

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

LATVIAN SPORTSPEOPLE REPRESENTATION IN ENGLISH AND LATVIAN WIKIPEDIAS

Ieva Rudzinska

Latvian Academy of Sport Education
Address: 333 Brivibas Street, Riga, LV-1006, Latvia
Phone: 37167543445, fax: +37167543480
E-mail: Ieva.Rudzinska@lspa.lv

Abstract

The goal was to study Latvian sportspeople representation in English and Latvian Wikipedias in 2015. The analyses allowed identifying three main Latvian sportspeople related categories in English Wikipedia: "Latvian sportspeople", "List of Latvian sportspeople" and "Latvian sports related lists", a category "Latvijas sportisti" in Latvian Wikipedia. In "Latvian sportspeople" 1018 sportspeople were listed by family names, starting with Artis Ābols and ending with Ainārs Zvirgzdiņš, by sports – from Latvian alpine skiers to Latvian weightlifters. In "List of Latvian sportspeople" were included 99 most notable Latvian sportspeople, representing 24 sports. The largest athlete frequency per sport (14) was in 3 sports: athletics, basketball and luge. From 5 to 10 sportspeople were in 6 sports: rowing, bobsleigh, volleyball, ice hockey, judo and tennis, 15 sports were represented by 1 to 4 athletes. In Latvian Wikipedia in the category "Latvijas sportisti" were 1186 sportspeople from 38 sports. Statistical analysis allowed finding moderate Pearson correlations between the numbers of sportspeople in the category "Latvian sportspeople" and "List of Latvian sportspeople", EN (0.60; Sig.<0.01); "List of Latvian sportspeople", EN and "Latvijas sportisti", LV (0,62; Sig.<0.01), strong correlation between "Latvijas sportisti", LV and "Latvian sportspeople", EN (0,93; Sig.<0.01), n=25. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test showed that difference between the number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in "Latvian sportspeople", EN and "Latvijas sportisti", LV is moderate and significant (Sig.<0.05), but the difference between "Latvian sportspeople", EN and "List of LV sportsmen", EN, and between "List of LV sportsmen", EN and "Latvijas sportisti", LV is large and significant (Sig.<0.01).

Key words: *Latvian sportspeople, English Wikipedia, Latvian Wikipedia*

Introduction

Wikipedia, launched in 2001, is a collaborative global encyclopedia, which is continually created and updated: people of all ages and cultural and social backgrounds can write Wikipedia articles, add information, cross-references, or citations within Wikipedia's editing policies and to an appropriate standard. Wikipedia announces that contributors do not need any qualifications (Wikipedia, 2013).

Wikipedia is a valuable resource, which depends on people work, and covers their interests and wants (Edwards, 2011). On the other hand, Wikipedia as knowledge formation online presents uncritical stance, conceptualizing the cyber world as an unfiltered expression of real world social trends (Adams, Brückner, 2015).

Back in times of Enlightenment was published French Encyclopedia (1752-1771), which had major contribution to civic society. It not only summarized public good, but also expanded public rights and liberties. It had 28 authors – brilliant philosophers like Voltaire and Diderot, who were not paid, but highly privileged to make their contribution. Wikipedia has about 318 times more articles and about 85 000 active contributors, and it also expands freedom, being an enormous public forum. Its creation is based on the idea that a vast number of people are able to generate more knowledge than a small number of outstanding experts (Edwards, 2011).

At present, however, the circle of English Wikipedia authors is limited; its articles are written and edited by largely anonymous volunteers. Anyone can write and make changes to Wikipedia articles, except in limited cases where editing is restricted to prevent disruption or vandalism. In Latvian Wikipedia it is not required to be logged-in to create a new article on the Latvian Wikipedia (Wikipedia, 2016).

Wikipedia context is organized in categories. However, there persists difficulty in generating and maintaining a coherent system of categories, Wikipedia content is somewhat incoherent and amorphous. Adams, and Brückner analyzed the category of 452 living “American Sociologists” listed on Wikipedia in August 2014, and found a mixture of notable academics (about 60%), social activists and social workers, the occasional motivational speaker, and a surprising number of not particularly notable sociologists ... (Adams & Brückner, 2015).

