

## **Request for Proposals**

**Wikipedia Improvement by Supported Expert Revision (WISER) Project**

**NJIT Workgroup on Information Literacy and Learning (WILL)**

**James M Lipuma, PhD**

**Chair and Lead Judge**

**Submit proposals as Word 2003 documents**

**All proposals must be received by: June 16, 2010**

## **Wikipedia Improvement by Supported Expert Revision (WISER) Project NJIT Workgroup on Information Literacy and Learning (WILL)**

### **Introduction and Background**

Wikipedia.org has become a major source of information and means of finding answers for many people. In addition, it is often used as a way to become familiar with a topic that one may lack knowledge about and find routes to new and more detailed information on the topic as a starting point for research. Unfortunately, articles on Wikipedia do not always present the information in the most effective way and are not always supported with high-quality sources. There are many ways to improve a Wikipedia article depending on the current state of the page that exists when first encountered. Some articles have material that is too general and/or written at too low a level for the article content. Other articles are found to have material that is overly technical and uses jargon in topics that are meant for a more general audience. Beyond this, many pages that are well-written and clearly presented lack reliable quality sources to support what is given so the value of the page is not as high as might otherwise be if these types of sources were given.

The **Wikipedia Improvement by Supported Expert Revision (WISER)** Project was established as a way to have NJIT students learn to identify and edit articles in need of expert review and revision so the content in Wikipedia could be improved and the overall body of work could become more effective and reliable. In particular, the **NJIT Workgroup on Information Literacy and Learning (WILL)** desires to have clear support from high-quality sources added to the content of Wikipedia to demonstrate attainment of Information Literacy at NJIT as well as promote this idea in the overall Wikipedia community. To that end, the WILL developed the project to assess the ability of its students to use expert knowledge and support content with reliable sources that are relevant, current, and of quality.

The request for proposal (RFP) follows with details of what is expected from each proposal in order to be given consent to proceed with the WISER Project. AN outline of required sections and materials is also provided. Please read carefully and provide all of the necessary information and support documents.

### **The Project**

For the WISER project, you are asked to draw on your own expertise and interest to find a page that needs work to improve the level of expert knowledge presented with support. As a student you have a tremendous amount of access to authoritative texts and journals as well as expert knowledge. It is this knowledge base that the WISER project taps to make the improvement. Any topic can be selected as long as you can support the changes and make a clear argument that it makes a supported expert revision to an article on Wikipedia.

Each student is asked to submit a formal proposal document concerning the topic to be used for the WISER project. The form of the proposal is left to the student but certain elements must be included (see below). Each student should seek to present a clear picture of the Wikipedia article as it currently exists along with evidence of the changes that need to be made and the quality support that exists. It is vital that the proposal contain evidence and arguments that

clearly explain how the work to be done will be a supported expert revision and the student has the knowledge and resources to accomplish the project.

### **Checklist of Required Elements**

Each proposal must contain the following elements:

#### **Topic Details**

- Brief topic introduction/summary to discuss what the general subject is regarding
- Assessment of proposed article using the WISER Rubric
- Explanation of need for revisions and support
- Explanation of ability or qualification to add expert knowledge
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#### **Assessment of at least two (2) Quality sources**

For each sources you must:

- Provide complete APA citation.
- Summarize source content briefly
- Explain relevance of source to article revisions (how will it be used to support article)
- Provide an argument for the quality and reliability of the source.

#### **Argument for your ability to make changes**

- Summary of why you should be allowed to proceed
- Clear request to finish the work

### **Outline of proposal**

#### **Topic Details**

Begin the proposal with a brief introduction to the topic of the article being chosen so the reader can understand the basics of the article content. Then, the proposal needs to give some explanation of the current article presented on Wikipedia with a brief explanation of why you have selected it as an article that needs expert revision, what you can add, and why you are qualified to add. This part should include the completed WISER rubric filled out with explanations so that I can see your critique of the article as it currently exists.

#### **Assessment of at least two (2) Quality sources**

After this, the proposal needs to explain how expert revisions will be used to improve the page and why the student will be able to accomplish these revisions. In order to demonstrate that the student can provide expert support for the content in the article or material being added at least **two (2)** sources of good quality that may be used to provide support for the page you selected must be assessed and justified as reliable and of quality. For each source chosen, a complete set of material must be provided as follows.

1. Provide a complete APA citation for each source
2. Briefly summarize the content of the source
3. Explain how the source relates to your topic and how it will be used in the revisions of the article.

4., Explain why each source is reliable and is of quality for the project as identified by the question of quality listed below.

**Authority: Can this source be trusted and why?**

- Who is the author, what are the author's credentials, and can they be verified?
- Did the author include contact information?
- What organization is sponsoring the work or web page and are they reliable?

**Purpose/ Target: Does the purpose and Target affect the quality of the content for you?**

- What is the purpose of the page and/or why did the author create it?
- Who is the target audience?

**Timeliness: Does date of creation affect your view of quality and usefulness of the content?**

- Is there a date given and does this matter?
- Is the content relevant in relation to the topic and general field being discussed?
- Will the content get old or be out of date?

**Support: How do you know that the content given is accurate and reliable?**

- Does the author support the information he/she uses?
- Is the support respectable and is enough provided?

**Objectivity: Does the content to give you a complete, balanced picture of the subject?**

- Is the author being objective or biased?
- Is the tone used by the author appropriate to the subject matter and method of presentation?

**What is your overall assessment of the source's reliability and a**

**Argument for your ability to make changes**

Finally, you need to make a general argument why this project will improve Wikipedia by supported expert revisions. You should end the proposal with a call to action about what you would like Dr. Lipuma to do and why you feel he should agree with what you have put forth in the proposal. Remember, this is a proposal about the topic that explains why you should be allowed to proceed. You are presenting an idea of what will be done and why you are able to do it. It should be brief and end with a request by you for my permission to proceed with the project. It is not expected that you have done the work yet but you need to know about what is needed and what you have as resources to complete the work.

Note, any work you have done previously for this project or for other classes can be used as long as it is your own work, cited correctly, and appropriate for the topic.