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The Wikipedia popularity of James Joyce

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The Wikipedia popularity of James Joyce

This paper aims to present empirical research on the contemporary worldwide popularity and prestige of Joyce among Wikipedia readers. There are 309 Wikipedias, composed in nearly as many languages across the world¹. The 2017 article *World Literature According to Wikipedia: Introduction to a DBpedia-Based Framework*,² written by C. Hube, F. Fischer, R. Jäschke, G. Lauer, and M. Rosendahl Thomsen, showed how Wikipedia statistics can be fruitfully analysed to reveal the popularity of world authors³ among Wikipedia readers. Following their lead, by analysing the data of how many people consulted the various entries on Joyce and his works in the 309 Wikipedias, I will distinguish different levels of popularity of his works in different settings. I will first examine the reception of his biographical entry in the various Wikipedias, and then move on to the entries dedicated to his fiction, play, and poetry⁴. I will not be hazarding here any guesses into the reasons behind particular preferences for certain works, leaving that for specialists in the field. Yet this empirical investigation is important, because it will allow us to have a birds' eye view of the contemporary popularity and prestige of Joyce, measured in Wikipedia pageviews, across the globe. This snapshot is not a permanent vision, because of potential future cultural, historical and political shifts, but it is important to see, right now, where things stand. Before presenting

¹ There are a pair of Wikipedias for the same language: English and Simple English; and Belarusian in two different orthographic systems (standard Belarusian and Taraškievica).

² Christoph Hube, Frank Fischer, Robert Jäschke, Gerhard Lauer, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, 'World Literature According to Wikipedia: Introduction to a DBpedia-Based Framework', arXiv:1701.00991 [cs.IR].

³ I have followed up their research with two articles: Jacob Blakesley, 'The Global Popularity of William Shakespeare in 303 Wikipedias', *Memoria di Shakespeare: A Journal of Shakesperean Studies* 149-171 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.13133/2283-8759/14509>; and Jacob Blakesley, 'World literature according to Wikipedia popularity and book translations: the case of modern Italian poets', *Comparative Critical Studies* in press.

⁴ Just to make clear: I am not analysing the readership of his specific works, but rather the readership of the different entries dedicated to his works.

the results, however, I need to introduce Wikipedia and address what Wikipedia statistics precisely measure.

Wikipedia

Wikipedia began in 2001 with one English encyclopaedia and now, almost two decades later, there are official Wikipedias in over 300 national and regional languages, minority languages and dialects, classical languages like Latin and Sanskrit, and constructed languages like Esperanto, with anywhere from a single entry (Afar) to over 6 million entries (English). An immense resource, Wikipedia includes over 50 million entries and there are more than 50,000 new pages a day across all Wikipedias,⁵ with over 500,000 daily edits.⁶ Among the top most 100 popular Wikipedias, people view anywhere from a minimum of 8 million Wikipedia pages (Ghana) to over 3.4 billion Wikipedia pages (USA) per month.⁷ Wikipedia is viewed around the clock to a perhaps unimaginable degree: indeed, it is the fifth most visited website in the world.⁸ Meanwhile, there are very few cases of Wikipedia censorship, with the most recent data indicating that only two governments currently censor Wikipedia (China and North Korea).⁹

The most serious objection raised about studying literary reception through Wikipedia is the question of the quality. While Wikipedia may consider itself the so-called people's encyclopaedia, its symbolic capital is certainly not that of the most renowned encyclopedias

⁵ <https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-wikipedia-projects/contributing/new-pages/normal|table|2-year|~total|daily>.

⁶ <https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-wikipedia-projects/contributing/edits/normal|table|2-year|~total|daily>

⁷ <https://stats.wikimedia.org/wikimedia/squids/SquidReportPageViewsPerCountryBreakdown.htm>

⁸ Lewoniewski, Włodzimierz, Krzysztof Węcel and Witold Abramowicz. 2017. 'Relative Quality and Popularity Evaluation of Multilingual Wikipedia Articles', *Informatics* 4.4: 1-24.

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_of_Wikipedia and Justin Clark, Robert Faris, and Rebekah Heacock Jones, 'Analyzing Accessibility of Wikipedia Projects Around the World (May 2017)', Berkman Klein Center Research Publication Series. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2951312>.

(e.g., the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*) and it is generally not accepted in academia. However, a well-known 2005 article in *Nature*, ‘Internet encyclopaedias go head to head’, found little difference in error between a small sample of articles in Wikipedia and *Encyclopaedia Britannica*,¹⁰ a conclusion similarly reached in a 2012 Oxford University study, ‘Assessing the accuracy and quality of Wikipedia entries compared to popular online encyclopaedias’¹¹ as well. This certainly suggests that our preconceived notions about quality in collaborative open-source encyclopaedias need to be reflected upon. Nevertheless, in this paper, I am not dealing with the quality of the Wikipedia entries, but rather the number of times readers consulted various Wikipedia entries dealing with Joyce and his works. The calculations of pageviews of each Wikipedia entry come from the Wikimedia Foundation Analytics¹² and the Pageviews analysis suite of tools, which provide data back to mid-2015.¹³ The number of pageviews are taken as a proxy for the popularity and prestige of authors and their literary works.

Because of privacy reasons, Wikipedia does not track individual users, so it is technically impossible to determine how many visitors viewed each entry; thus I will be speaking about ‘views’ and ‘visits’ rather than ‘viewers’ and ‘visitors’ over the calendar year 2018.¹⁴ The choice of using one calendar year is motivated by two factors: first, current Wikipedia statistics go back, as mentioned, only to mid-2015; and second, a one-year period

¹⁰ Jim Giles, ‘Internet encyclopaedias go head to head’, *Nature* 438: 900-901 (15 December 2005). Accessed at <https://www.nature.com/articles/438900a>.

