

# EHA, Economic History, and Wikipedia

Economic History Association, 20 Sept 2013

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Not representing the BLS or any other institution



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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a5/Intro\\_to\\_Wikipedia\\_-\\_American\\_Art.pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a5/Intro_to_Wikipedia_-_American_Art.pdf)

**[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)**

# Outline for today

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- What Wikipedia is, institutionally
- Guidelines
- How-to
- What EHA'ers can do



For WiFi here use attwifi and password BANQUET

This event's page:

From Wikipedia search for **Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/EHA**

Or by URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/EHA>

First, optionally:  
create an  
account

Your username  
will be  
associated with  
the edits you  
make



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Special page

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## Create account

### Enter your information below.

Username (help me choose)

Enter your username

Password

Enter a password

Confirm password

Enter password again

Email address (optional)

Enter your email address

Security check

py\*escaped

 Refresh

Enter the text you see above

Can't see the image? [Request an account](#)

**Create your account**

# What wikis are

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- Tim Berners-Lee intended Web for read & write, 1990
- Ward Cunningham makes first “wiki”, 1993
- A wiki is a web site that:
  - is editable from the browser directly
  - remembers its past versions
  - has easy concise links between its own pages
  - has pages written in “wikitext” which is simpler than HTML
- There are many implementations of wiki software
- Quickly there were reference works on wikis
- Wikis are used in organizations too; new job roles

# Wikipedia institutions (1)

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- The Wikimedia Foundation (WMF), a nonprofit, makes the MediaWiki software and runs the servers
- There are Wikipedias in many languages (>250)
- Edited by volunteers
- Edits and versions are recorded indefinitely
  - “Everything’s in a database”
  - 4.3 million articles in English Wikipedia

# Wikipedia institutions

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Operating principles include these:

- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view.
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, modify, distribute.
- Wikipedia does not have firm rules.

(Source [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five\\_pillars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars))

Other Wikimedia:

- “Commons” is a wiki with pictures and other files for any language
- Wikisource – historical texts with transcription

# Institutions and lingo

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- Article -- the encyclopedia entries
- Editor – any user who makes an edit
- Bots – software tools that edit outside the browser
- WikiProject – a set of pages on Wikipedia where editors coordinate around a field or topic
  - WikiProject:Economics and WikiProject:Academic Journals
- Local chapters, like Wikimedia-DC
  - Edit-a-thons – events for editing
  - GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums
- Vast universe of policies, projects, roles, newsletters, subunits, mediation processes, too much to say

# Anatomy of an article

Lead section, or lede  
Notability must be clear there

Table of contents appears  
automatically

Infoboxes help people apprehend the  
subject quickly

Footnotes take effort but help people  
drill down into our specialities

Categories, at the bottom, are used for  
finding related subjects

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article for Thomas Moran. Blue arrows point to the following elements:

- Title:** The article title "Thomas Moran".
- Edit view:** The "Edit" button in the top navigation bar.
- Infobox:** The biographical information box on the right, including a portrait of Moran and his birth/death dates.
- Table of contents:** The "Contents" table on the left side of the article.
- 1st sub-section:** The "Biography" section header.
- Related articles:** The "See also" section below the biography.
- Footnotes:** The "References" section at the bottom of the article.
- Non-wiki links:** The "External links" section at the bottom.

At the bottom of the page, there are category links: [Categories: 1909 births](#) | [1981 deaths](#) | [British historians](#) | [Harvard University alumni](#) | [People educated at Westminster School, London](#) | [People of the Royal Observer Corps](#)

# History of an article

A user can see the history of changes to a wiki page.

article talk edit source history watch

## Panic of 1907: Revision history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
[View logs for this page](#)

Browse history

From year (and earlier):  From month (and earlier):  Tag filter:

For any version listed below, click on its date to view it. For more help, see [Help:Page history](#) and [Help:Edit summary](#).  
External tools: [Revision history statistics](#) · [Revision history search](#) · [Contributors](#) · [User edits](#) · [Number of watchers](#) · [Page view statistics](#)

