OUTLINE FOR PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE ANALYTIC HIERARCHY PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

WIKIPEDIA AND AHP/ANP

As one of the five most visited sites on the Internet, Wikipedia is positioned to be instrumental in moving AHP/ANP into the realm of everyday decision makers. AHP has had a useful article in the English Wikipedia since 2008; it has been stable since early 2011. Versions in several other languages have been created, usually based on the one in English. There are additional articles on the ISAHP and other topics related to the field. This paper encourages the AHP/ANP community to use and expand AHP/ANP's presence on Wikipedia, providing a basic roadmap for that to happen. It briefly describes the English AHP article and its genesis, and identifies resources available for replicating it in other languages. These include links to useful graphics with easily-changed English labels. It points out AHP/ANP-related articles in the English Wikipedia and identifies those that are waiting to be written.

Wikipedia calls itself "the encyclopedia that anyone can edit," and basically that is true. Nevertheless, there are skills and understandings that one must have before becoming an effective editor. This paper identifies them and gives pointers and cautions about acquiring and using them.

Keywords: papers, proposals, paper proposal.

1. Introduction

Describe the existing Wikipedia articles on AHP and related subjects, including those not in English, and how they came about. Describe the past and possible future creation of similar articles. Show how Wikipedia can be instrumental in disseminating AHP/ANP use and knowledge outside academia.

2. Literature Review

Gather and give links to the key AHP/ANP-related articles on and about Wikipedia.

3. Hypotheses/Objectives

Hypothesis: That AHP/ANP's presence on Wikipedia can be instrumental in reaching the goal of this meeting: to move AHP/ANP more into the mainstream of general decision making. Objectives: To demonstrate Wikipedia's wide reach; to draw attention to ways in which it can be used to promote and popularize AHP/ANP, both through use of the existing article(s) and through new ones yet to be created; encouraging translations.

4. Research Design/Methodology

This is not research, but a practical method of disseminating the results of research. The paper will describe the practical methods of using Wikipedia for that purpose.

5. Data/Model Analysis

Does not apply.

6. Limitations

Point out the need to acquire skills before editing Wikipedia. Point out the possibility of others changing your work, opposing what you want to do, etc., and the actions to take if this should happen.

7. Conclusions

Wikipedia can be a powerful tool for spreading the word about AHP/ANP, both in English and other languages. Numerous existing AHP/ANP-related articles make it an extremely easy tool to use. To translate these articles to other languages requires a few easy-to-acquire special skills, but is not particularly difficult. Creating completely new articles is more difficult but not prohibitively so; it requires the acquiring of additional skills, or collaboration with someone who already has them.

8. Key References

Provide links to existing articles and to a source of illustrations with labels and captions that are easily rendered in other languages.

9. Appendices

Probably not needed, unless some details don't fit into the above sections.

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