Wikipedia is becoming increasingly popular globally and by far it is the most visited on educational and reference material (Raine & Tancer, 2007). From a philosophical point of view Jandric (Jandric, 2010) asserts that Wikipedia creates a virtual anarchist society, based on knowledge

network. Those, writing to the world, participate in the creation of collective intelligence.

Oliveira has revealed a paradox in young people attitude to Wikipedia as a source of knowledge: although young people consider Wikipedia to be unreliable source of information (more credible sources of information are books), it is declared to be their primary source of information (Oliveira, 2013). Also Blikstad-Balas investigation has revealed “a didactic challenge: the students’ preferred knowledge source ... is a knowledge source they are not intended or in many cases not allows to use” (Blikstad-Balas, p.2.). Wikipedia uses reliable sources – information must be supported by footnotes and general references, therefore students engage in correct citation practice. Szesnat research shows that educational use of Wikipedia is at least twofold: it can be used as a database for knowledge and as a teaching tool (Szesnat, 2006). Main drawback of Wikipedia in Tardy (Tardy, 2010) opinion is that students use it as a primary research source of information (Tardy, 2010). In this article is explored the potential of Wikipedia as a database for knowledge.

The number of entries in national Wikipedia per countries is different. In 2011 Latvians (with less than 20,000 entries) were less active than Lithuanians (less than 50,000 entries) and considerably less active than Estonians (slightly less than 70,000 entries). In 2014 share of Latvian Wikipedia in Baltic Wikipedias was 26.5%, share of Lithuanian Wikipedia was 67.3% (List of Wikipedias, 2014).

Material and methods

The aim of the article was to investigate how Latvian sportspeople were represented in English and Latvian Wikipedias in 2015.

The objective of the study was to find out which sports are most widely represented in English and Latvian Wikipedias, what are the differences in sportspeople representation in both languages.

The subjects of the study were Latvian sportspeople in English and Latvian Wikipedias.

The methods of study were qualitative – text analysis, and quantitative – mathematical statistics. The tasks of the study were to study how was the information categorized in both languages.

Starting from year 2010 in Latvian Academy of Sport Education has been conducted research on Latvian sportspeople representation in Latvian in English Wikipedias.

First, an attempt was made to identify categories, in which Latvian sportspeople are represented in both languages. Latvian sportspeople in

English Wikipedia was sought for by entering most popular sportsmen names, like Jānis Lūsis, Jānis Daliņš, Laura Ikaunieca, etc.

From the pages, devoted to these sportspeople, were found categories, in which they were included. The identified categories were used for finding more sportspeople.

Further attempts to seek for Latvian sportspeople were made, using such categories as: Latvian sportsmen, Latvian sportswomen, Latvian hockey players, and Latvian race walkers – representatives of most popular sports in Latvia.

With SPSS Statistics 20 were found Pearson correlations between sportspeople representation and significant differences in the number of sportspeople in different sports, and in both English and Latvian Wikipedia.

Results

Information about Latvian sportspeople in Wikipedias is organized in categories, sub-categories and pages.

The analyses allowed identifying three main Latvian sportspeople related categories in English Wikipedia: “Latvian sportspeople”, “List of Latvian sportspeople” and “Latvian sports related lists”, and a category “Latvijas sportisti” in Latvian Wikipedia.

Less widely represented categories are: “Sport in Latvia” and “Latvia at the Olympics” in English Wikipedia and “Latvijas labāko sportistu top 10” and “Sports Latvijā” in Latvian Wikipedia. In the category “Sports Latvijā” were represented main sports buildings in Latvia and national teams in different sports, but in “Sport in Latvia” was provided information about seven sports, besides there was a photo gallery.