(cur) = difference from current version, (prev) = difference from preceding version,  
m = [minor edit](#), → = [section edit](#), ← = [automatic edit summary](#)  
(newest | [oldest](#)) View (newer 100 | [older 100](#)) ([20](#) | [50](#) | [100](#) | [250](#) | [500](#))

- (cur | [prev](#))  [15:35, 29 May 2013](#) [Tango Panaché](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) .. (51,329 bytes) (0) .. ([→See also](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#))  [15:34, 29 May 2013](#) [Tango Panaché](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) .. (51,329 bytes) (+43) .. ([→See also](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
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- (cur | [prev](#))  [11:41, 5 April 2013](#) [Anastrophe](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m .. (50,823 bytes) (+2) .. ([→In fiction: correct letter](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#))  [04:51, 11 March 2013](#) [108.201.220.243](#) ([talk](#)) .. (50,821 bytes) (+4) .. ([→In fiction](#)) ([undo](#))
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- (cur | [prev](#))  [22:38, 31 October 2012](#) [Mortense](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m .. (50,373 bytes) (+5) .. ([→Enter J.P. Morgan: Grammar.](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
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- (cur | [prev](#))  [10:10, 3 August 2012](#) [Amelapay](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m .. (50,430 bytes) (+174) .. ([added external links](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
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- (cur | [prev](#))  [12:09, 3 June 2012](#) [Tassedethe](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) .. (50,255 bytes) (+44) .. ([Disambiguated: Richard](#))

# Wikipedia for class work

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- University instructors assign students to contribute content to Wikipedia as part of coursework, supported by trained Wikipedia mentors (“Wikipedia Ambassadors”).
- There are many examples online
- Wikimedia Foundation can support this
- Online orientations, videos, handouts
- A “Wikipedia Ambassador” can watch, consult online, help with uncertainty or dispute, on campus or online
- Work with univ library or instruction support group
- Many handouts, in the back. And/or, ask me offline.

# Guidelines and reflections

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- Start small ; build a “reputation” ; Copy examples
- Address broad audiences
- It’s normal to feel possessive or upset occasionally
  - Try to keep cool
- You don’t have to make it perfect
  - It takes practice
  - Edit yourself before using in class
  - There are many roles – adding content, copy-editing, category-definition, vandalism-watch, new-articles-watch, biography-of-living-people watch, arbitration, photography, software development, running the bots for formatting, copyright expertise, funding, . . . .
- Be respectful to other denizens regardless of name or anonymity: Woohookitty, Headbomb, Yobot, Killer Chihuahua

There are many openings for new content. This article is new.

Why do it?  
It's a place to build common information.

article talk edit source history move unwatch

## Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts [ edit source ]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*, generally known as *Nicholson's Journal*, was an early scientific journal in Great Britain. [William Nicholson](#) began it in 1797 and was the sole editor.<sup>[1]</sup>

Nicholson's journal would accept short papers, written by new or anonymous authors, and decide whether to publish them relatively quickly. These attributes distinguished the new journal from the established scientific journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. By one account this less-formal model was so appealing that the next year a similar startup launched, [Alexander Tilloch's Philosophical Magazine](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

### Significant articles [ edit source ]

- Nicholson and [Anthony Carlisle](#) split water into hydrogen and oxygen for the first time in 1800 and immediately published their results in the journal. They used [Volta's pile](#) as soon as they learned of it to achieve this [electrolysis](#).<sup>[3][2]</sup>
- The journal published the first known [aerodynamic](#) analysis of [gliders](#) and [heavier-than-air fixed-wing flying machines](#), in [George Cayley's](#) three-part "On Aerial Navigation" articles in 1809-1810.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Discovery of the element [palladium](#) was announced in 1803. The author chose Nicholson's journal in order to remain anonymous at first, and later revealed himself to be [William Hyde Wollaston](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

### Publishing business [ edit source ]

By one account, William Nicholson started the journal and made all editorial decisions in a "pioneering and uncertain attempt" to make a living from publishing it. Revenues came only from subscriptions.<sup>[6]</sup> Tilloch's *Philosophical Magazine* was more successful as a popular science journal business than Nicholson's journal, according to one source, and another such journal appeared in 1813 (*Annals of Philosophy*).<sup>[2]</sup> Possibly partly because of this competition, William Nicholson ended the journal. By some accounts Nicholson's journal simply ceased, and by others it merged in 1814 with the *Philosophical Magazine* to form *The Philosophical Magazine and Journal*.

