Bringing the nation back in?

A debate on the contemporary role of
national dictionary projects

A case for increasing audience & relevance

Kent Fitch, Project Computing Pty Ltd

True Biographies of Nations?

Exploring the Cultural Journeys of Dictionaries of National Biography
Canberra 30 June - 2 July 2016

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Henry Seekamp - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**Henry_Seekamp**

Henry Erle **Seekamp** (1829 - 19 July 1864) was the journalist, editor and owner of the Ballarat Times at the time of the Eureka Stockade in 1854. The newspaper ...

Biography - Henry Seekamp - Australian Dictionary of Biography

adb.anu.edu.au/biography/**seekamp-henry**-13188

Henry Seekamp (c.1829-1864), newspaper editor and nationalist, and Clara Maria Seekamp (c.1819-1908), actress and newspaper editor, were born in ...

Images for henry seekamp

Report images

Henry Seekamp

Journalist

Henry Erle Seekamp was th
editor and owner of the Ball
the time of the Eureka Stock
Wikipedia

Born: 1829, England, Unite

Died: July 19, 1864, Clermo

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HE BATTLE OF Ballarat.

[WHICH IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE "PERCY RELIQUES."]

God prosper long our noble selves,
Our lives and safeties all;
A woful battle once there did
On Ballarat befall.

To write the Spanish Dancer down,
Erle Seekamp did essay,
The child may rue that is not born,
The battle of that day.

The light-heeled Lola Montes did
A solemn promise make,
Her fling upon the play-house boards
One summer night to take,—

The softest hearts on Ballarat,
To win and bear away.
These tidings did Erle Seekamp fill
With anger and dismay.

He sent the Spanish dancer word
He would prevent her sport;
The lady fair, not fearing that,
Did to the house resort.

And many bearded diggers bold,
In scarlet shirts arrayed,
Assembled in the house the night
That Lola Montes played.

Ah, deftly played that lady fair,
And soothly spake her part;
No heart, that beat 'neath scarlet shirt,
But felt a tender smart.

And when the green baize curtain fell,
The diggers raised a shout,
That shook the very roof, and call'd
That Spanish lady out.

With "nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles,"
Fair Lola did appear,
And when the stormy plaudits ceased
She claimed the gen'ral ear.

And bitter words, all hissing hot,
She spake of that same Erle;
She called him idle drunken loon,
She called him "Skamp" and churl.

I ween her taunts did chafe him sore,
I ween it "gall'd his kibe,"
When in the *Star*, on Tuesday morn,
He read each jeer and jibe.

On Tuesday night, fair Lola bent
Her steps towards the Star-
Hotel, and won a riding-whip
By chance, at the bazaar.

And, therewith arm'd, she sallied forth
Erle Seekamp to defy;
Her little mouth compress'd in wrath,
While fire flashed from her eye.

"Come forth, come forth, thou vap'ring Erle,
Thou scribe, so rude and rash,
And yield thee to the punishment
Of Lola Montes' lash.

"Ere thus I will out-braved be!
One of us two shall die:
I know thee for a craven, Erle,
No craven, 'Skamp,' am I."

Thus spake the lady haughtily,
To Seekamp at the "States,"
While, with a blaze of hate and scorn,
Her flashing eye dilates.

Erle Seekamp grasp'd his riding-whip,
(For he was armed also,)
And with sharp words and haughty mien,
Did thus defiance throw:

"I'll do the best that do I may,
Whilst I have power to stand:
Whilst I have power to wield my whip
I'll fight with heart and hand."

Then, in a struggle dread and dire,
The combatants did close,
And on each other rain'd a shower
Of swift and stinging blows.

Erle Seekamp's face, bore bloody trace
Of Lola Montes' lash:
Her shoulders fair, if they were bare,
Would show a crimson gash.

Ah me! it was a grief to see
So pitiful a sight,
Like lions wode, they laid on lode,
And made a cruel fight!

They fought until they both did smoke,
And glow like furnace red,
I wis the Erle and Lola too,
For breath were sore bested.

They flung their whips aside, anon,
And tore each other's hair,
'Gainst which the crowd rais'd protest loud,
And swore it wasn't fair.

With such vehement force and might
Each other's hair they tore;
It seem'd as if, beneath bare polls,
They'd scud for evermore.

The fight did last from half-past five,
'Till setting of the sun;
For when they rang the evening bell,
The battle scarce was done.

The rumour ran on Ballarat,
The doughty Erle was slain;
These tidings spread along the road,
That is y'clept the Main,

"Now God be with him," quoth the folk,
"Sith 'twill no better be;
I trust we have, on Ballarat,
Five hundred—good as he."

Howbeit, it did haply chance
No deadly blow was strook;
And from the field of combat, both
Alive, though faint, were took.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page20424923

Seekamp ... turned his vitriolic pen upon the Irish-born actress Lola Montez, accusing her of immorality. They took to each other with whips in the main street of Ballarat, and accused each other of assault and libel, creating a public sensation. The court cases were dismissed, but public sympathy went to Lola, and the fiery editor lost much of his popularity.

In October 1856 the Seekamps sold their newspaper and left Ballarat ... He died of 'natural causes accelerated by intemperance' ...

...Carboni best characterized Henry Seekamp, writing that 'his energy never abated, though the whole legion of Victorian red-tape wanted to dry his inkstand'.

Prezi

In 1856 Seekamp wrote a review in the Ballarat Times of Lola Montez and her erotic Spider Dance and in a notorious incident Montez chased him with a whip. Shortly after Clara and Henry Seekamp moved to Queensland. He died at the Clermont gold diggings in Queensland on 19 July 1864.

Later in life Clara commented on the importance of her husband: "If Peter Lalor was the sword of the movement, my husband was the pen".

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Anne Beggs Sunter

ADB "Top 20"