¹¹ I. Casebourne, C. Davies, M. Fernandes, N. Norman, Assessing the accuracy and quality of Wikipedia entries compared to popular online encyclopaedias: A comparative preliminary study across disciplines in English, Spanish and Arabic’. Accessed at https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/EPIC_Oxford_report.pdf. It must be acknowledged that the Oxford study was funded by Wikipedia.

¹² <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/Sitemap.htm>.

¹³ <https://tools.wmflabs.org/langviews/?project=en.wikipedia.org>. ‘Bot’ or web crawler views are not included in these statistics.

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pageview_statistics.

has been shown by Hube et alii. in their paper to be a relatively stable measurement, with 95% correlation with adjoining years.

To begin with, then, I will present the results about the popularity of Joyce in terms of his biographical entry and entries on his works in the 300-some Wikipedias.

‘James Joyce’ biographical entry

In 2018, James Joyce’s biographical entry was viewed in 137 Wikipedias, for a total of more than 1.7 million pageviews. The English Wikipedia accounted for 46% of these pageviews. But more than half of his pageviews – 54% - came from foreign Wikipedias, which means that he has a large group of non-native English-speakers who view his entries in countries far and wide¹⁵. Table 1 lists the Wikipedias where his biographical entry was most accessed, with Table 2 providing detail about this dataset as a whole:

Wikipedia edition	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	808735	2215
Italian	154656	423
Spanish	153388	420
German	95901	262
Russian	92568	253
French	73368	201
Japanese	48764	133
Portuguese	37740	103
Ukrainian	32881	90
Polish	25357	69

Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	134
Total pageviews	1737867
Median pageviews	244
Mean pageviews	12707
Maximum pageviews	808735

¹⁵ There is, no doubt, a relatively small number of bilingual English speakers who visit Joyce’s entry in foreign (i.e., non-English) Wikipedia editions.

3rd quartile pageviews	2145
2nd quartile pageviews	244
1st quartile pageviews	173
Minimum pageviews	12

All the leading Wikipedias in Table 1 are clearly in the fourth quartile. English is the leader, by far, with over 800k pageviews of Joyce's biographical entry over the calendar year. Italian and Spanish trail in second and third places, both with a bit over 150k pageviews. No other Wikipedia has more than 100k pageviews. German and Russian line up 4th and 5th, each with slightly more than 90k. French is in 6th, somewhat behind, with Japanese still further behind with fewer than 50k. Portuguese lags behind in 8th, followed by Ukrainian in 9th, and Polish in 10th place. The discrepancy, then, between the 1st Wikipedia edition (English) and the 10th Wikipedia edition (Polish) is on the enormous scale of 31:1, which correlates to an average of 225 daily pageviews (English) to 69 daily pageviews (Polish).

In the course of this paper, I will determine whether the pageviews of Joyce's works reflect this similar ranking in foreign Wikipedias. Pageviews do shift from year to year, so the 2018 snapshot is not necessarily a permanent reflection of the data. That said, it is unlikely that prominent Wikipedias like English, Italian and Spanish will lose their rankings in the near future to other languages.

However, one must remember that since there are 309 Wikipedias, in the majority of Wikipedias, strikingly enough, no one views Joyce's biographical entry at all (either because it doesn't exist in that Wikipedia, or because no one accessed it during 2018). So, there are no views of his biographical entry in Wikipedias composed in African languages like Igbo, Lingana, Shona, Somali, Wolof, Xhosa, or Zulu; or in Asian languages like Gujarati, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Nepali, Pashto, and Tajik; or in American languages like Cherokee, Hawaiaan, and Navajo; or in European languages like Low Saxon, Maltese, and Romani; or in Oceanic languages like Fijian, Maori, and Tongan; or in Caribbean languages like Haiti and Papiamento. With that said, in numerous Wikipedias, even when Joyce's bio-entry *was*

viewed, it was scarcely viewed at all: in languages from Amharic and Cantonese to Yoruba and Yiddish, there was, on average, fewer than one view per day of Joyce's biographical entry.

Joyce's 9 works among Wikipedia readers

I will now look at each of his individual works and their popularity, in terms of pageviews, across all of the Wikipedia editions. The entry on *Ulysses*, perhaps not surprisingly, is the most accessed, compared with the entries on any other works by Joyce, with nearly 2 million pageviews.

Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	927k	2540
Russian	201k	552
German	138k	379
Spanish	135k	370
Italian	117k	321
Japanese	102k	280
French	54k	143
Chinese	45k	125
Polish	42k	116
Portuguese	34k	95

Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	61
Total pageviews	1968133
Median pageviews	2017
Mean pageviews	32264
Maximum pageviews	927432
3rd quartile pageviews	9413
2nd quartile pageviews	2017
1st quartile pageviews	187
Minimum pageviews	49

'Ulysses' is viewed in over 60 Wikipedias, for nearly a total of 2 million yearly pageviews.

The median number of pageviews is around 2,000. English accounts for almost 1 million

pageviews alone, with Russian in second with about 200k. German and Spanish are far behind, with somewhat fewer than 150k each. Italian and Japanese, fifth and sixth, are the only other languages with more than 100k views. The bottom five of this list have, at most, only around half the amount of pageviews of Japanese. French is 7th, with about 50k, Chinese and Polish are right behind, and Portuguese 10th at 34k. Overall, there are slightly more pageviews of *Ulysses* in all foreign Wikipedias combined than in the English edition, 53-47%.

