The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences: From Punched Cards to Wiki in 46 Years

Neil J. A. Sloane
AT&T Shannon Labs,
Florham park, NJ, USA

Abstract

I started collecting number sequences in 1964. In 1996 I launched the On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (the OEIS) on the web, with 10000 sequences. By 2008 it had grown to 135000 sequences, and I was processing 200 emails a day - too much for one person to handle. But converting it to a Wiki was very difficult and took two years. Only thanks to the efforts of Russ Cox, who had to rewrite all the OEIS software, and with the help of my colleague David Applegate, the OEIS Wiki finally started working on November 11 2010 (see `http://oeis.org`). In this talk I will report on the problems we ran into, how we solved them, and the present state of the OEIS Wiki.