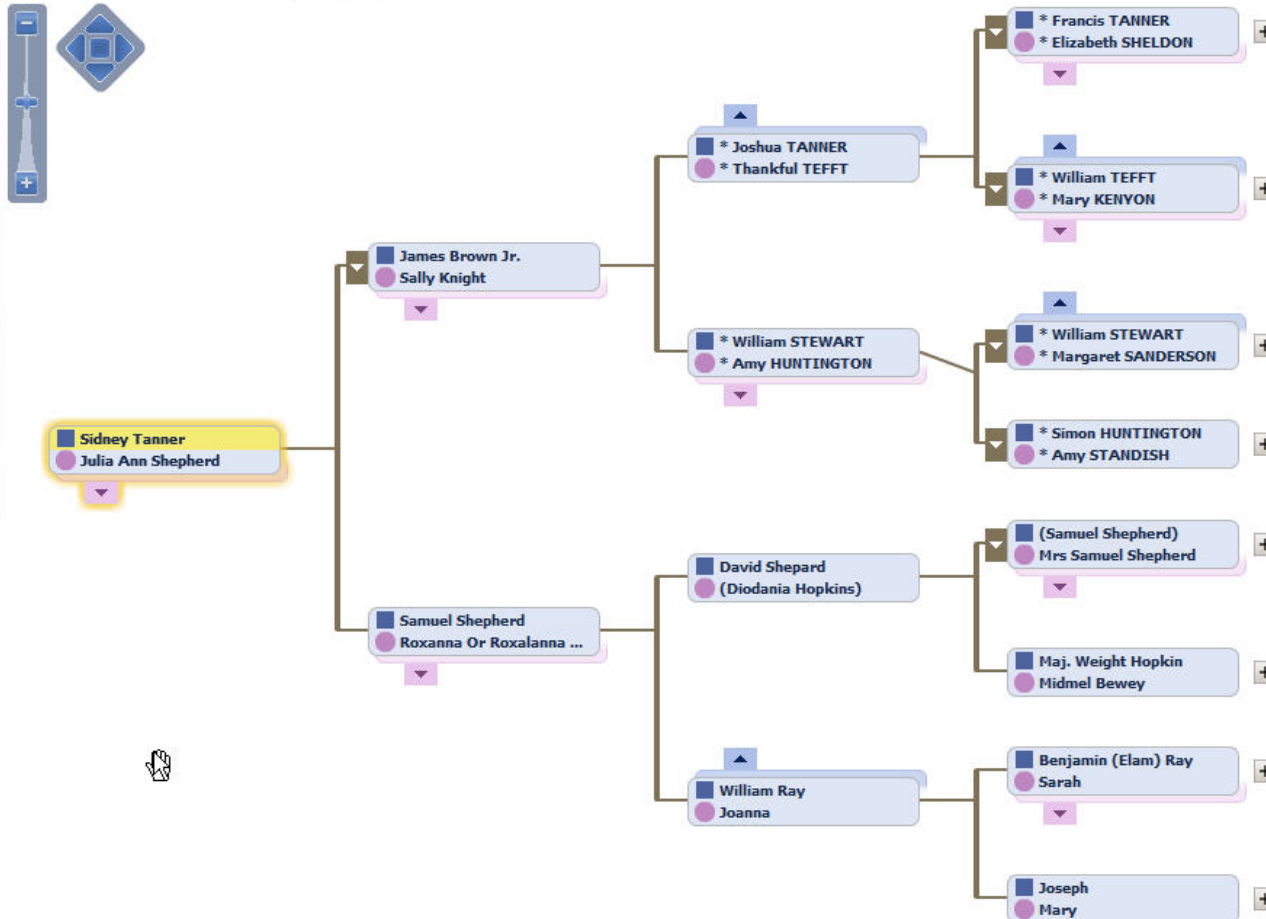
- Structure to the interface rather than the free-style format of a traditional wiki system.
- A user experience and rules where registered users can modify existing data and non-registered users can view the data.
- The ability to recover previous values of edited data.
- A model that separates conclusions from evidences in the system.
- Notification and collaboration features.
- Protection of classified or sensitive genealogical information.
- A mediation process to mitigate conflicts between contributors.

Structure to the interface rather than the free-style format of a traditional wiki system

- Allows the system to collect fielded information for automatic use in other locations such as pedigree, family group sheets, etc.
- Provides a structure for new patrons rather than just a blank page.

Pedigree

Go to...



Sidney Tanner

Summary

Name:

Sidney Tanner

Gender:

Male

Birth:

1 April 1809

Greenwich, Washington...