Compared to *Ulysses*, the entry on *Finnegans Wake* is viewed four times less, with fewer than 500k total pageviews across all Wikipedias (Table 5). Unlike *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake* is mostly viewed in the English edition, not in foreign-language Wikipedias, accounting for about two thirds of all pageviews; the median is only about half as large as the median for *Ulysses*. Indeed, *Finnegans Wake* is viewed in little more than 30 editions, barely half as many as *Ulysses* (Table 6). In fact, while *Ulysses* is only viewed three times more than *Finnegans Wake* in the English Wikipedia, *Ulysses* is viewed six times more than *Finnegans Wake* in non-English Wikipedias. The mass popularity of *Ulysses* is also notable: every single top ten Wikipedia edition of *Ulysses* has a greater number of pageviews of this entry than any of the top ten foreign Wikipedias editions pageviews of *Finnegans Wake*.

As for the relative rankings, the English, Russian and German Wikipedia editions have the identical position for *Finnegans Wake* as *Ulysses*. What's different here is the rest of the top ten. Unlike *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake* is about equally viewed in the Japanese, Spanish, and Italian editions, between 22-23k. Meanwhile, the French edition has seen a precipitous drop in absolute numbers from over 50k pageviews of *Ulysses* to only 11k pageviews of *Finnegans Wake*. Portuguese, Chinese, and Polish bring up the rear, as with *Ulysses*, but their absolute numbers are far lower than in the preceding work, indicating a much smaller lack of popularity.

Table 5. ‘Finnegans Wake’, by top ten most viewed editions		
Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	310k	850
Russian	27k	75
German	26k	71
Japanese	23k	63
Italian	22k	62
Spanish	22k	61
French	11k	30
Chinese	6k	17
Portuguese	6k	16
Polish	5k	15

Table 6. ‘Finnegans Wake’ entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	34
Total pageviews	479838
Median pageviews	1067
Mean pageviews	14112
Maximum pageviews	310260
3rd quartile pageviews	5957
2nd quartile pageviews	1067
1st quartile pageviews	166
Minimum pageviews	33

While *Dubliners* doesn’t reach the same combined total of pageviews as *Finnegans* with only about 70% of them (Table 7), or reach its median (Table 8), *Dubliners* is present in a few more foreign Wikipedia editions, and it has more foreign Wikipedia pageviews than *Finnegans Wake*. This is, to a certain degree, thanks to the vast popularity of *Dubliners* in Italian: the number of pageviews is the 6th largest number for a work by Joyce across all Wikipedias. In fact, with *Dubliners*, the ratio between the first (English) and second (non-English) place is about 2:1, which is lower than any of Joyce’s major works. This is owing to the fact that *Dubliners* is less accessed in the English Wikipedia than *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake*, or *Portrait*. Meanwhile, in nearly all the other major Wikipedias – French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish – *Dubliners* is (far) below *Finnegans Wake* in terms of

pageviews. The exception here is Chinese, which has slightly more *Dubliners* views than *Finnegans Wake* views.

Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	172k	472
Italian	79k	217
Spanish	19k	53
Russian	10k	29
German	10k	28
Japanese	8k	23
French	7k	21
Chinese	7k	19
Portuguese	3k	9
Farsi	2k	8

Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	37
Total pageviews	341983
Median pageviews	899
Mean pageviews	9242
Maximum pageviews	172574
3rd quartile pageviews	2985
2nd quartile pageviews	899
1st quartile pageviews	248
Minimum pageviews	45

The statistics about *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* reveal that there is a huge contrast between the English Wikipedia views and foreign Wikipedia views (Table 9).

Portrait is far more viewed in English than in any other language, about twelve times more than the next Wikipedia (Spanish); this is about the same ratio as *Finnegans Wake*’s 1st and 2nd place Wikipedias too.

Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	222k	609

Spanish	18k	51
Italian	14k	40
Russian	10k	27
French	5k	14
German	4k	13
Portuguese	4k	11
Japanese	3k	10
Arabic	3k	8
Farsi	2k	8

In fact, the percentage of foreign Wikipedia views of *A Portrait* is much smaller than the other major works by Joyce, at merely 28%, even lower than *Finnegans Wake*'s 35%.

However, the overall pageview statistics are similar to *Dubliners*, if we allow for the Italian lack of enthusiasm here: it is present in about the same number of Wikipedia editions, and its median pageview number is only about 10% lower.

Table 10. 'A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	36
Total pageviews	307470
Median pageviews	818
Mean pageviews	8541
Maximum pageviews	222591
3rd quartile pageviews	3045
2nd quartile pageviews	818
1st quartile pageviews	180
Minimum pageviews	27

Stephen Hero is little viewed outside of the English Wikipedia: in only five Wikipedias, for fewer than a combined total of 3,000 yearly pageviews. Considering the reliance of *Portrait* on *Stephen Hero*, one might legitimately suspect that the same Wikipedias that view *Portrait* the most – English, number one, followed by Spanish, Italian, and Russian – would also view *Stephen Hero* the most. However, there is no real correspondence, as Table 11 indicates.

Table 11. 'Stephen Hero', by top ten most viewed editions		
Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	13	36

Russian	1k	3
Spanish	<1k	2
French	<1k	0
Arabic	<1k	0
Norwegian	<1k	0

Russian, instead, has become the second leading Wikipedia for *Stephen Hero*, with Spanish fallen to third; and Italian is not present at all. Overall, this entry is present in only six Wikipedias, and its median is far lower than all other entries so far examined.

Table 12. ‘Stephen Hero’ entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	6
Total pageviews	15778
Median pageviews	565
Mean pageviews	2629
Maximum pageviews	13296
3rd quartile pageviews	1055
2nd quartile pageviews	565
1st quartile pageviews	229
Minimum pageviews	15

Of all of Joyce’s minor works, Joyce’s play *Exiles* has the most pages viewed in foreign Wikipedias, with 11 foreign Wikipedias (Table 13); however, the number of daily views is very low indeed, most of the languages accounting for merely 1 at the most, giving rise to the small median of about 300 yearly pageviews.