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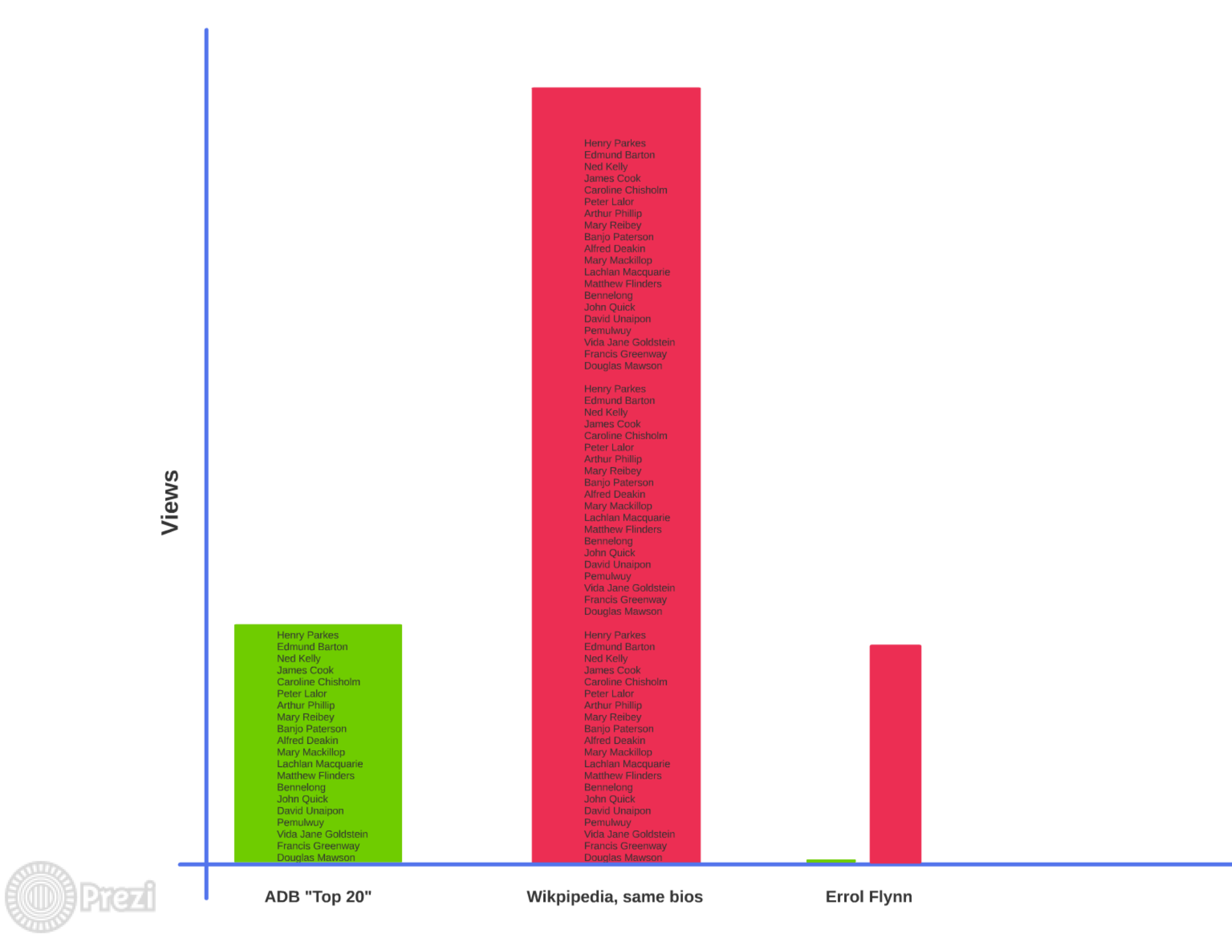
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Edmund Barton
Ned Kelly
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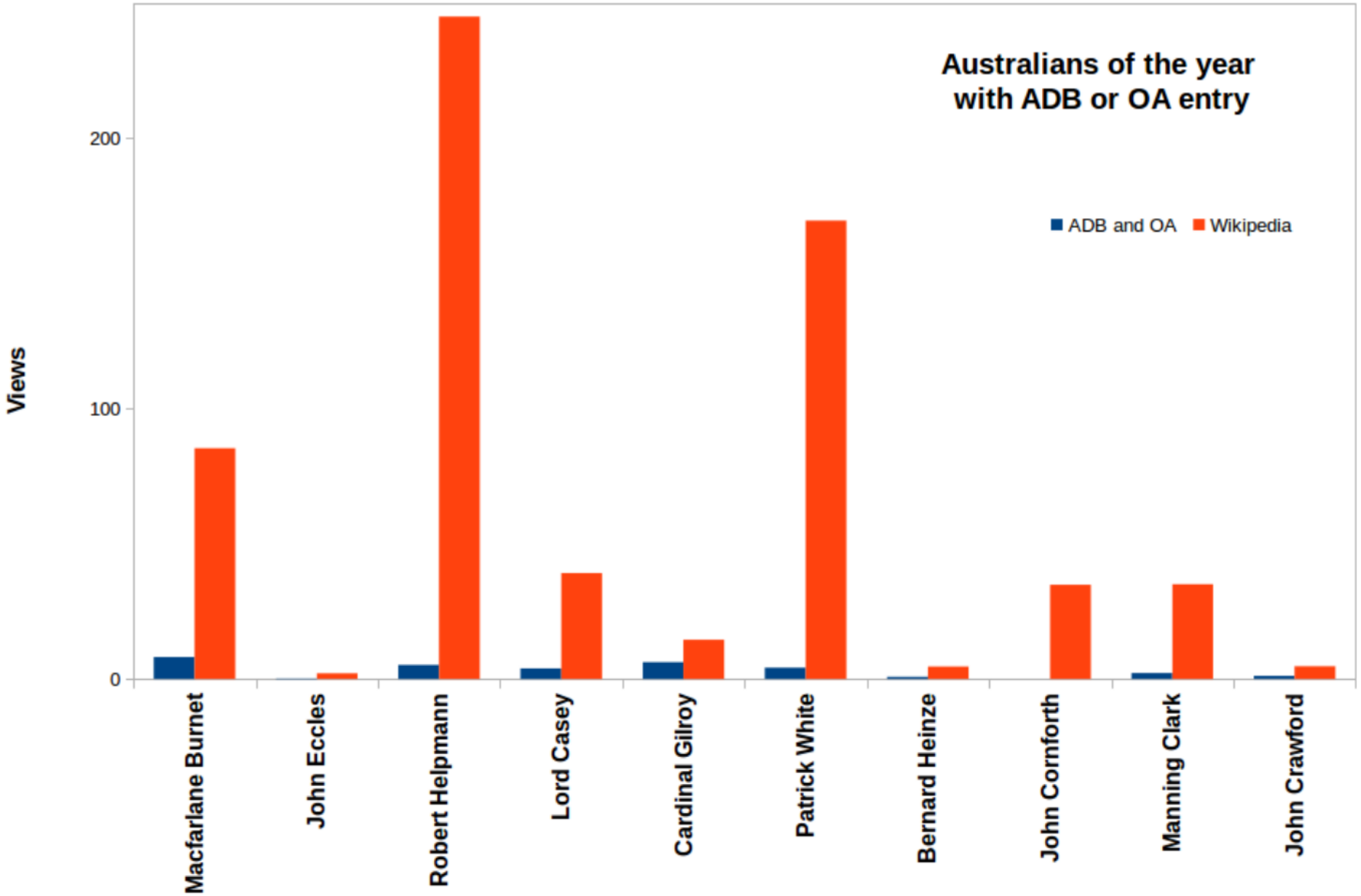