In the category “Latvian sports related lists” were 3 sub-categories: Association football in Latvia, Baltic States sports-related lists, Lists of Latvian sportspeople and 18 pages: List of ASK Riga players, Latvian Chess Championship, List of football clubs in Latvia, List of Latvian football transfers summer 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, list of football stadiums in Latvia, Latvian records in athletics, List of Latvian records in swimming.

For each sportsperson were identified many other categories, in which they were included. Thus, for outstanding Latvian javelin thrower Jānis Lūsis were found the following categories: 1939 births, Living people, Olympic athletes of the Soviet Union, Olympic gold medalists for the Soviet Union, Olympic silver medalists for the Soviet Union, Olympic bronze medalists for the Soviet Union, Soviet javelin throwers, Latvian javelin throwers, Athletes (track and field) at the 1964 Summer Olympics,

Athletes (track and field) at the 1968 Summer Olympics, Athletes (track and field) at the 1972 Summer Olympics, Athletes (track and field) at the 1976 Summer Olympics, Armed Forces sports society athletes, People from Jelgava, Olympic medalists in athletics (track and field), European Athletics Championships medalists, International Association of Athletics Federations Hall of Fame inductees.

Further are reflected the peculiarities of sportspeople representation in the main categories – Latvian sportspeople, EN; List of Latvian sportspeople, EN and Latvian sports related lists, EN and “Latvijas sportisti”, LV in both Wikipedias.

1. Latvian sportspeople

In 2015 in the category “Latvian sportspeople” were 56 subcategories, among them: Latvian sportsmen, Latvian sportswomen, Lists of Latvian sportspeople, Sportspeople from Liepāja, Latvian sportspeople in doping cases, Latvian expatriate sportspeople, Olympic competitors from Latvia, Latvian ice hockey coaches, Latvian tennis coaches, Latvian volleyball coaches, Latvian sports coaches, Latvian sportspeople stubs, Latvian tennis coaches, and Latvian football managers. In 2016 the category “Sportspeople from Liepāja” was changed to “Sportspeople by city or town in Latvia”. Sportspeople were listed by family names in the order of Latvian alphabet, starting with “A” (Artis Ābols) and ending with Z (Ainārs Zvirgzdiņš), and also by their sports, listed in alphabetic order, starting with “A” (Latvian alpine skiers) and ending with “W” (Latvian weightlifters). Listed by sports altogether were 1018 sportspeople from 42 sports.

In the category “Lists of Latvian sportspeople” were 3 pages: List of Latvians in Kontinental Hockey League, List of Latvians in NHL, List of Latvian sportspeople.

In the category “Latvian sportsmen” were 6 categories: Latvian male Alpine skiers, cyclists, ice dancers, single skaters, sport shooters, tennis players, and 2 separate pages, devoted to Martins Dukurs and Guntis Osis.

2. List of Latvian sportspeople

In the category “List of Latvian sportspeople” in English Wikipedia in 2015 were included 99 sportspeople, representing 24 sports: athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, biathlon, bobsleigh, canoeing, cycling, fencing, figure skating, gymnastics, ice hockey, judo, luge, modern pentathlon, rowing, shooting, short track speed skating, skeleton, speed skating, swimming, tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling.

Considering athlete frequency by sport, was noticed that the greatest number of athletes (14) was found in 3 sports: athletics, basketball and luge. From 5 to 10 sportspeople were in 6 sports: rowing (9), bobsleigh (8),

volleyball (7), ice hockey (7), judo (6), tennis (5). 15 sports, however, were represented just by 1 to 4 athletes. No sportspeople were in the category of Alpine skiers.