Table 13. ‘Exiles’ entry, by top ten most viewed editions		
Wikipedia	2018 yearly pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	9k	24
Spanish	1k	3
French	<1k	2
German	<1k	2
Chinese	<1k	1
Hebrew	<1k	1
Portuguese	<1k	0
Farsi	<1k	0

Czech	<1k	0
Arabic	<1k	0
Norwegian	<1k	0

Table 14. ‘Exiles’ entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	12
Total pageviews	13331
Median pageviews	309
Mean pageviews	1110
Maximum pageviews	9073
3rd quartile pageviews	597
2nd quartile pageviews	309
1st quartile pageviews	177
Minimum pageviews	20

Yet only in Spanish, French, and German is there more than one daily pageview. In other words, as will become clear, the Joyce most consulted abroad is the narrator par excellence: not the playwright or the poet.

Let me turn to his poetry now. *Chamber Music* and *Pomes Penyeach* are about equally consulted in the English Wikipedia, with each around 4,790 yearly pageviews: this is equivalent to 13 daily pageviews (Table 15; Table 17). In terms of foreign pageviews, both are consulted in less than ten foreign Wikipedias; both have median averages of 250-300 yearly pageviews (Table 16; Table 18).

For *Chamber Music*, the second most popular Wikipedia is the Italian edition; it is also viewed at least once daily, on average, in the French, Portuguese, and Spanish Wikipedias. In Arabic, Chinese, Finnish, Swedish, and Vietnamese Wikipedias, there is a tiny number of pageviews, none of which equals 1 daily pageview.

Table 15. ‘Chamber Music’ entry, by top ten most viewed editions		
Wikipedia	2018 pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	4k	13
Italian	1k	4
Spanish	<1k	2
Portuguese	<1k	1

French	<1k	1
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Table 16. ‘Chamber Music’ entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	10
Total pageviews	8676
Median pageviews	305
Mean pageviews	867
Maximum pageviews	4791
3rd quartile pageviews	732
2nd quartile pageviews	305
1st quartile pageviews	121
Minimum pageviews	60

For *Pomes Penyeach*, the second most popular Wikipedia is the Spanish edition, the only non-English Wikipedia with more than 1 daily visitor to *Pomes Penyeach* (Arabic, Finnish, French, Portuguese, and Vietnamese Wikipedias all have nugatory pageviews).

Table 17. ‘Pomes Penyeach’, by top ten most viewed editions		
Wikipedia	2018 pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
English	4k	13
Spanish	1k	4

Table 18. ‘Poems Penyeach’ entry across all Wikipedias	
Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	7
Total pageviews	7592
Median pageviews	250
Mean pageviews	1084
Maximum pageviews	4797
3rd quartile pageviews	1026
2nd quartile pageviews	250
1st quartile pageviews	212
Minimum pageviews	67

The last work examined here is the posthumously-published *Giacomo Joyce*. Contrary to all other works by Joyce, *Giacomo Joyce* is number one not in English, but in another Wikipedia: the Ukrainian edition (Table 19). Thus there are 30 pageviews per day, on average, in the Ukrainian Wikipedia, but only 12 in the English Wikipedia; and 1 in the Arabic, Dutch, French, Portuguese, and Spanish editions. The overall numbers in terms of

median pageviews and number of Wikipedia editions make it similar to *Chamber Music* and *Pomes Penyeach*.

Wikipedia	2018 pageviews	2018 daily pageviews
Ukrainian	11k	30
English	4k	12
French	<1k	1
Spanish	<1k	0
Portuguese	<1k	0
Arabic	<1k	0
Dutch	<1k	0

Wikipedias with accessed 2018 entry	7
Total pageviews	16955
Median pageviews	325
Mean pageviews	2422
Maximum pageviews	11053
3 rd quartile pageviews	2580
2 nd quartile pageviews	325
1 st quartile pageviews	163
Minimum pageviews	27

Table 21 summarises the data about the Wikipedia entries discussed so far. The figures are clear: *Ulysses* has 4-6 times as many total pageviews as *Finnegans Wake*, *Dubliners*, or *Portrait*; but 6-12 times as many foreign pageviews as any of these three works. This set of entries is on a whole different league from the other five works by Joyce, all of which combine for around 60k total pageviews, a fifth of the total pageviews of the least-popular major work by Joyce (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*).

Work	Wikipedias	Total pageviews	English pageviews	Foreign pageviews	Foreign pageviews
<i>Ulysses</i>	61	1968k	927k	1040k	52%
<i>Finnegans Wake</i>	34	479k	310k	169k	35%
<i>Dubliners</i>	37	341k	172k	169k	50%
<i>Portrait</i>	36	307k	222k	84k	27%

<i>Giacomo Joyce</i>	7	16k	5k	11k	72%
<i>Stephen Hero</i>	6	15k	13k	2k	16%
<i>Exiles</i>	12	13k	9k	5k	32%
<i>Chamber Music</i>	10	9k	5k	4k	45%
<i>Pomes Penyeach</i>	7	7k	5k	2k	37%

Only four Wikipedias – Arabic, English, French and Spanish – have entries on all 9 canonical works of Joyce: *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake*, *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a young man*, *Exiles*, *Chamber Music*, *Pomes Penyeach*, *Giacomo Joyce*, and *Stephen Hero*. Portuguese has 8, with Finnish and Mandarin Chinese at 6. About twenty more languages have entries on at least all four narrative works (*Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake*, *Dubliners*, *Portrait*), including national European languages like Czech, Dutch, Finnish, German, Italian, Macedonian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Swedish and minority languages like Basque, Catalan, and Esperanto. The Wikipedias of non-European languages figure here as well: Farsi, Hebrew, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Gan Chinese. Meanwhile, Joyce is much less present in other national languages such as Armenian, Belarusian, Icelandic, Greek, Kazakh, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, Slovakian, and Slovene, where there is only one entry dedicated to one of his works.