### Bibliography and archives [ edit source ]

Most journal issues have been scanned and are available online at [archive.org](#) thanks to the [Natural History Museum Library, London](#), the [New York Public Library](#) and [google books](#).

### References [ edit source ]

- ↑ "Nicholson, William (1753–1815)", *Dictionary of National Biography*. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1885–1900.
- ↑ ⓘ Ⓐ Ⓔ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓔ Russell, Colin. Enterprise and electrolysis... *Chemistry World*, Aug. 2003 ([online](#) Ⓔ)
- ↑ Chang, Hasok. 2012. *Is Water H2O?: Evidence, Realism and Pluralism*. Springer. page 73. ([online at qoogle books](#) Ⓔ)
- ↑ Cayley, George. "On Aerial Navigation" [Part 1](#) Ⓔ, [Part 2](#) Ⓔ, [Part 3](#) Ⓔ *Nicholson's Journal of Natural Philosophy*, 1809–1810. (Via [NASA](#)).
- ↑ Chang, 2012, p. 73, also citing Lilley (1948).

### Further reading [ edit source ]

- Lilley, Samuel. 1948. "Nicholson's Journal" (1797–1813) *Annals of Science* 6:1, 78-101. ([first page](#) Ⓔ at Taylor & Francis site)

Categories: [Publications established in 1797](#) | [Multidisciplinary scientific journals](#) | [English-language journals](#) | [Natural philosophy](#) | [1797 establishments in Great Britain](#) | [Publications disestablished in 1814](#)

# Question for EHA: Cleometrics?

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## Cliometrics [edit source]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Cliometrics**, sometimes called **new economic history**,<sup>[1]</sup> or **econometric history**,<sup>[2]</sup> is the systematic application of economic theory, *econometric* techniques, and other formal or mathematical methods to the study of history (especially, *social* and *economic history*). It is a *quantitative* (as opposed to *qualitative* or *ethnographic*) approach to economic history.<sup>[3]</sup> The term *cliometrics* comes from *Clio*, who was the  *muse* of history, and was originally coined by the *mathematical economist* *Stanley Reiter* in 1960.<sup>[4]</sup>

### History of discipline [edit source]

The new economic history originated in 1958 with *The Economics of Slavery in the Antebellum South* by American economists *Alfred H. Conrad* and *John R. Meyer*, which caused a firestorm of controversy with its claim, based on statistical data that slavery would have continued in the absence of the U.S. Civil War.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The new economic history revolution actually began in the mid-1960s and was resisted because many incumbent economic historians were either historians or economists who had very little connection to economic modeling or statistical techniques.<sup>[2]</sup> Areas of key interest included transportation history,<sup>[7]</sup> slavery,<sup>[8]</sup> and agriculture. Cliometrics became better known when *Douglass North* and William Parker became the editors of the *Journal of Economic History* in 1960. The Cliometrics Meetings began to be held around this time at *Purdue University* and are still held annually in different locations. Today, cliometric approaches are standard in several journals, including the *Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, the *European Review of Economic History*, and *Cliometrica*.

According to cliometric economist *Claudia Goldin*, the success of the cliometric revolution had as an unintended consequence the disappearance of economic historians from history departments. As economic historians started using the same tools as economists, they started to seem more like other economists. In Goldin's words, "the new economic historians extinguished the other side".<sup>[9]</sup> The other side nearly disappeared altogether, with only a few remaining in history departments and business schools. However, some new economic historians did, in fact, begin research around this time, among them were Kemmerer and Larry Neal (a student of *Albert Fishlow*, a leader of the cliometric revolution) from Illinois, Paul Uselding from *Johns Hopkins*, Jeremy Atack from Indiana, and Thomas Ulen from Stanford.

A group to encourage and further the study of cliometrics, *The Cliometric Society*, was founded in 1983.

