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In my talk I present the findings of an empirical study about city wikis in Germany. City wikis are social platforms created by citizens to inform and communicate about local affairs within a certain geographical boundary. They use wiki software and the Internet as a technical platform. The wikis are the result of decentralized collaborative communicative actions of the citizens. City wikis establish and preserve non-spectacular information creating a digital city encyclopedia with points of interest from the citizen's perspective. Gate-keeping or agenda-setting by professional journalists or politicians do not play a role. City wikis are social communication platforms which empower the citizens in their every-day talks in their public sphere. They establish a new possibility to communicate beyond the institutionalized discourses of the government and the political communication mediated by the mass media.

#### References

Introduction to Web 2.0 and e-Participation:

Ovid Pacific Boyd, Peter Mambrey et al.: *Empowerment and e-Participation in Civil Society: Local, National and International Implications - Workshop Proceedings*. In: International reports on Socio-Informatics vol. 5 iss. 1 (2008).

[www.iisi.de/102.0.html](http://www.iisi.de/102.0.html)