Ulysses dominates each Wikipedia. In almost every single language it is number one. Yet the second-most viewed work changes from language to language. *Finnegans Wake*, for example, is the second-most consulted work in a number of languages, including English, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, and Russian. On the other hand, *Dubliners*, for example, is much more viewed among Italian readers and Chinese readers than any work other than *Ulysses*, whereas *Portrait* is much more attractive to Arabic readers. In terms of the minor works, *Giacomo Joyce* is number one for Ukrainian readers, surpassing any other work by Joyce.

All nine works and Joyce's biography then, except for *Giacomo Joyce*, are most viewed in the English Wikipedia. The highest non-English readership for these 9 pages are the following: Russian for *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake*, and *Stephen Hero*; Spanish for *Portrait of an artist*, *Exiles*, and *Poems Penyeach*; and Italian for 'James Joyce', *Dubliners*, and *Chamber Music*.

Overall, as Table 22 indicates, there were nearly 2.5 million pageviews of Joyce and his works in English, during the calendar year. This is more than two million more pageviews than in any other Wikipedia. The second place wiki, Italian, accounts for slightly less than 400k pageviews. Russian and Spanish follow behind, with around 340-350k pageviews. German is in fifth place, with about 270k pageviews. Japanese has almost 190k, with French just more than 150k. Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese 80k pageview range, with Polish rounding out the list. These are the languages, then, in which Joyce and his works find the most readership in global Wikipedias.

Table 22. Total 2018 pageviews of Joyce and his works in Wikipedias	
Wikipedia edition	2018 Joyce pageviews
English	2478253
Italian	390341
Spanish	355002
Russian	343374
German	276346
Japanese	187006
French	152025
Portuguese	87964
Mandarin Chinese	81448
Polish	78003
Ukrainian	53698
Farsi	42532
Dutch	37955
Arabic	33727
Swedish	31463
Czech	26281
Hebrew	18347
Finnish	18337
Hungarian	17212
Croatian	15692

Here and throughout the rest of the paper, I have been dealing in absolute numbers of pageviews. However, while certainly reflective in an important sense of the overall visits of Wikipedia readers, it fails to take into account the relative usage of the 309 Wikipedias. So, for example, the entire English Wikipedia receives close to 321 million pageviews per day; the Portuguese Wikipedia, on the other hand, receives fewer than 14 million per day – so, there are approximately 22 *times* more daily visits to the English Wikipedia than to the Portuguese Wikipedia on average. So, the above table will look very different if the number of pageviews are divided by the number of total pageviews in each Wikipedia.

In this new measurement (Table 23), the leading Wikipedias in terms of popularity of Joyce and his works are the Ukrainian, Italian, Croatian, and Georgian language editions. In this top quartile, with the Wikipedias in the top 75-100% of total Joyce pageview ratio, the only large Wikipedias present are the Italian, Russian, and Spanish editions. Yet even in this top ten there are visible differences. Visits to the Joyce entries on the Greek and Spanish Wikipedias happen twice as rarely as visits to the Ukrainian and Italian Wikipedias, for instance.

Wikipedia	Joyce pageviews	Total Pageviews (millions)	Joyce Pageviews/ Total Pageviews
Ukrainian	53698	997	0.000054
Italian	390341	7365	0.000053
Croatian	15692	321	0.000049
Georgian	9102	214	0.000043
Albanian	2841	98	0.000029
Macedonian	2025	70	0.000029
Russian	343374	11959	0.000029
Spanish	355002	13512	0.000026
Greek	12228	466	0.000026

In the third quartile, we find English – but not before Farsi and Czech – with other large Wikipedias like the German and French editions. Again, there is an evident numerical discrepancy here between the most-viewed and least-viewed editions, in terms of Joyce’s

entries. So, for instance, there are nearly 30% more visits to the Farsi, Czech, and English Wikipedias to consult Joyce entries than to the French Wikipedia.

Table 24. Joyce pageviews / Total Wikipedia pageviews: third quartile			
Wikipedia	Joyce pageviews	Total Pageviews (millions)	Joyce Pageviews / Total Pageviews
Farsi	42532	1812.4	0.0000 23
Czech	26281	1124	0.0000 23
English	2478253	107865	0.0000 23
Polish	78003	3599	0.0000 22
German	276346	12777	0.0000 22
Romanian	11563	573	0.0000 20
Hungarian	17212	868	0.0000 20
Portuguese	87964	4648	0.0000 19
Dutch	38045	2247	0.0000 17
French	152025	9537	0.0000 16

In the second quartile (the Wikipedias registering only 25-50% of the highest pageviews of Joyce's entries) are major non-European language editions, from Arabic, Chinese and Japanese to Amharic, Korean, and Turkish, along with smaller European languages like Basque, Icelandic, and Lithuanian. Again, there is a calculable difference between the leading Wikipedias here in terms of viewing Joyce entries – Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic – and the least-viewed Joyce editions, Turkish and Lithuanian, on the order of 25% or so.

Table 25. Joyce pageviews / Total Wikipedia pageviews: second quartile			
Wikipedia	Joyce pageviews	Total Pageviews (millions)	Joyce Pageviews / Total Pageviews
Chinese	81448	6095	0.0000 13
Japanese	187006	14246	0.0000 13
Arabic	33727	2599	0.0000 13
Icelandic	498	42	0.0000 12
Amharic	162	14	0.0000 12
Basque	1325	120	0.0000 11
Korean	12780	1161	0.0000 11
Turkish	8792	919	0.0000 10
Lithuanian	2606	274	0.0000 10

Meanwhile, the least receptive Wikipedias for Joyce's work are portrayed in Table 26. Here are both European language editions – Belarusian, Kazakh, Uzbek – as well as non-European

language editions (Afrikaans, Azerbaijani, Malay, Tagalog, Thai, and Urdu). Yet even here, we can evince noticeable differences. Visits to Joyce entries on the Vietnamese Wikipedia, for example, happen six times as often as the Kazakh Wikipedia.