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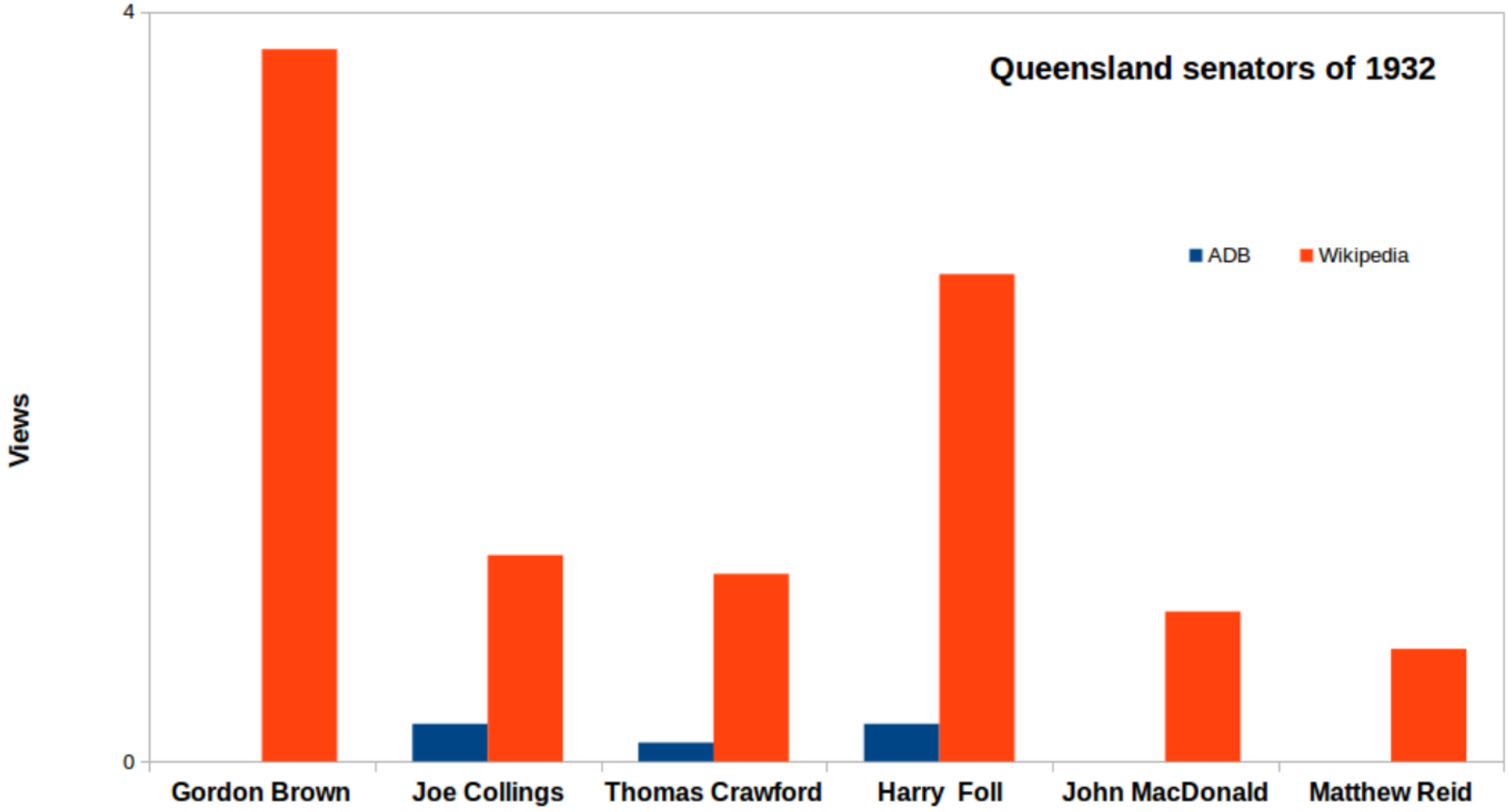
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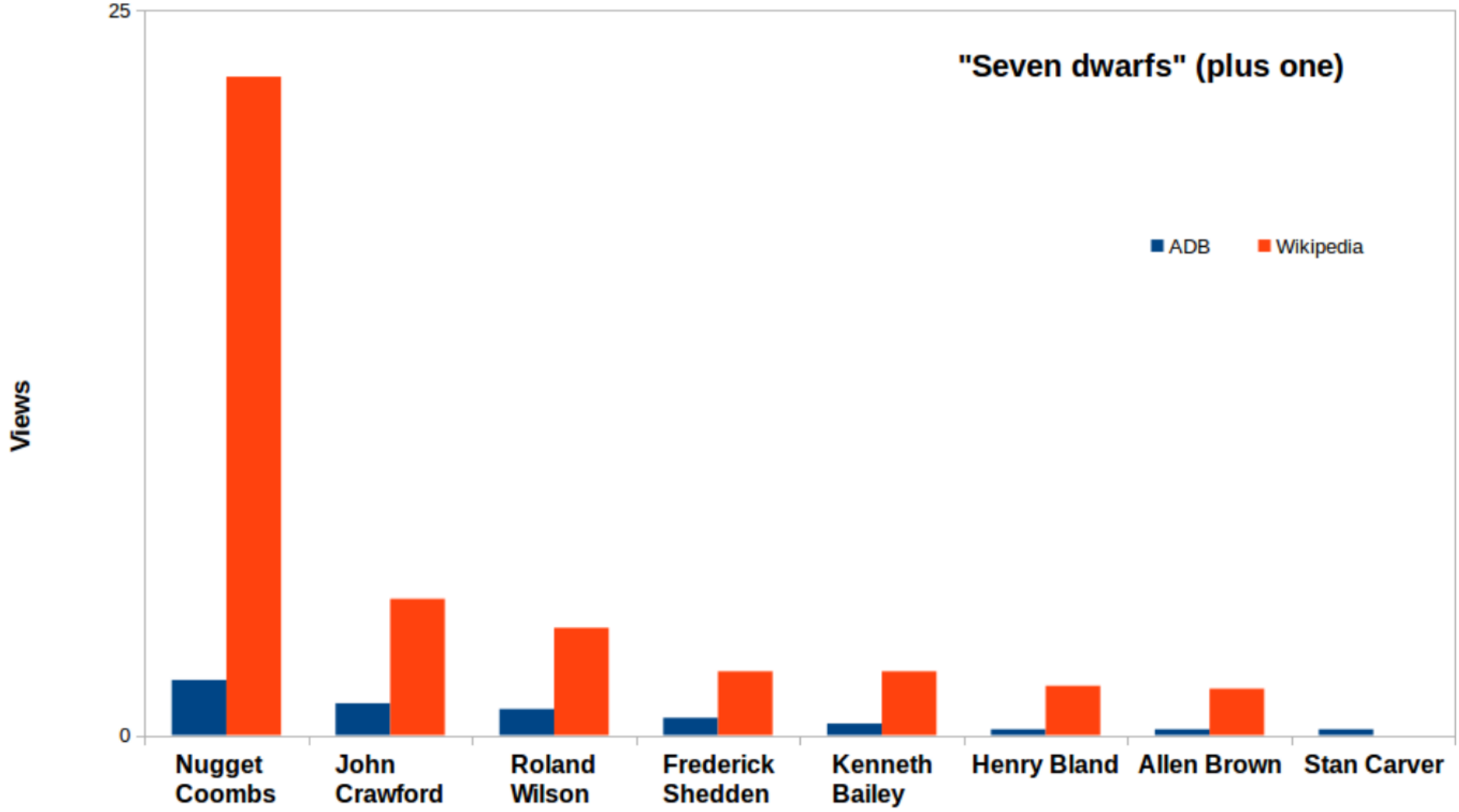
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Allen Brown
Stan Carver

