

taking up the mop

identifying future wikipedia admins

moira burke and robert kraut
moira@cmu.edu

a fast, lightweight model to determine which wikipedia editors will be promoted to administrator status

method

parsed contribution history pages for all 1500 admin candidates from Jan 2006 to Oct 2007.

counted 25 features including edits to each namespace, polite language in edit summary text, vandalism reverts, policy work, and deletion discussions.

performed a probit regression to determine which features predicted promotion.

applications

an “**admin finder**” to identify possible editors for promotion to manage growing backlog of administrator work

a **self-evaluation tool** for editors considering become admins

a **dashboard** of a candidate’s attributes to aid discussion in request for adminship process

wikipedia admins

approximately 1400 administrators with special tools for fighting vandalism, deleting pages, and blocking malicious editors.

administrator status is granted by peer consensus to editors who demonstrate thorough understanding of Wikipedia policy, the ability to handle conflict, and a need for the tools.

results

admins are promoted for **policymaking** and **diverse experience**. mere edit count does not matter. however, editors who had a history of **escalating conflict to formal venues** such as the arbitration committee were less likely to be promoted. full details in accompanying paper.

what helped most:

edits to policy pages
edits to wikiproject organizational pages
editing diverse namespaces
participating in article discussions
commenting/summarizing edits
saying “thanks” in comments

what didn’t matter:

number of article edits
months since first edit
user/user talk edits
AIVs, RfPs, XfDs

what hurt most:

posting to the admin noticeboard
posting to the arbitration/mediation committee



human-computer interaction institute
carnegie mellon university

supported by nsf # IIS-0325049 and an nsf graduate research fellowship