Wikipedia	Joyce pageviews	Total Pageviews (millions)	Joyce Pageviews / Total Pageviews
Vietnamese	5502	996	0.00006
Afrikaans	388	73	0.00005
Azerbaijani	1136	210	0.00005
Urdu	312	82	0.00004
Uzbek	578	143	0.00004
Tagalog	401	130	0.00003
Belarusian	363	111	0.00003
Thai	2921	848	0.00003
Malay	361	237	0.00002
Kazakh	385	258	0.00001

Now I'll take a look at the 20 Wikipedias where Joyce's work is most viewed, in terms of total pageviews, from Arabic and Chinese to Turkish and Ukrainian (Table 27). Some surprising inclusions and omissions are evident here. The 'standard' English preferential order (by pageviews) - *Ulysses*, 1st, *Finnegans Wake*, 2nd, *Portrait*, 3rd, and *Dubliners*, 4th – is mirrored by only a few Wikipedias, namely the Polish and Portuguese Wikipedias. While *Ulysses* is number one in all these Wikipedias, except for the Ukrainian edition, the popularity of Joyce's others works is much more variable. Whereas *Portrait* and *Dubliners* are third and fourth in the English Wikipedia, In the Chinese, Czech, Farsi, Hungarian, and Italian Wikipedias, *Dubliners* is in second place, not fourth. In the Arabic, Croatian, and Hebrew Wikipedias, *Portrait* is in second place, not third.

Wikipedia edition	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Arabic	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>
Chinese	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Croatian	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	n/a

Czech	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Dutch	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
English	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>
Farsi	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>
Finnish	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
French	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
German	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Hebrew	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>
Hungarian	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Italian	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Japanese	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Polish	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>
Portuguese	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>
Russian	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Spanish	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Swedish	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
Ukrainian	<i>Giacomo Joyce</i>	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Portrait</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>

Generally speaking then, *Ulysses* dominates the scene, with *Finnegans* is 2nd, more often than not. In contrast, *Dubliners* is 3rd in nine Wikipedias, rising occasionally to second, as I've showed, and dropping other times to fourth. And *Portrait* is most often 4th (in eleven Wikipedias), only occasionally third, and rarely second, as is evident. The only other work here in the top four is *Giacomo Joyce*, which is 1st in one Wikipedia (Ukrainian).

Relative popularity of Joyce's works

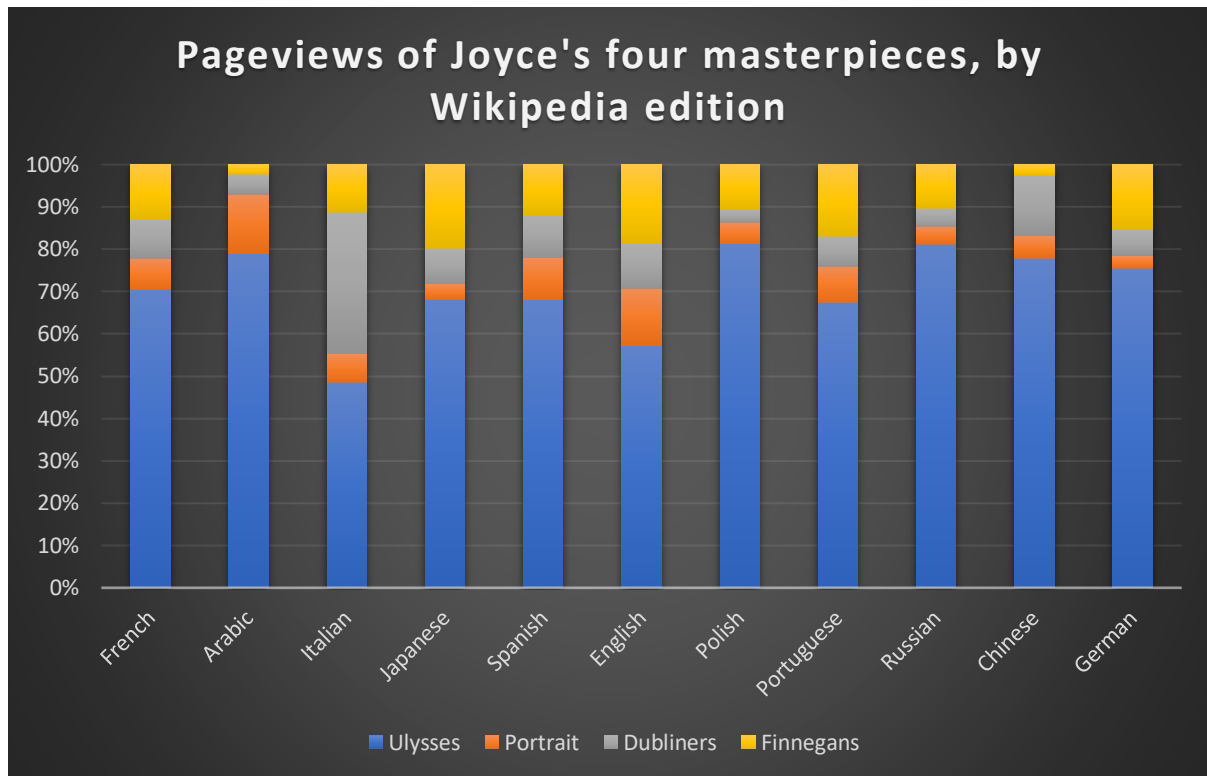
Now I will turn to Joyce's major works – *Ulysses*, *Finnegans Wake*, *Dubliners*, and *Portrait* – to find out which are most popular among Wikipedias, relatively to one another, in terms of total pageviews. It shouldn't come as a surprise that all four are most viewed in the English Wikipedia.