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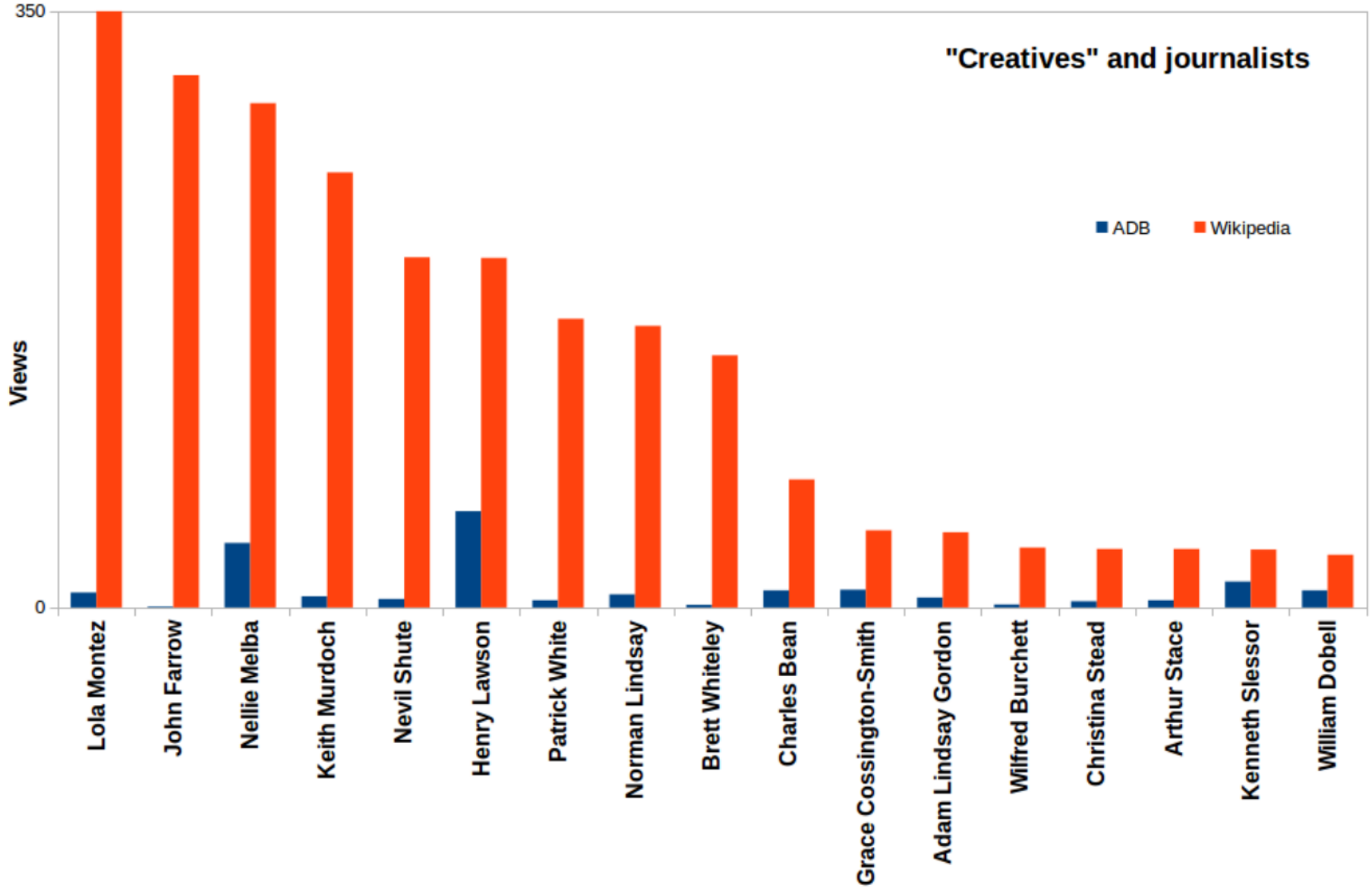
"Creatives" and journalists
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Lola Montez
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Keith Murdoch
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William Dobell