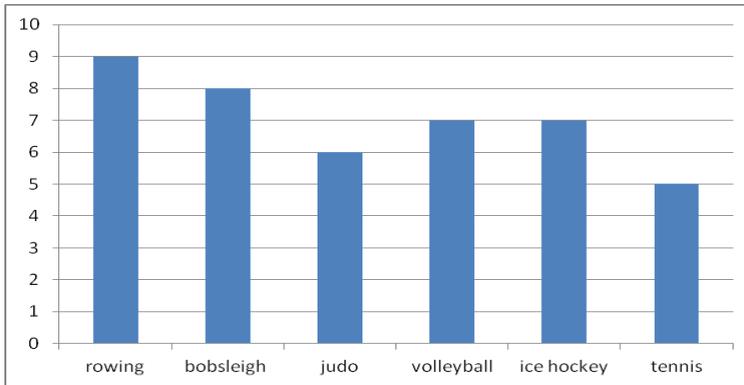


Figure 1. Frequency of sportspeople per sports in the category List of Latvian sportspeople, EN. Group 2

Athletics in the category was represented by 14 athletes, among them the most famous are: Jānis Daliņš, born in 1904 – the best athlete of pre-World War II Latvia, Jānis Lūsis, who in 1987 IAAF was nominated as the all-time greatest javelin thrower in the world, raising heptathlon star Laura Ikauniece-Admidaņa, born in 1992.

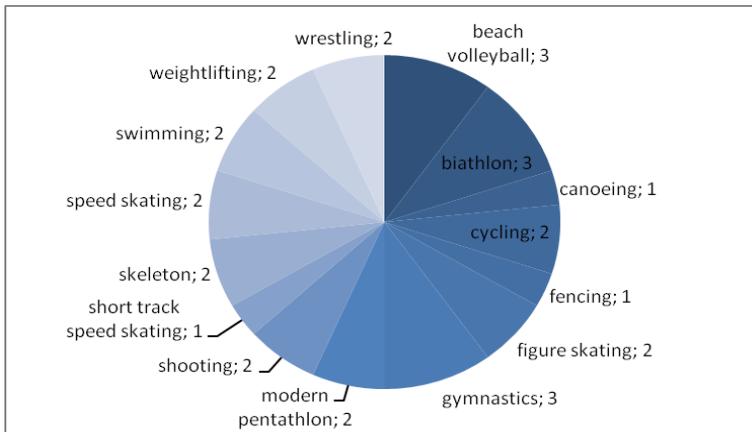


Figure. 2. Frequency of sportspeople per sports in the category List of Latvian sportspeople, EN. Group 3

Political background has influenced culture: personal information in Soviet times was given according to the norms of Russian culture, for

example, Jānis Lūsis native name in 2015 still was given as Янис Волдемарович Лусис and Full name as Yanis Voldemarovich Lusi ("Jānis Lūsis", Wikipedia, 2015).

Separate pages in the category were devoted to 3 more sportsmen: Guntis Lavrinovičs, Haralds Blaus and Juris Silovs.

The number of sportspeople in the category per sport was grouped in 3 frequency groups:

- More than 10 (3 sports: athletics, basketball, luge)
- From 5 to 10 (6 sports, Fig.2)
- From 1 to 4 (15 sports, Fig.3)
- No sportspeople (Alpine skiing)

3.Latvijas sportisti

In Latvian Wikipedia in the category “Latvijas sportisti” in 2015 were represented sportspeople from 38 sports, altogether 1186, in the category were 41 sub-categories. Categories in Latvian and English Wikipedia are different. Thus, in Latvian Wikipedia in the category “Latvijas sportisti” there was not such a category as “Latvijas šķēpa metēji”, there is only a category “Šķēpa metēji”, where were the sportsmen from the whole world.

In Latvian Wikipedia were also such categories as “Thus, the content of the categories “Sports Latvijā” in Latvian Wikipedia, and “Sport in Latvia” in English Wikipedia is completely different.