Rank	<i>Ulysses</i>	<i>Finnegans Wake</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>	<i>Portrait</i>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Russian	Russian	Italian	Spanish
3	German	German	Spanish	Italian
4	Spanish	Japanese	Russian	Russian
5	Italian	Spanish	German	French
6	Japanese	Italian	Japanese	German
7	French	French	French	Portuguese
8	Chinese	Portuguese	Chinese	Japanese

9	Polish	Chinese	Portuguese	Arabic
10	Portuguese	Polish	Farsi	Farsi

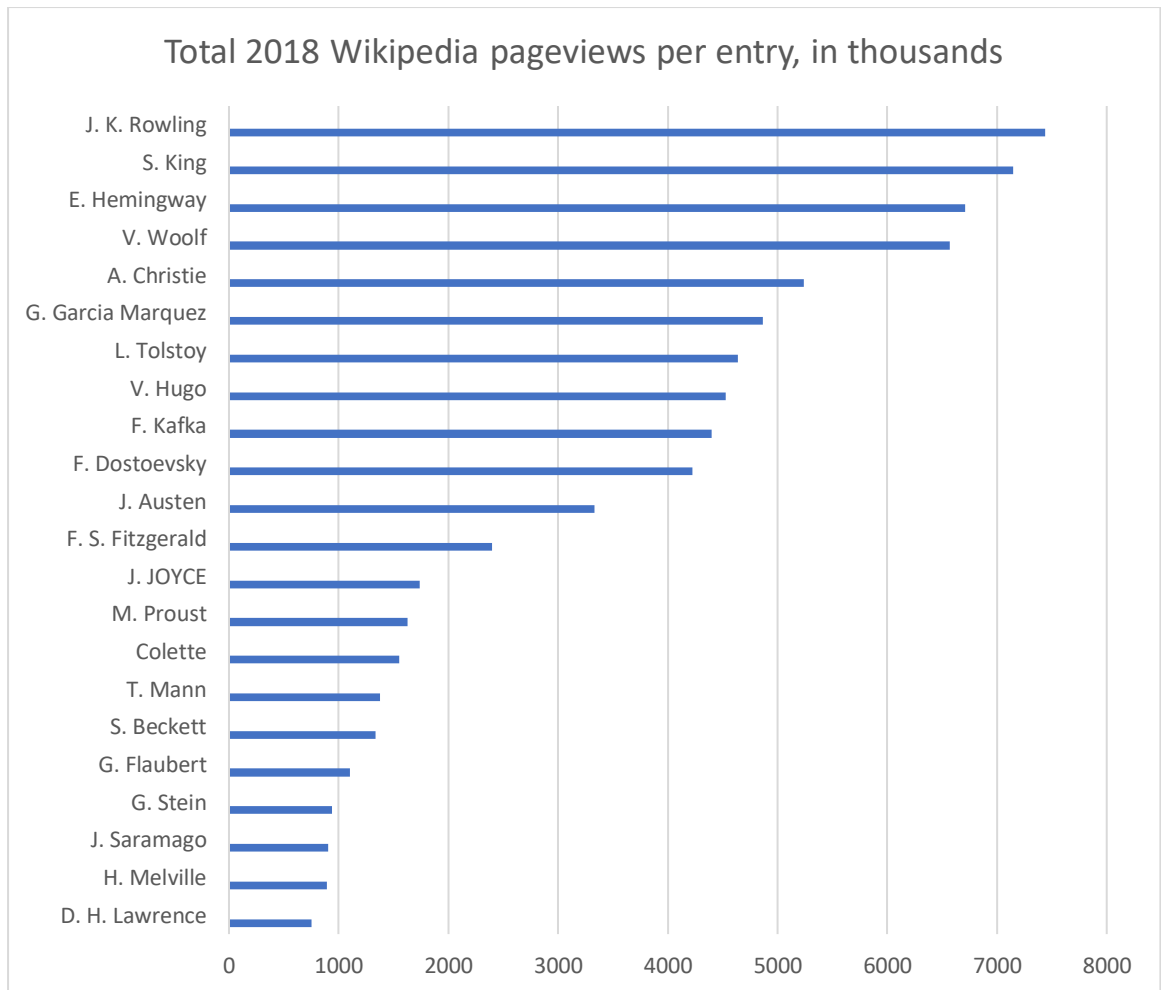
But the chart shows that, excepting English, not one single Wikipedia edition retains the same rank for all four works. The Russian edition, second overall in pageviews in both *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*, drops to fourth in *Dubliners* and *Portrait*. The Italian edition is second in *Dubliners*, third in *Portrait*, fifth in *Ulysses*, and sixth in *Finnegans Wake*. The Spanish edition is second in *Portrait*, third in *Dubliners*, yet fourth in *Ulysses*, and fifth in *Finnegans Wake*. The German edition is third in *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*, but drops to 5th in *Dubliners* and 6th in *Portrait*. The Japanese edition is 4th in *Finnegans Wake*, but sixth in *Ulysses* and *Dubliners* and 8th in the *Portrait*. Likewise, the French edition drops from 5th in *Portrait* to 7th in the other three. And while the Portuguese edition is 7th in *Portrait*, it drops further down in the other three works. Meanwhile some editions drop completely out of the top ten for specific works by Joyce. So, for example, Polish edition is 9th as regards *Ulysses*, drops a notch to 10th in *Finnegans Wake*, but falls off completely for *Dubliners* and *Portrait*. Meanwhile the Chinese edition is all the way up at 8th in *Dubliners* and *Ulysses* but drops to 9th in *Finnegans* and off the chart for *Portrait*. Lastly, the Farsi edition is 10th in *Dubliners* and *Portrait*, but not on the charts for the other two. Arabic is 9th in *Portrait* but not in any of the other top-ten.