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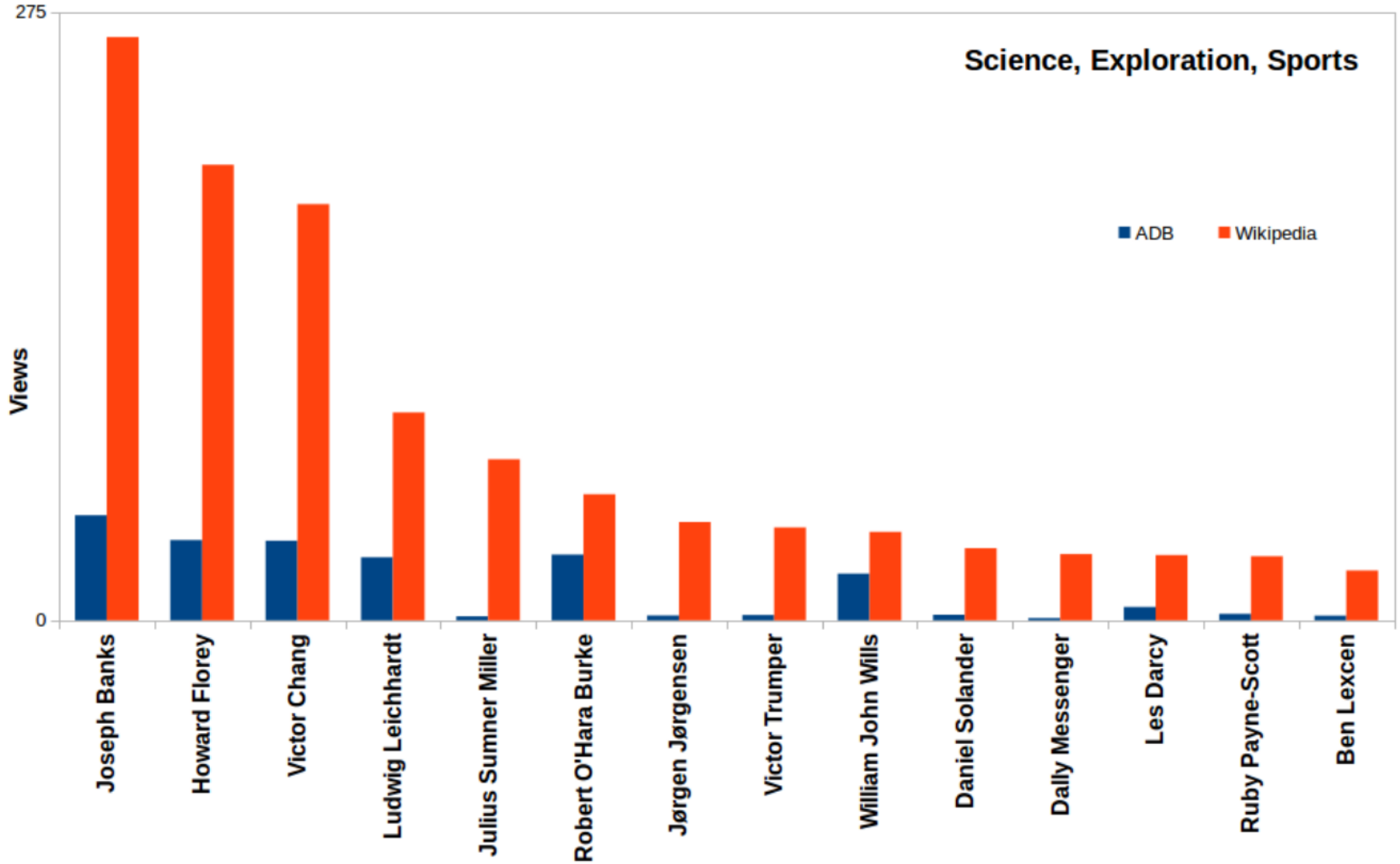
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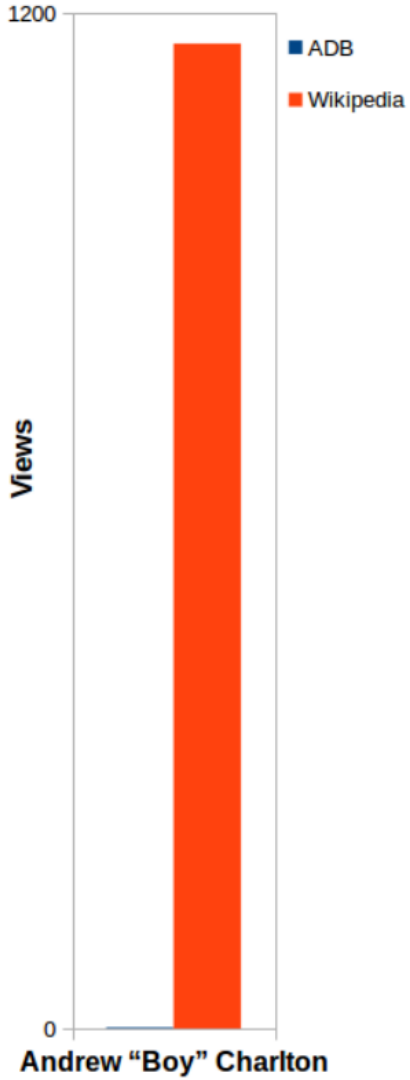
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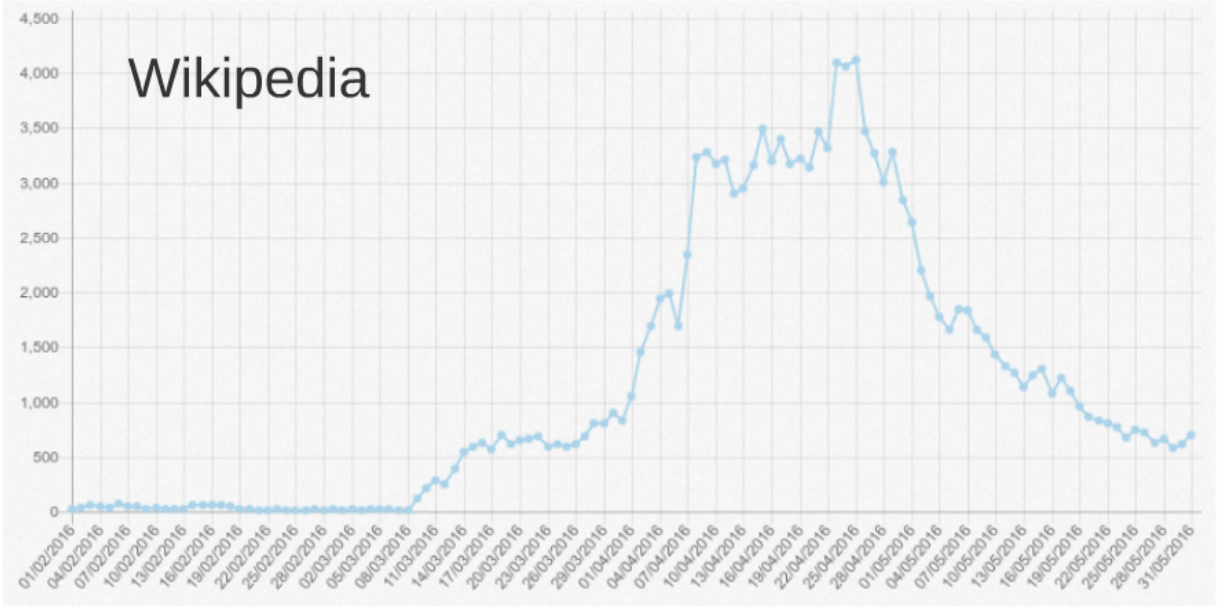
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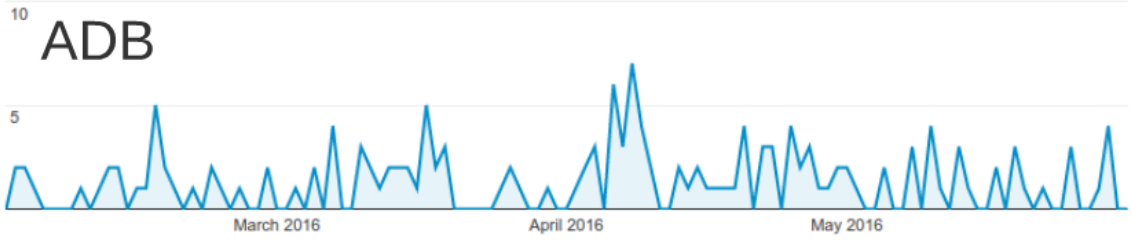
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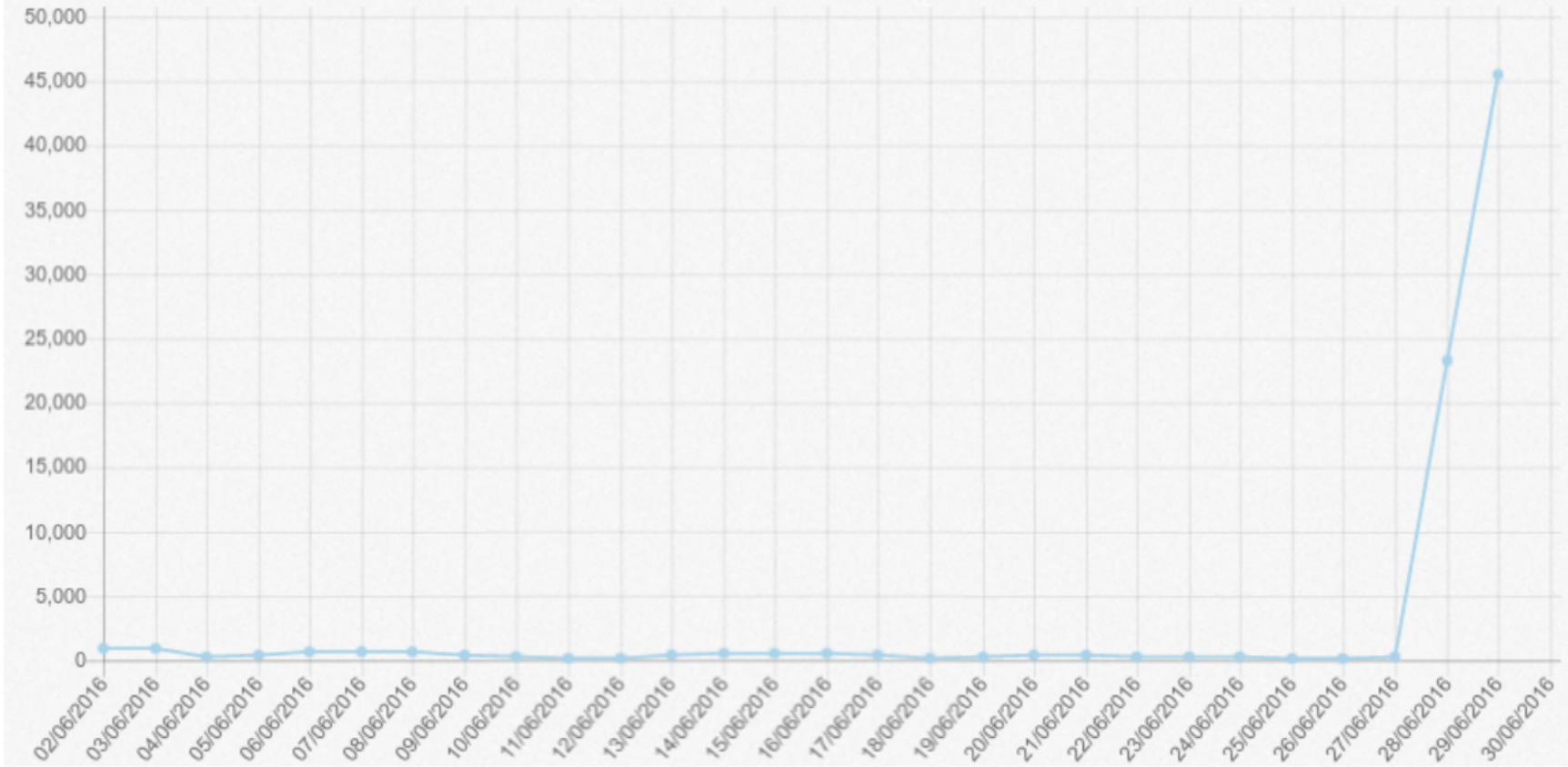