Cliometrics was introduced to Germany by American-born and -educated *Richard H. Tilly* since the 1970s.<sup>[9]</sup>



Clio by *Pierre Mignard*, oil on canvas, 1689



Clio—detail from *The Allegory of Painting* by *Johannes Vermeer*

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## Cleometrics [edit source]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Cleometrics** is a *method* of historical inquiry. Pioneered by *Marxist historiographers*, cleometric history draws on records of comprehensive, primarily numeric, data.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

### Background [edit source]

For the most part a doctrinaire approach to the study of *history* by Marxist historians has ebbed in its significance. However, growing out of a Marxist approach is an enthusiasm for history as something other than merely the story of elites, or even more narrowly, the story of great men. Therefore, this branch of *historiography* stands in direct contradiction to influential philosopher / historians of the early 19th century like *Friedrich Schiller* and *Thomas Carlyle*.

Marxist historians felt obliged to write their histories about the *proletariat*. After all, for Marxists the end point of all previous history would be the *proletarian revolution* and an end of all social, political and economic hierarchy. From that point of view the conventional approach of most historians was fast becoming irrelevant.

However, the problem for Marxist historians was how to tell the story of common people. The activities of *peasants* and *plebians* were not the subject of conventional source material. Historians like *Herodotus* didn't describe their exploits, they seldom showed up in literature, and for the most part they left little in the way of their own written record.

Yet Marxist historians believed that such a vital field of study couldn't be left exclusively to *archeology* and *anthropology*. Cleometrics was born out of the Marxist historian's desire for a more prominent role in telling this story. "Cleo" or "**Clio**" is the name of the Greek muse of history and "metrics" simply stands for measurement. In the absence of rich interpretive sources the history of common folk could be inferred from more pedestrian sources like tax records, census records, baptismal records, agricultural records etc.

One of the great practitioners of this kind of history was the French scholar, *Marc Bloch*. To write his seminal work, "Feudal Society," he combed through feudal records and was able to tell more than anyone might have supposed about the regular and routine affairs of common people.

Marxism may not be as intellectually influential as it once was. However, the use of quantitative source materials and a methodology that relies on measurement and statistical analysis is still an important area of historical study. Cleometrics has been particularly important in relatively new areas of historical research like feminist history and black history where a long tradition of scholarship does not exist.

### References [edit source]

- ↑ Ballard, E. G. (1989). *Philosophy and the liberal arts. Contributions to phenomenology*, v. 2. Dordrecht [Netherlands]: Kluwer Academic. ISBN 978-0-7923-0241-4
- ↑ Frontiers of Quantitative Economics. by M. D. Intriligator. Blackwell, 1974

Categories: *Historiography*

#### Data sources

- *Censuses*
- *Uniform Crime Reports*
- *Letters*
- *Diaries*
- *Autobiographies*
- *Baptismal certificates*
- *Death certificates*
- *Marriage records*
- *Birth certificates*
- *School records*
- Applications
- Recommendations
- *Diplomas*
- *Licenses*
- Certifications
- *Performance evaluations*
- Minutes of meetings
- Speeches
- Directories
- Listings
- *Newspapers*
- *Magazines*
- *Books*

# We're ready to edit!

## Create a user account

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- You can edit without an account
  - IP address is recorded (can be more, or less, private)
- Don't share an account
  - Don't create an account for an organization, or named for it
- User name: real name or pseudonym, are fine
- Advantages of an account:
  - A record of your work builds credibility
  - More permissions
  - You get your own "sandbox" page to practice editing



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

navigation  
■ Main page

Econterms 0 talk sandbox preferences watchlist contributions log out

article talk edit source history move unwatch

## *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts* [\[ edit source \]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*, generally known as *Nicholson's Journal*, was an early scientific journal in Great Britain. [William Nicholson](#) began it in 1797 and was the sole editor.<sup>[1]</sup>