4.Frequency of sportspeople per sports

Table 1 with two continuations presents the numbers of sportspeople per sports in in 3 main Latvian sportspeople related categories

Table 1

Frequency of sportspeople per sports in three main Latvian sportspeople related categories

Categories/ sports	Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Basketball	Beach Volleyball	Biathlon	Bobsleigh	Canoeing	Cycling
Latvian sportspeople, EN	3	110	79	4	12	26	7	3
List of LV sportsmen, EN	0	14	14	3	3	8	1	2
Latvijas sportisti, LV	0	144	164	0	20	32	7	62

Table 1. Continuation 1

Categories/ sports	Fencing	Figure Skating	Gymnastics	Ice Hockey	Judo	Luge	Modern Pentathlon	Rowing	Shooting
Latvian sportspeople, EN	2	21	44	141	7	22	5	10	7
List of LV sportsmen, EN	1	2	3	7	6	14	2	9	2
Latvijas sportisti, LV	1	5	5	207	8	28	3	14	5

Table 1. Continuation 2

Categories/ sports	Short Track Speed Skating	Skeleton	Speed Skating	Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	Weightlifting	Wrestling
Latvian sportspeople, EN	2	3	4	11	3	9	5	0
List of LV sportsmen, EN	1	2	2	2	5	7	2	2
Latvijas sportisti, LV	4	4	6	13	9	17	9	11

5. Correlations between main Latvian sportspeople related categories

Table 2 summarizes Pearson correlations between the numbers of sportspeople in 3 main Latvian sportspeople categories: Latvian sportspeople, EN; List of LV sportsmen, EN, and Latvijas sportisti, LV.

Table 2

Pearson correlations between 3 main Latvian sportspeople related categories

		Latvian sportspeople, EN	List of LV sportsmen, EN	Latvijas sportisti, LV
Latvian sportspeople, EN	Pearson Correlation	1	,600**	,926**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,002	,000
	N	25	25	25
List of LV sportsmen, EN	Pearson Correlation	,600**	1	,621**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,002		,001
	N	25	25	25
Latvijas sportisti, LV	Pearson Correlation	,926**	,621**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	,001	
	N	25	25	25

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to Raščevska and Kristapsone Pearson correlation between category “Latvijas sportisti”, LV and “Latvian sportspeople”, EN is strong, and between category “Latvijas sportisti”, LV and “List of Latvian sportspeople”, as well as between category “List of Latvian sportspeople”, EN and “Latvian sportspeople”, EN is moderate (Raščevska & Kristapsone, 2000).

6. Significant differences in the number of sportspeople in 3 main categories

Table 3 shows significant differences in the number of Latvian sportspeople in 3 main categories in English and Latvian Wikipedia.

Table 3

Test Statistics, Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test

	num_ Latvian sportspeople, EN – num_List of LV sportsmen, EN	num_List of LV sportsmen, EN- num_ Latvijas sportisti, LV	num_ Latvian sportspeople, EN – num_ Latvijas sportisti, LV
z (r)	-3,874 ^{b1} (r= 0.55)	-4,003 ^{b2} (r= 0.57)	-2,175 ^{b2} (r= 0.31)
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	,000	,030

^{b1}. Based on positive ranks. ^{b2}.Based on negative ranks.

In accordance with Cohen differences are large, if $r = 0.5$; moderate, if $r = 0.3$, and small, if $r = 0.1$ (Cohen, 1988). The difference between the number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the category Latvian sportspeople, EN and Latvijas sportisti, LV is moderate and statistically significant (Sig.<0.05), but the difference between the number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the categories Latvian sportspeople, EN and List of LV sportsmen, EN, and between the categories List of LV sportsmen, EN and Latvijas sportisti, LV is large and statistically significant (Sig.<0.01).

More vividly the differences between the number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the categories Latvian sportspeople, EN and Latvijas sportisti, LV per different sports are shown in Fig. 4. to Fig. 6.