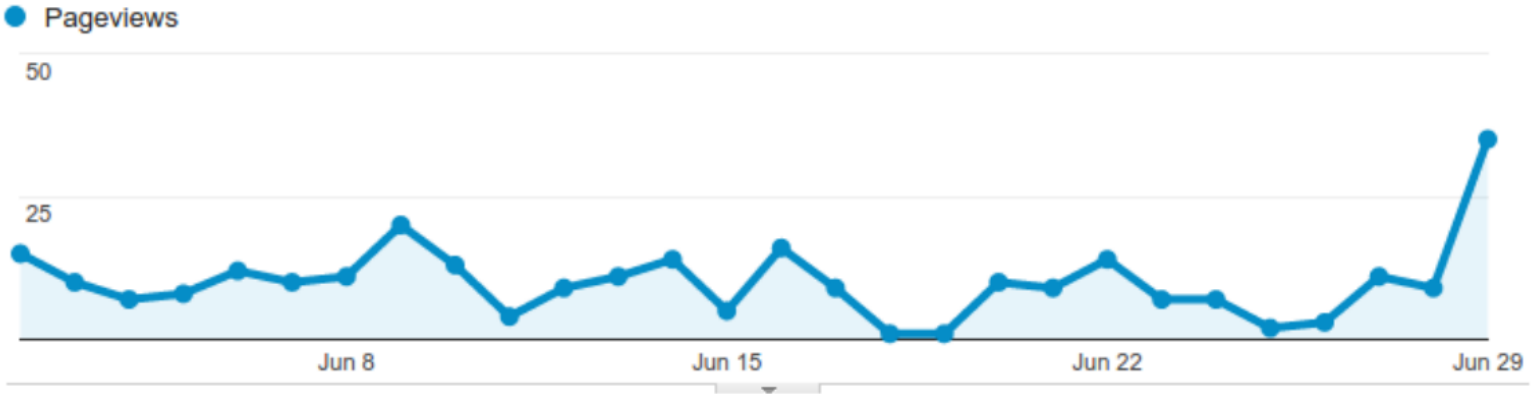

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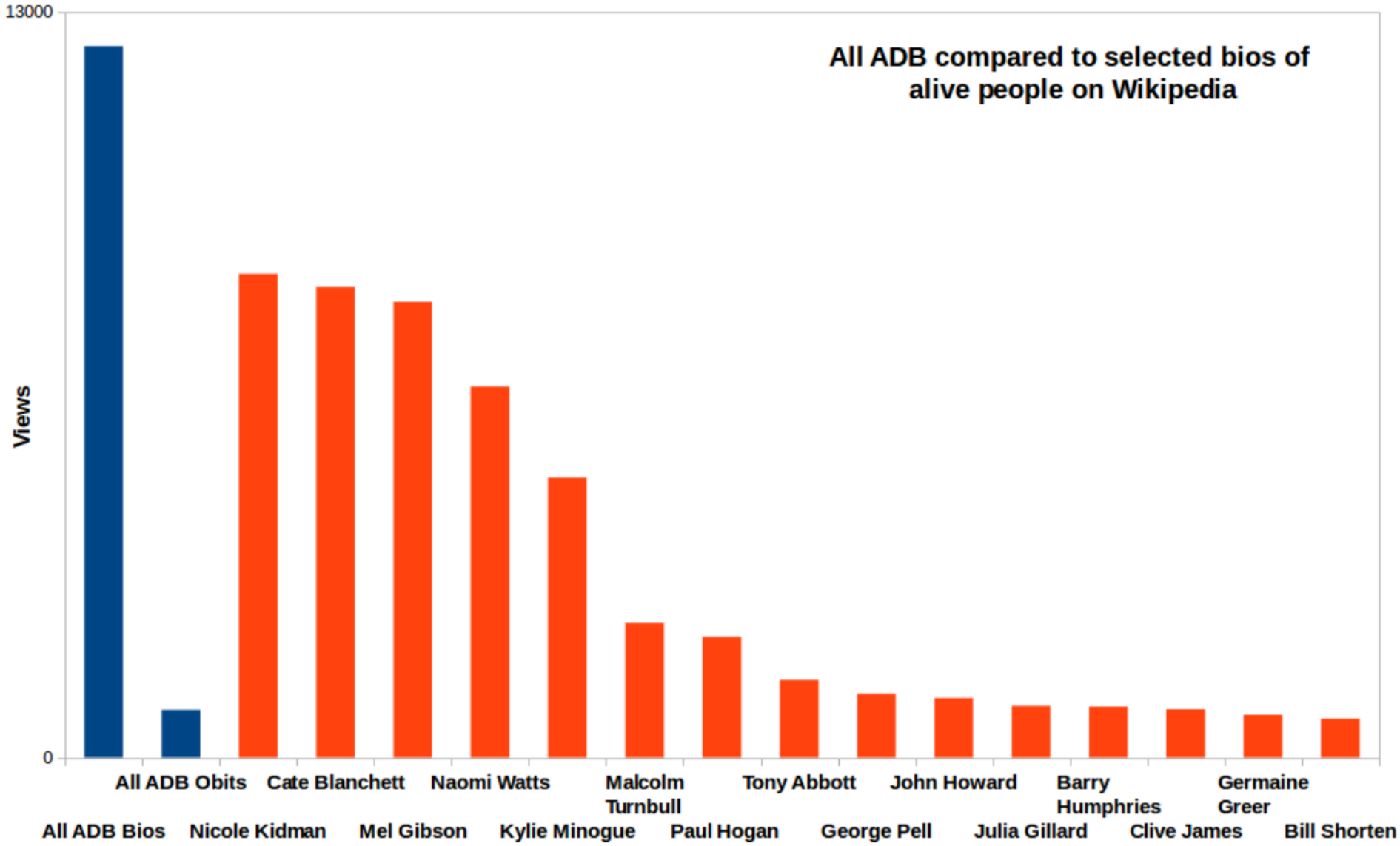
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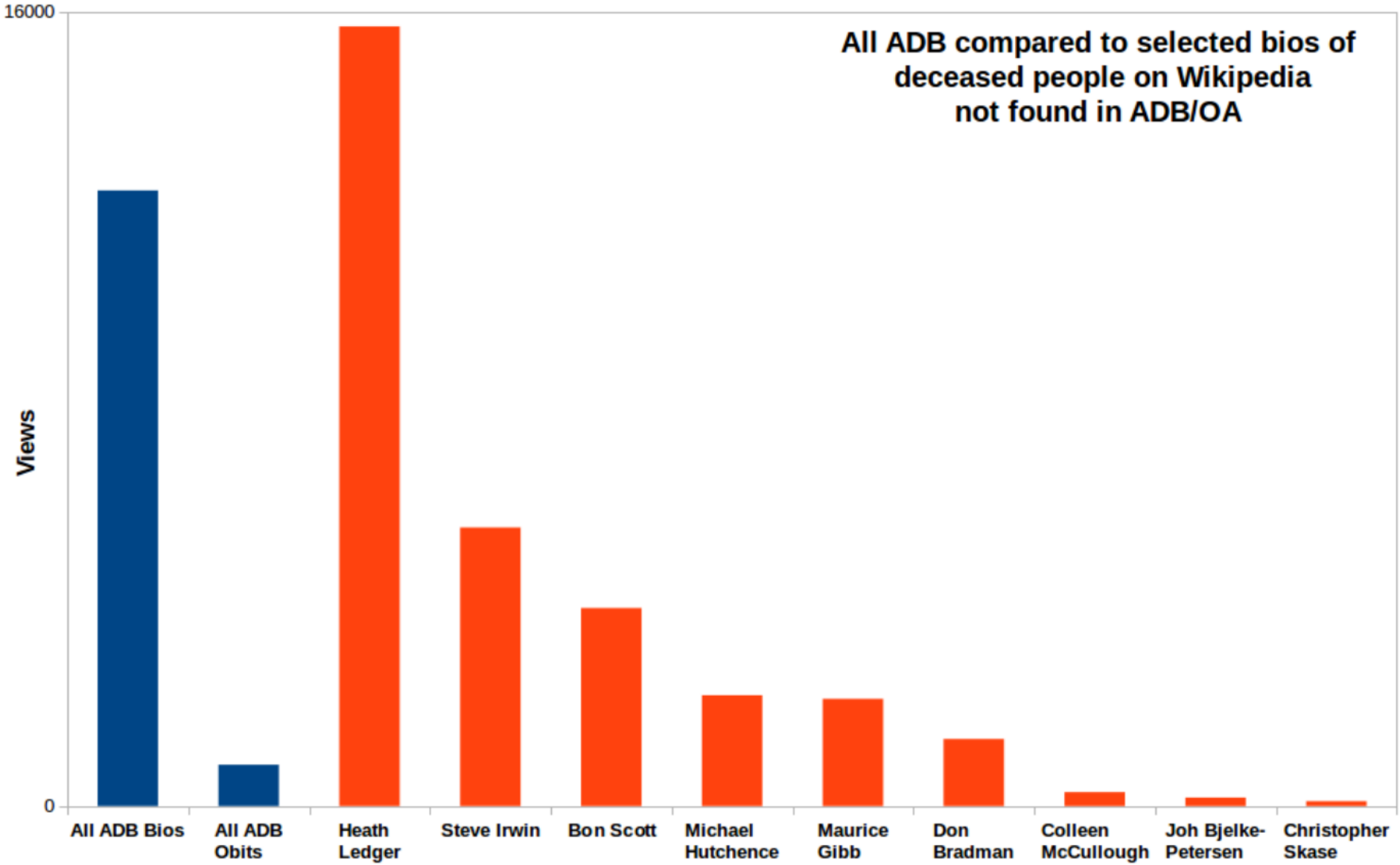
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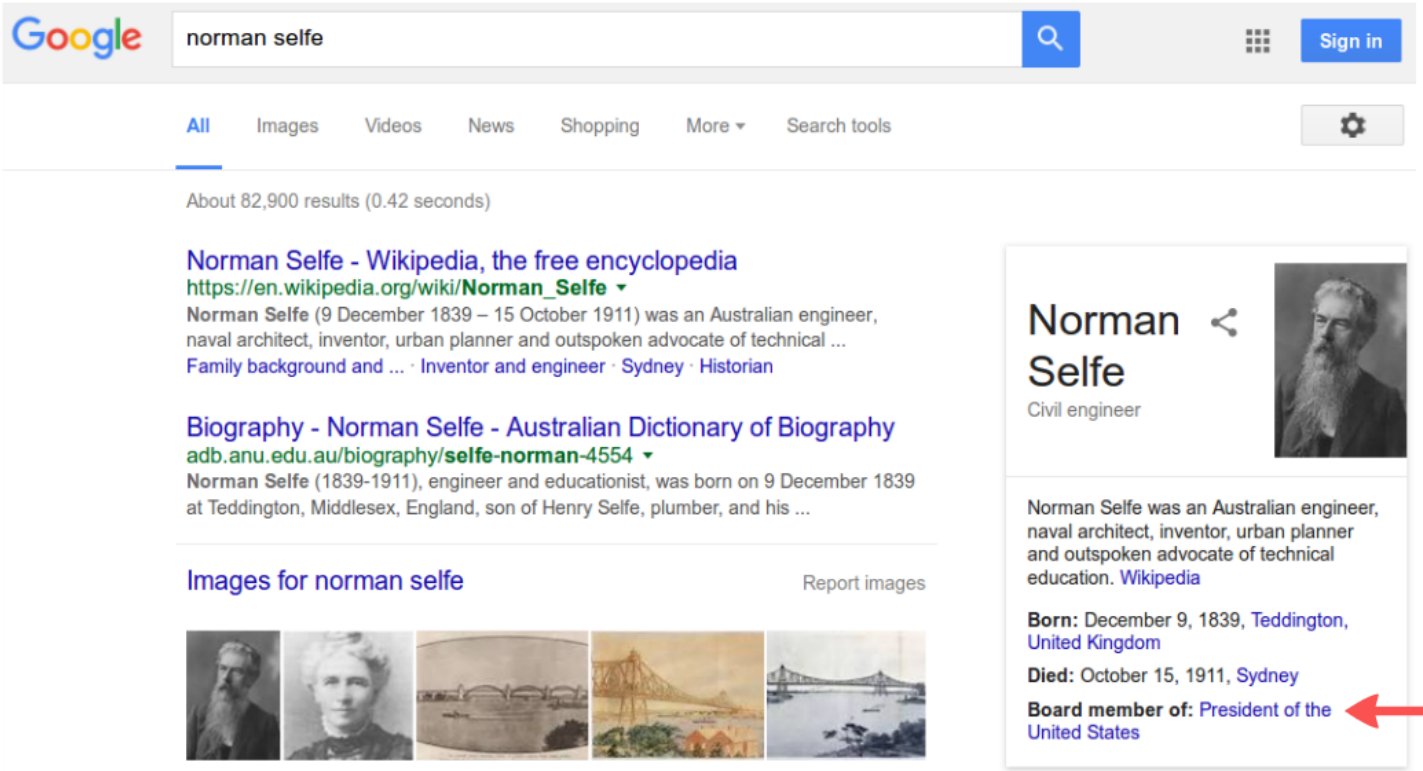