With this said, the shift in relative rankings doesn't necessarily mean a specific work is viewed more in one Wikipedia than another work. So, for example, *Ulysses* is viewed six times as much in Arabic as *Portrait*, but there are far more Wikipedias with higher pageviews of *Ulysses* than *Portrait*. So, this means that Arabic is 11th in terms of *Ulysses* pageviews, but 9th in terms of *Portrait* pageviews.

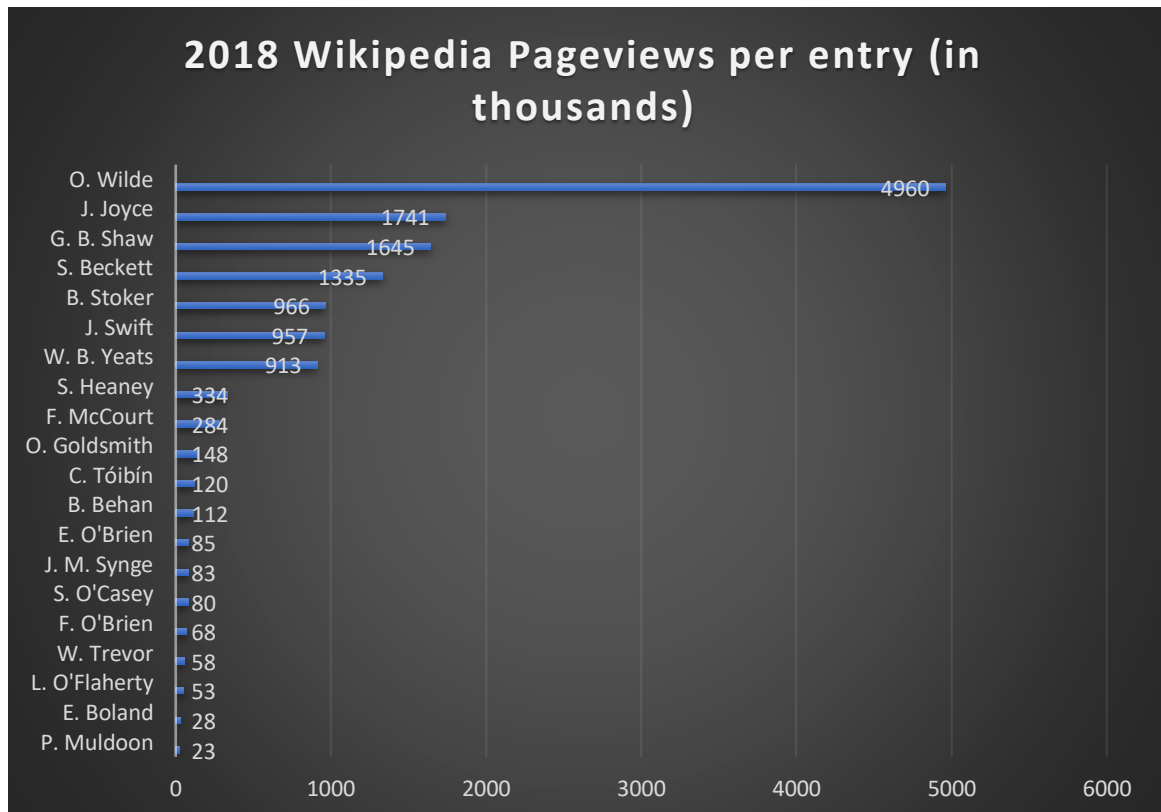


One might ask how Joyce's Wikipedia statistics compare to other famous writers. I'll compare him to three separate groups of authors: Nobel Prize winners; bestselling writers; and well-known Irish writers.

Comparing his total pageviews of his biographical entry to the equivalent entry for winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, his 2018 pageview rank would place him 13th among the 116 Nobel Laureates, behind novelists like Hemingway and Garcia Marquez, but ahead of others like Mann, Grass, Beckett, Pamuk, and Coetzee. If I expand the comparison to famous novelists in general, the data shows that while the biographical entries of Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Woolf, Kafka, Hugo, Austen, and Fitzgerald are viewed more often in Wikipedia, Joyce's entry has more visits than that of other writers like Colette, Gustave Flaubert, D. H. Lawrence, Herman Melville, Marcel Proust, and Gertrude Stein (but fewer than classics like Homer, Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe, Rumi, and Baudelaire). Bestselling popular writers like Stephen King, J. K. Rowling, Agatha Christie, and Roald Dahl easily overtake him, though:



Meanwhile, if I locate Joyce's Wikipedia popularity (in terms of the number of pageviews of his biographical entry) with regard to a broad group of well-known Irish writers, I find that he is second in the group, out-ranked – but by a significant amount - only by Oscar Wilde.



Conclusion

This paper has presented new information regarding the Wikipedia popularity of James Joyce and his works in the 300-some Wikipedias in the world. I have situated Joyce's Wikipedia popularity with regard to Nobel-prize winning authors, best-selling authors, and other Irish writers. I have discovered his most popular Wikipedia entries, in different languages, and also the vast number of Wikipedias where Joyce is effectively absent. The data examined here aims not to be comprehensive but rather to suggest further paths of research for Joyce scholars, as well as those who interested in the worldwide reception of the modernist writer *par excellence*.