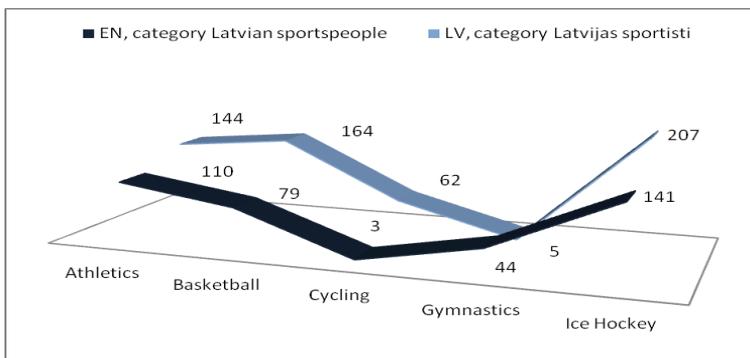


Figure 4. Number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the category Latvian sportspeople, EN vs category Latvijas sportisti, LV. Largest Latvian sportspeople representation per sport

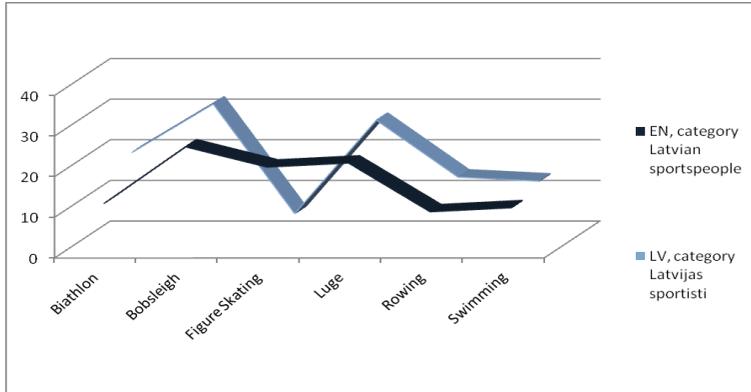


Figure 5. Number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the category Latvian sportspeople, EN vs category Latvijas sportisti, LV. Medium Latvian sportspeople representation per sport

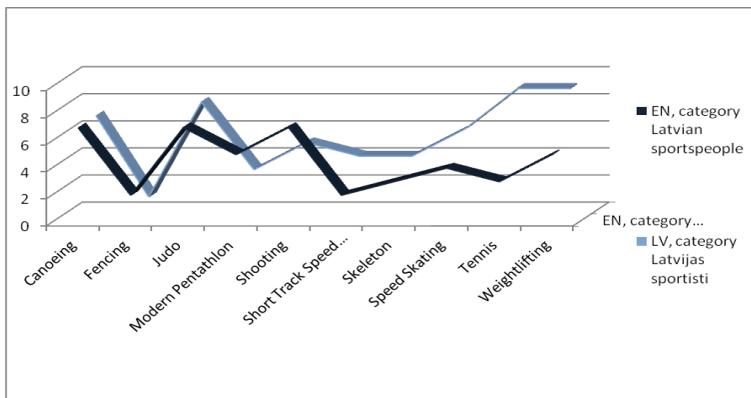


Figure 6. Number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in the category Latvian sportspeople, EN vs category Latvijas sportisti, LV. The smallest Latvian sportspeople representation per sport

Conclusions

Three main Latvian sportspeople related categories in English Wikipedia are Latvian sportspeople, List of Latvian sportspeople and a category “Latvijas sportisti” in Latvian Wikipedia.

Less widely represented categories are “Latvian sports related lists”, “Sport in Latvia” and “Latvia at the Olympics” in English Wikipedia and “Latvijas labāko sportistu top 10” and “Sports Latvijā” in Latvian Wikipedia. Separate pages in the categories are devoted to sportspeople, who do not fit any of the formed ones.

Categories in Latvian and English Wikipedia, as well as their contents are different, e.g., in Latvian Wikipedia in the category “Latvijas sportisti” there was not such a category as “Latvijas šķēpa metēji”, there was only a category „Šķēpa metēji”, where were represented the sportsmen from the whole world. To obtain the number of Latvian javelin throwers, one must use the List of all javelin throwers in the world, represented in the category “Šķēpa metēji”, and count the Latvian ones.

In the category “Sports Latvija”, LV were represented main sports buildings in Latvia and national teams in different sports, but in the category “Sport in Latvia” was provided information about seven sports, besides there was a photo gallery. The conclusion can be drawn that the content of the categories “Sports Latvija” in Latvian Wikipedia, and “Sport in Latvia” in English Wikipedia is completely different.

