

PLATFORM GOVERNANCE, WIKIPEDIA AND MISINFORMATION

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Abstract

This article surveys writing about Wikipedia governance with special reference to what other social media and networking platforms can learn from it to better deal with misinformation. It samples twenty years of work ranging from writing in computer, media and communication journals to more political science and socio legal type of enquiries so as to focus on who governs Wikipedia, what is governed, and how it is governed. It shows that whilst commentators have suggested there is much to be learned from Wikipedia its governance is more complicated than is sometimes assumed. Noting the difficulty of defining misinformation it argues that Wikipedia's supposed success in dealing with it has much to do with its ability to redefine what it will count as such for its purposes. Hence it is important to appreciate how other platforms may define it differently for their purposes.