Christening:

Death:

5 December 1895

Burial:

1895

Beaver, Utah, USA

Person ID: KWJ6-DZX

More Details

Sidney Tanner ✓

Person ID: KWJ6-DZX



All Facts and Events

▼ General Information

Name:

Sidney Tanner

[4 Sources](#) [437 Trees](#)**Gender:**

Male

[1 Sources](#) [425 Trees](#)**Birth:**1 April 1809
Greenwich, Washington, New York [1 Sources](#) [247 Trees](#)**Death:**

5 December 1895

[1 Sources](#) [273 Trees](#)**Burial:**1895
Beaver, Utah, USA [0 Sources](#) [80 Trees](#)

► Other Names

► Other Events

► Other Facts



Sidney Tanner

Person ID: KWJ6-DZX

All Facts and Events

General Information

Name:

Sidney Tanner

4 Sources

437 Trees

Name Sources

1. [1900 US Census - Cara and Lyle Johnson](#)
Linked By: [cougs4ever](#)
2. [Cara + Lyle Johnson Photo](#)
Linked By: [cougs4ever](#)
3. [LDS Church Membership Records](#)
Linked By: [LDS Church Membership Records](#)
4. [Certificate of Marriage, Edward H. Wigal to Velma G](#)
Linked By: [cougs4ever](#)

Gender:

Male

1 Sources

425 Trees

Birth:

1 April 1809
Greenwich, Washington, New York

1 Sources

247 Trees

Death:

5 December 1895

1 Sources

273 Trees

Burial:

1895
Beaver, Utah, USA

0 Sources

80 Trees

Other Names

Other Events

Other Facts

Ronald Martin Tanner

Thomas William Tanner

Sidney Tanner

FAMILYSEARCH. FAMILY TREE

Tree People Search

Person ID: KWJ6-DZX

Sidney Tanner ✓

All Facts and Events

▼ **General Information**

Name:
Sidney Tanner

Name Sources

1. **1900 US Census - Cara + Lyle Johnson Photo**
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Linked By: [LDS Church Membership Records](#)
4. **Certificate of Marriage, Edward H. Wigal to Velma G**
Linked By: [cougs4ever](#)

Preview:

Cara + Lyle Johnson Photo

[View original image](#)

Date taken or acquired: 1 Jan 1915
Origin: <http://www.allthroughtheages.com/cov2.jpg>
Notes:

Contributed by: [cougs4ever](#)

[View Record in New Tab](#)

Gender:
Male

Birth:
1 April 1809
Greenwich, Washington, New York

Death:
5 December 1895

Burial:
1895
Beaver, Utah, USA

1 Source 425 Trees

1 Source 247 Trees

1 Source 273 Trees

0 Sources 80 Trees

► Other Names

► Other Events

► Other Facts

A user experience and rules where registered users can modify existing data and non-registered users can view the data.

- This allows casual visitors to only view the data
- Registered users will have some skin in the game and will have to provide contact information