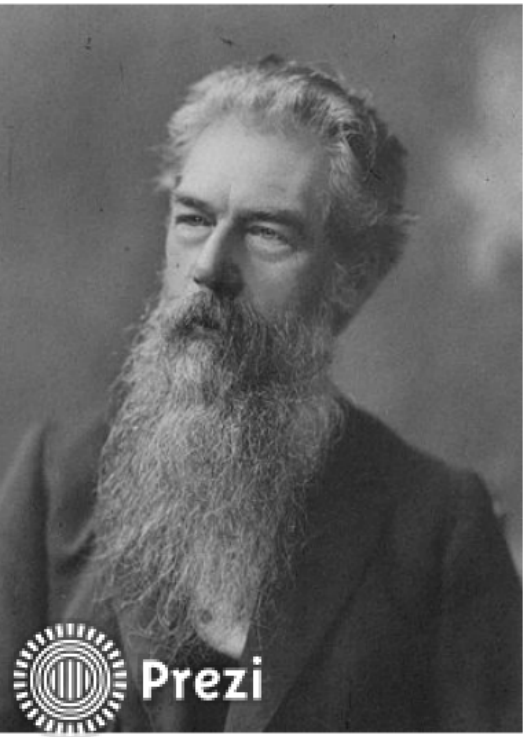

Norman Selfe, engineer, 1839 - 1911

..in 1903 he largely designed a cantilever harbour bridge from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point; the plans were accepted but not proceeded with owing to a change of government...

Selfe died of heart failure at Normanhurst, the suburb named after him, on 15 October 1911 and was buried in the Gore Hill cemetery.

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Selfe died of heart failure at Normanhurst, the suburb named after him, on 15 October 1911 and was buried in the Gore Hill cemetery.

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After the outcome of the competition had become mired in controversy, in 1902 Selfe won a second competition outright, with a design for a steel cantilever bridge stretching from Dawes Point to McMahons Point. The selection board were unanimous, commenting that "The structural lines are correct and in true proportion, and ... the outline is graceful". [31]

Construction of Selfe's version of the

Construction of Selfe's version of the Sydney harbour bridge never started due to an economic slowdown and a change of government at the 1904 state election. Much to Selfe's outrage, the Department of Public Works kept his calculations and drawings, and also copied and printed them. Eventually in 1907, the department contacted Selfe and asked him to collect his drawings, but refused to return the calculations. Selfe was never given the £1,100 prize, nor was he paid for his subsequent work which he estimated to be worth more than £20,000. [32]

be worth more than £20,000. [92]

... Selfe died suddenly on 15 October 1911. His death certificate states the cause of death as "heart failure brought on by exertion". [11] His daughter Norma offered some context to a journalist in 1957. She said:

"On the day of his death he climbed trees in the church grounds to lop branches, as the gardener was too nervous to climb so high. That night he died in his sleep." [82]

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Norma reported that her father had been sanguine to the end, playful with his nephews and learning to play the oboe. However, other reports suggest that Selfe was concealing a bitter sense of disappointment at the end of his life, most particularly over the Harbour Bridge affair. His obituary in the journal "Building" concluded: ...