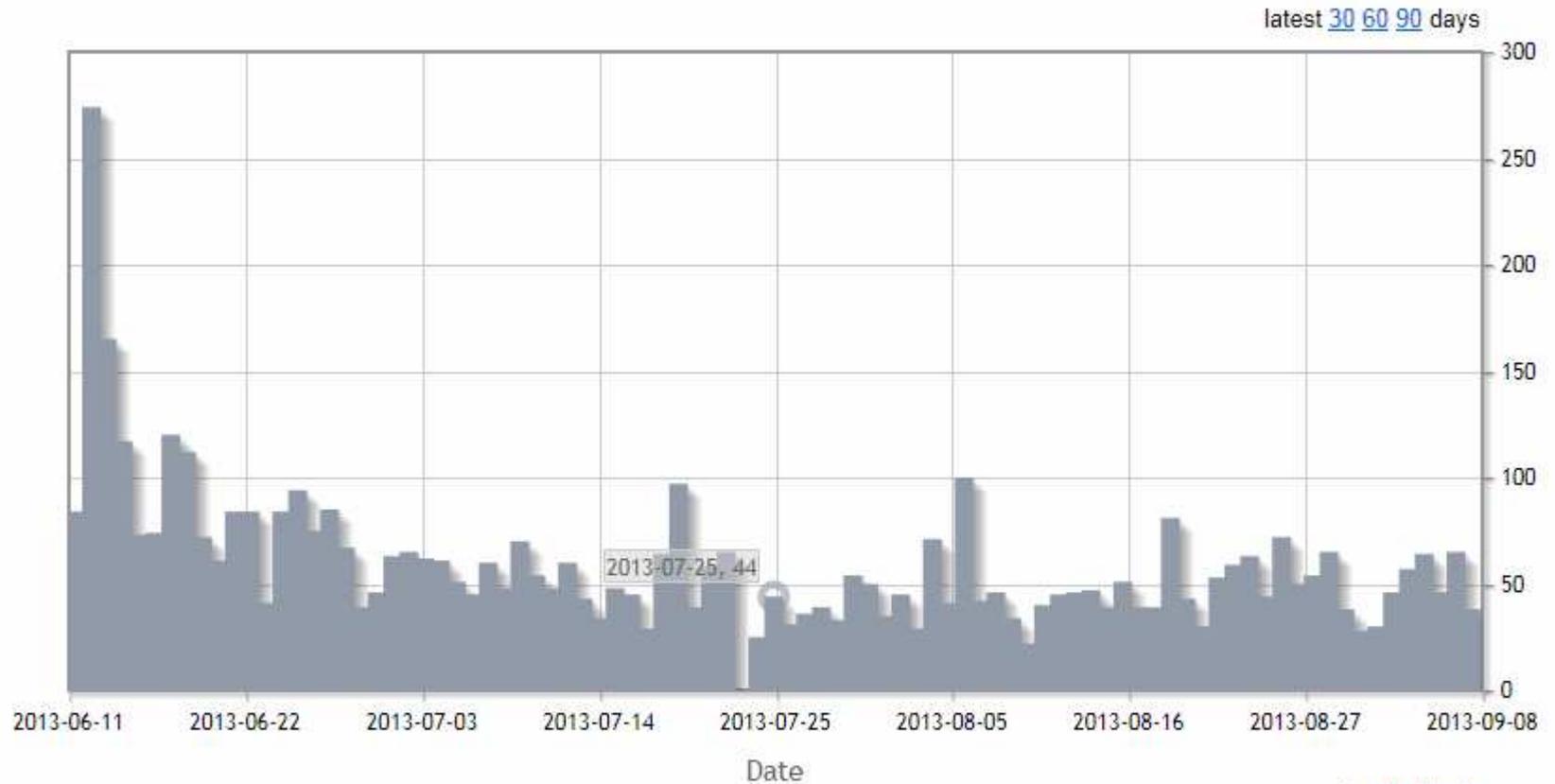
Nicholson's journal would accept short papers, written by new or anonymous



**User has a talk page,  
Sandbox, talk page,  
Watchlist**

# Wikipedia article traffic statistics

[Cliometrics](#) has been viewed 5209 times in the last 90 days.



English  201309  Cliometrics

[This page in json format.](#) (took 1.32288190987 sec)

[About these stats.](#) The raw data is available [here](#). This is very much a beta service and may disappear or change at any time.