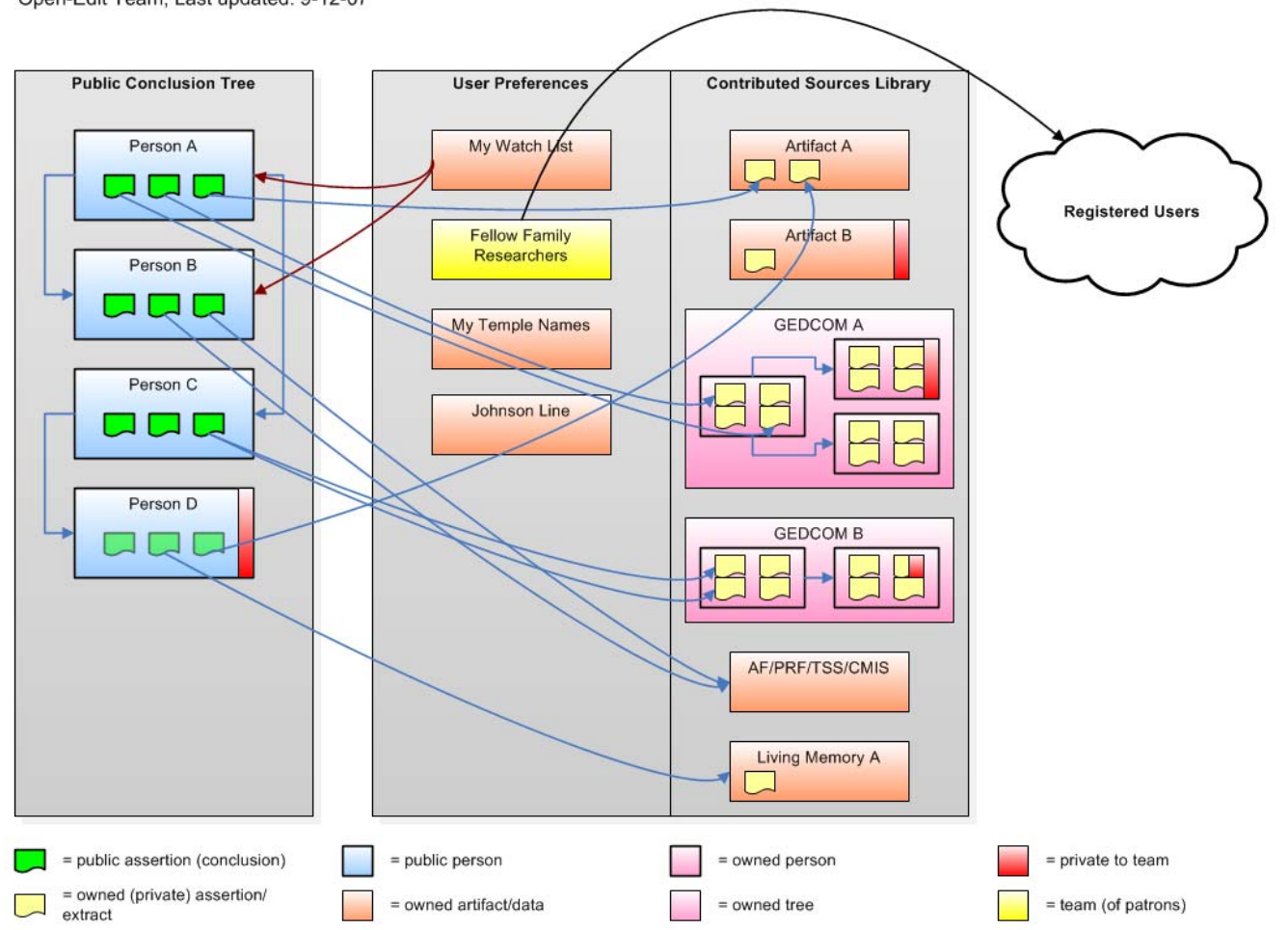
The ability to recover previous values of edited data.

- Each person page must be versioned with every change.
- Restoring values must be simple for the patron.
- This will provide trust that although data can be changed, they can recover incorrectly removed values.

A model that separates conclusions from evidences in the system.

Contributor Owned Data – One Editable Public Tree

Open-Edit Team, Last updated: 9-12-07



Notification and collaboration features.

- Critical to have these features
- Notifies patrons who are watching person pages or group sheets of changes
- Quick test of Wikipedia
 - Unnamed individual tested Wikipedia
 - Modified Solar System page. Page was restored to prior version within 27 seconds.
 - Modified Dragons page. Page was restored in 26 seconds along with a message to not update the page with information that cannot be substantiated.

Protection of classified or sensitive genealogical information.

- Despite the goal of being always editable, we need to have the ability for administrators to lock a page either from view or edit.
- Necessary for specific individuals, possibly Medieval group or other famous/infamous persons
- Necessary for moderation

A mediation process to mitigate conflicts between contributors.

- The Wikipedia Mediation Process is one of the best known and has had the most influence on other successful Wiki projects. Nearly all Wiki's share at least some of the basic mediation strategies Wikipedia specifies.
- Avoid Conflict - Provide a set of policies, and etiquette to be followed.
- Provide a place separate from the content where multiple opinions can be viewed and discussed (avoiding reverting multiple times)
- Require disputing parties to talk and negotiate together before proceeding to the next level
- Require disputing parties to spend time so that they can disengage emotionally from the dispute (take a break)
- Discuss with third parties, request for input from other interested parties, ask for expert opinions from others
- Request an Informal Mediation from the Cabal (group of volunteer mediators)
- Request a formal Mediation from the official Mediation committee
- As a last resort request Arbitration to end the conflict (Arbitration committee dictates contents of page, locks it, determines disciplinary action etc)

- Open Edit and Source Centric User Model = a system behavior that allows for the introduction and association of source material to conclusions that are freely editable.
 - Structured input
 - User rules
 - Recover previous values
 - Separates conclusions from evidences
 - Notification and collaboration
 - Protect sensitive genealogical information
 - Mediation

Now you know about Open Edit and Source Centric Model



Now you know about Open Edit and Source Centric Model

You will need to stew
on it in your mind.
Kick the tires.



Now you know about Open Edit and Source Centric Model

You will need to stew
on it in your mind.
Kick the tires.

Then take walk on over to
the Open Edit side of the
street.



Q & A