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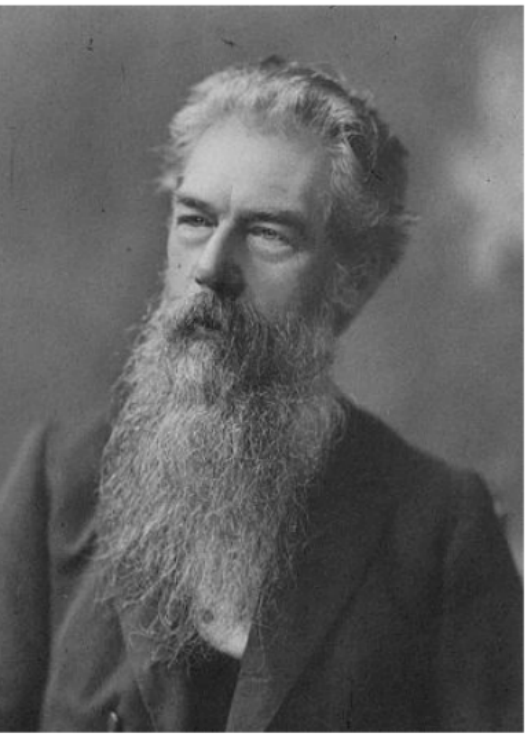

Norman Selfe, engineer, 1839 - 1911

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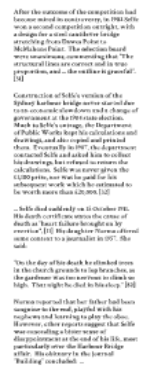

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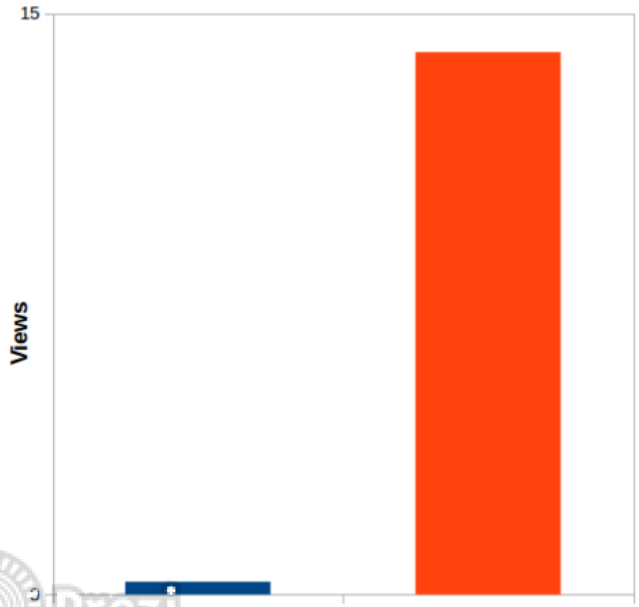

S. Murray-Smith

ADB

This Wikipedia article is substantially built upon the essay "Selfe, Norman" in the Dictionary of Sydney written by Catherine Freyne, 2009 and licensed under CC BY-SA.

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Florence Violet McKenzie, engineer, 1890 - 1982

Michael Nelmes

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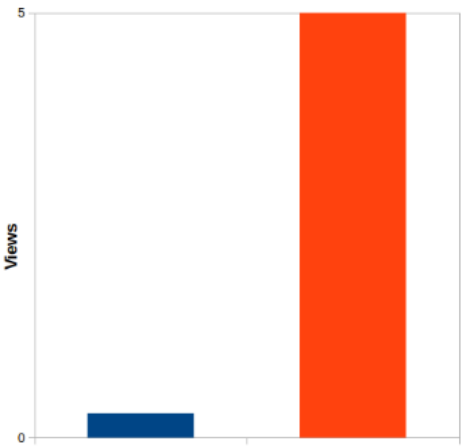

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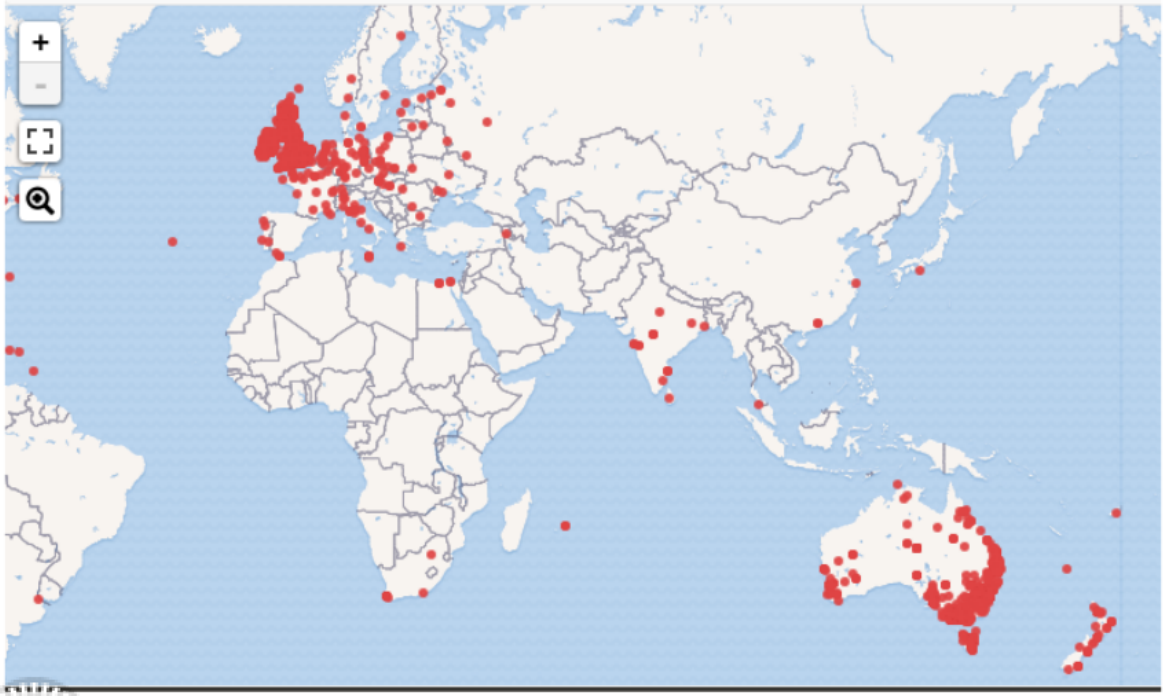

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Thanks to Liam Wyatt for this example.

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Why do you write?

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Orwell

"Why I Write"

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Why do you write?

Orwell

"Why I Write"

1. **Sheer egoism**
2. **Aesthetic enthusiasm**
3. **Historical impulse**
4. **Political purpose**

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Can I add extra information to an entry?

The entries are the end product of the research of individual authors and can only be altered if there is an error of fact. We are aware that some of the scholarship in the earliest published entries are now outdated and hope to soon acquire funding to rewrite or revise those entries.

http://adb.anu.edu.au/faqs

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