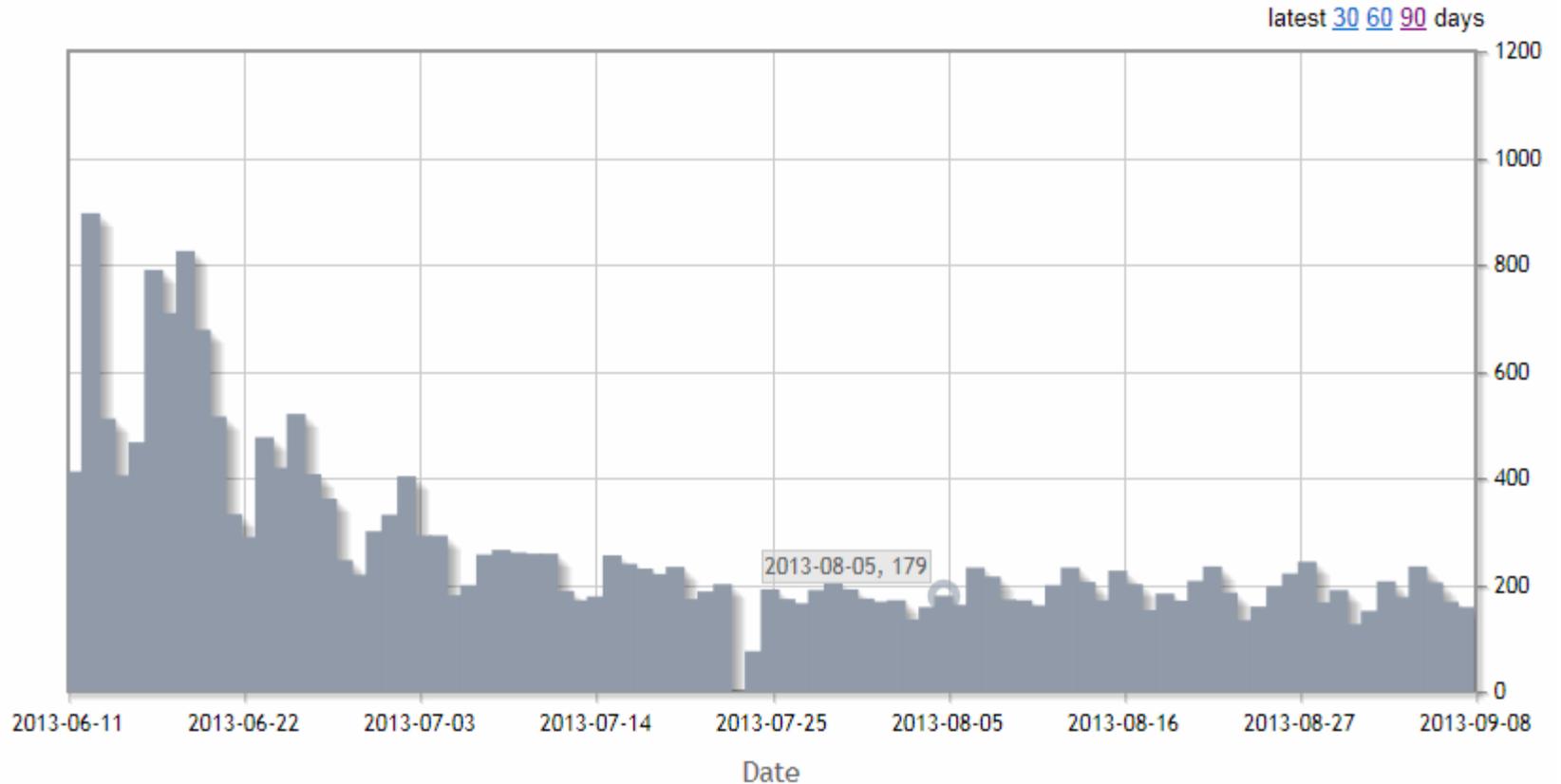
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# Wikipedia article traffic statistics

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English  201309  Economic\_history

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# WikiWomen's lunch 2012



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:WikiWomen%27s\\_Lunch,\\_Wikimania\\_2012.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:WikiWomen%27s_Lunch,_Wikimania_2012.jpg)