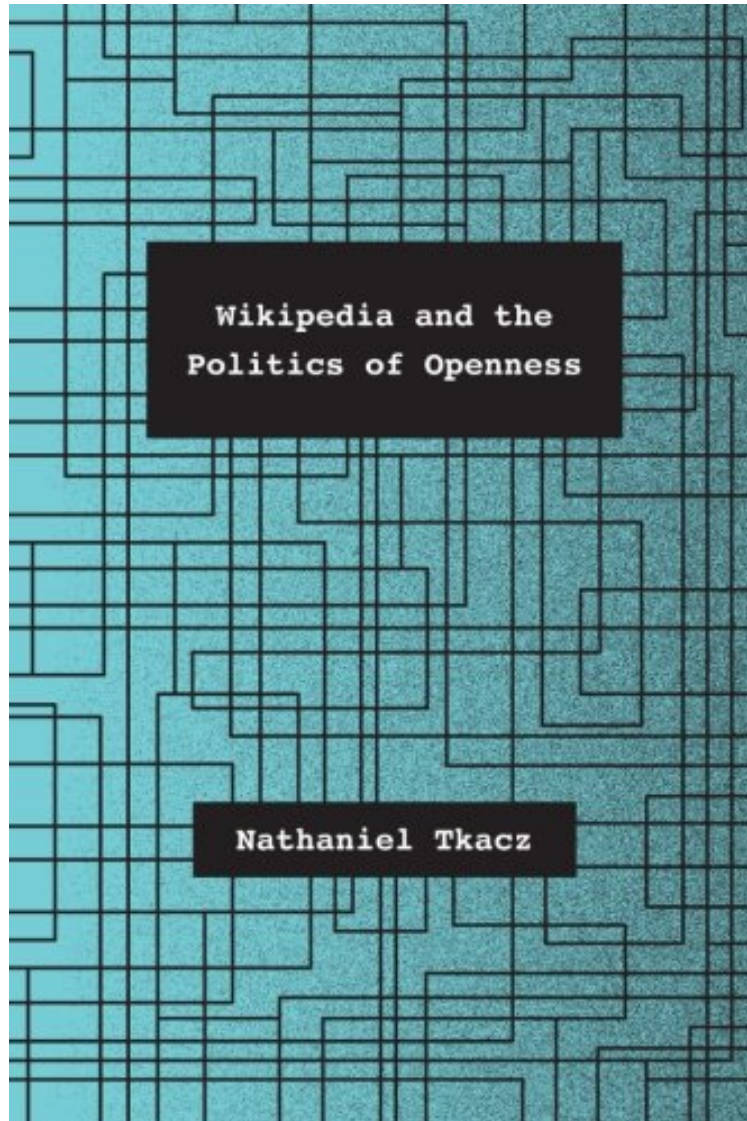


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Wikipedia and the Politics of Openness

Nathaniel Tkacz

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Nathaniel Tkacz : Wikipedia and the Politics of Openness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wikipedia and the Politics of Openness:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative and intelligentBy doug kortyThis is a very informative and intelligent book. Some will find it a bit esoteric and too detailed or having some unnecessary material (going off on tangents). However, the author has a great deal of knowledge not just about Wikipedia but about many aspects of culture and politics and he writes with wide ranging perspective. We can hope that he will write more books.One

indication of his intellect is the bibliography which is impressive. Here is a sampling of the books that I found interesting: Blogs, Wikipedia, Second Life, and Beyond: From Production to Prodsage (Digital Formations) by Axel Bruns Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21st Century (The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Reports on Digital Media and Learning) by Henry Jenkins, Ravi Purushotma, Margaret Weigel Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide Henry Jenkins Encyclopaedic Visions: Scientific Dictionaries and Enlightenment Culture by Richard Yeo Files: Law and Media Technology (Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics) by Cornelia Vismann, Geoffrey Winthrop-Young Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable? (Radical Thinkers) by Judith Butler Infotopia: How Many Minds Produce Knowledge by Cass R. Sunstein Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts, 2nd Edition by Bruno Latour, Steve Woolgar, Jonas Salk Media Archology: Approaches, Applications, and Implications by Erkki Huhtamo, Jussi Parikka My Mother Was a Computer: Digital Subjects and Literary Texts by N. Katherine Hayles Never Let a Serious Crisis Go to Waste: How Neoliberalism Survived the Financial Meltdown by Philip Mirowski On the Political (Thinking in Action) by Chantal Mouffe Orality and Literacy: 30th Anniversary Edition (New Accents) by Walter J. Ong, John Hartley Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now by Douglas Rushkoff Society Of The Spectacle by Guy DEBORDS Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences (Inside Technology) by Geoffrey C. Bowker, Susan Leigh Star Textual Poachers: Television Fans and Participatory Culture by Henry Jenkins The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice (Science and Cultural Theory) by Annemarie Mol The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom by Evgeny Morozov The Practice of Everyday Life by Michel de Certeau, Steven F. Rendall The Return of the Political (Radical Thinkers) by Chantal Mouffe The Road from Mont Plerin: The Making of the Neoliberal Thought Collective, With a New Preface by Philip Mirowski, Dieter Plehwe The Success of Open Source by Steven Weber The Wisdom of Crowds by James Surowiecki Throwing Rocks at the Google Bus: How Growth Became the Enemy of Prosperity by Douglas Rushkoff To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism by Evgeny Morozov Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything by Don Tapscott, Anthony D. Williams I create educational websites, Midwest Independent Research. I have one on Wikipedia,[...]

Few virtues are as celebrated in contemporary culture as openness. Rooted in software culture and carrying more than a whiff of Silicon Valley technical utopianism, openness of decision-making, data, and organizational structure is seen as the cure for many problems in politics and business. But what does openness mean, and what would a political theory of openness look like? With Wikipedia and the Politics of Openness, Nathaniel Tkacz uses Wikipedia, the most prominent product of open organization, to analyze the theory and politics of openness in practice and to break its spell. Through discussions of edit wars, article deletion policies, user access levels, and more, Tkacz enables us to see how the key concepts of openness including collaboration, ad-hocracy, and the splitting of contested projects through forking play out in reality. The resulting book is the richest critical analysis of openness to date, one that roots media theory in messy reality and thereby helps us move beyond the vaporware promises of digital utopians and take the first steps toward truly understanding what openness does, and does not, have to offer.

This book will make people sit up and think in a new way about a timely set of issues. Tkacz's argument is not predictable or one-dimensional. Instead, it is productive of new knowledge at each step. Each new layer of argument uncovers riches of detail, new bibliographies of current research, and surprising new directions of thought. His argument balances nicely between powerful general statements and compelling concrete demonstrations.