In 2015 in the category “List of Latvian sportspeople” were included 99 most notable Latvian sportspeople, representing 24 sports. The number of sportspeople per sport was grouped in 3 frequency groups: more than 10 (athletics, basketball, and luge), from 5 to 10 (6 sports), from 1 to 4 (15 sports). In the category “Latvian sportspeople”, EN were 1018 sportspeople, and in Latvian Wikipedia in the category “Latvijas sportisti” were 1186 sportspeople from 38 sports.

Three main Latvian sportspeople related categories in both English and Latvian Wikipedias correlate: moderate Pearson correlations exists between the numbers of sportspeople in the category “Latvian sportspeople” and “List of Latvian sportspeople”, and between “List of Latvian sportspeople”, EN and “Latvijas sportisti”, strong correlation exists between “Latvijas sportisti”, LV and “Latvian sportspeople”, EN. Still in the numbers of sportspeople in the mentioned categories were found significant differences: the difference between the number of Latvian sportspeople per sport in “Latvian sportspeople”, EN and “Latvijas sportisti”, LV is moderate, but the difference between “Latvian sportspeople”, EN and “List of LV sportsmen”, EN, and between “List of LV sportsmen”, EN and “Latvijas sportisti”, LV is large.

References

1. "Jānis Lūsis" (2015). Sports Reference LLC. Retrieved June 1, 2015, cited from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jānis_Lūsis.
2. Adams, J. & Brückner, H. (2015). *Wikipedia, sociology, and the promise and pitfalls of Big Data*, DOI: 10.1177/2053951715614332, Sage Journals, Retrieved June 7, 2016 from <http://bds.sagepub.com/content/2/2/2053951715614332>.

3. Blikstad-Balas, M. (2013). *Students' Attitudes towards Wikipedia as a Knowledge Source in School*, presented at ECER 2013, Creativity and Innovation in Educational Research, retrieved September 23, 2013 from <http://www.eera.de/ecer-programmes/conference/8/contribution/21636>.
4. Cohen, J. W. (1988). *Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences*, 2nd edn., Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates,.
5. Jandric, P. (2010). *Wikipedia and education: anarchist perspectives and virtual practices*. Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies, Vol.8. No.2, pp. 48-73, retrieved 24.09.2013 from: www.jceps.com/PDFs/08-2-02.pdf.
6. *List of Wikipedias by language group*, Meta-Wiki. Wikimedia Foundation. Retrieved 9 May 2014.
7. Oliveira, L.R., et.al. (2013). *Data Is A Built Thing: (De)Constructing The Curriculum Through Wikipedia Writing*. EduLearn 2013 July, Barcelona, Spain, Virtual participation.
8. Raine, L., & Tancer, B. (2007). *Wikipedia users*. Washington, DC: Pew Internet & American Life Project. Retrieved from URL: <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2007/Wikipedia-users.aspx>, accessed September 10, 2013.
9. Raševska, M., & Kristapsone, S. (2000). *Statistika psiholoģijas pētījumos*. Izglītības solī, Rīga.
10. Street, B. (2003). *What's "new" in New Literacy Studies? Critical approaches to literacy in theory and practice 2003*, Current Issues in Comparative Education, Vol. 5(2).
11. Szesnat, H. (2006). *Who Knows? Wikipedia, Teaching and Research*. SBL Forum 4.9 (2006). Retrieved July 20, 2012 from: <http://www.sbl-site.org/Article.aspx?ArticleId=603>.
12. Tardy, C.M. (2010). *Writing for the World: Wikipedia as an Introduction to Academic Writing*, English Teaching Forum, Vol. 48, No.1, 2010, 12-20.
13. *The Oxford Handbook of Civil Society* (2011). Ed. by Michael Edwards, Oxford University Press.

Submitted: June 22, 2016

Accepted: December 27, 2016