Wikipedia Campus Training: Introduction to Wikipedia

Did you know?

- Wikipedia is one of the top-five visited web sites!

- Wikipedia has 400 million unique visitors per month, comprising 11.7 billion page request a month, which represents 5% of the world population!

How Does it Work?

Everything on Wikipedia has been written by people like you.

The Collaborative Community

- How do volunteers contribute?
    - Writing articles
    - Editing existing articles
    - Copyediting
    - Formatting & "Wikifying"
    - Adding references
    - Helping new users
    - Creating and adding images
    - Contributing subject matter expertise
    - Mediating disputes
    - Administration

- How will you contribute?
    - Writing articles
    - Editing existing articles
    - Participating on discussion/ talk page

Edit an article!

- Choose any article, and we'll make an edit to it: http://en.wikipedia.org

- Visualization:
  - http://wikistream.inkdroid.org/

What Wikipedia "Is" and "Is Not" (Activity)

- Pull a slip of paper from bag

- Read the noun on the paper and put it under the "Is" or the "Is Not" category

- Explain your rationale for making this decision

- Take 1 minute to complete your selection and explanation

Is! Is Not!

What is Wikipedia?

The basic principles by which Wikipedia operates have been summarized by editors in the form of the "five pillars":

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.

- Wikipedia has a neutral point of view.

- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can edit and distribute.

- Wikipedians should interact in a respectful and civil manner.

- Wikipedia does not have firm rules besides the five general principles presented here.

What Wikipedia 'is not'…

- A paper encyclopedia, a dictionary, a publisher of original thought or an indiscriminate collection of information

- A soapbox, means of promotion, blog, web space provider, social networking, or memorial site

- A repository of links, images, or media files

- A directory, manual, guidebook, textbook, or scientific journal

- A democracy, bureaucracy, battleground, anarchy or your web host

- A crystal ball

Thank you!

Appendix – Facilitator Resources

Supplementary "Is!" Explanation, if Needed for Clarification:

- Collaborative: The term collaborative writing refers to projects where written works are created by multiple people together collaboratively rather than individually. Some projects are overseen by an editor or editorial team, but many grow without any of this top-down oversight.

1. Community: The Wikipedia community has established "a bureaucracy of sorts," including "a clear power structure that gives volunteer administrators the authority to exercise editorial control." Use the word "bureaucracy" carefully, as Wikipedia is not a true bureaucracy.

2. General principles: Wikipedia is based on 5 pillars or "general principles".

- Verifiable: The threshold for inclusion in Wikipedia is verifiability, not truth—whether readers can check that material added to Wikipedia has already been published by a reliable source, not whether editors think it is true. Verifiability is one of Wikipedia's core general principles.

- Multilingual: 260 languages currently exist

- Non-profit: Wikipedia is hosted and funded by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization which also operates Wikipedia-related projects such as Wiktionary and Wikibooks. The Wikimedia chapters, local associations of users and supporters of the Wikimedia projects, also participate in the promotion, the development, and the funding of the project.

- Collective: Wikipedia comes from 'collective intelligence' and is 'collectively' created and maintained by a "collective" of editors.

- Referenced: Wikpedia is currently the largest and most popular general reference work reference on the Internet.

What Wikipedia "Is" and "Is Not" Activity

"Is" Responses

- Encyclopedia

- Balanced

- Neutral Point of View

- Collaborative

- Community-based

- Verifiable

- Led by general principles

- Multilingual

- Web-based

- Non-profit

- Collective

- Referenced

What Wikipedia "Is" and "Is Not" Activity

"Is Not" Responses

- Democracy

- Social Network

- Soapbox

- Image Repository

- Single Point of View

- Indiscriminate collection of information

- Copyright free

- Textbook

- Censored

- Paper Encyclopedia

- Rule-based

- Lyric Database

- Who's Who

- FAQs

- WikiLeaks

What Wikipedia "Is" and "Is Not" Activity (short)

"Is" Responses

- Encyclopedia

- Balanced

- Neutral Point of View

- Community-based

- Verifiable

- Web-based

- Collective

A WIKIMEDIA project

What Wikipedia "Is" and "Is Not" Activity

"Is Not" Responses (short)

- Democracy

- Social Network

- Soapbox

- Indiscriminate collection of information

- Copyright free

- Censored

- Rule-based

- WikiLeaks