

What is Wikipedia?

The Five Pillars and what they mean



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

What is and isn't Wikipedia?

When you think Wikipedia ,what do you think?

What do you know Wikipedia is not?

What Wikipedia clearly is not

- Paper or traditional Encyclopedia
- Dictionary
- Original Publication site
- Place for advertising or networking
- An indiscriminate collection of information

Wikipedia's Five Pillars

Wikipedia:

WP:5P

- **Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.**
- **Wikipedia has a neutral point of view.**

NPOV and Verifiability

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaoNmvgqsd8>

Verifiability

WP:V

“The threshold for inclusion in Wikipedia is **verifiability, not truth**—whether readers can check that material in Wikipedia has already been published by a reliable source, not whether editors think it is true.”

- No original research
- Inline citations

Wikipedia's Five Pillars

Wikipedia:

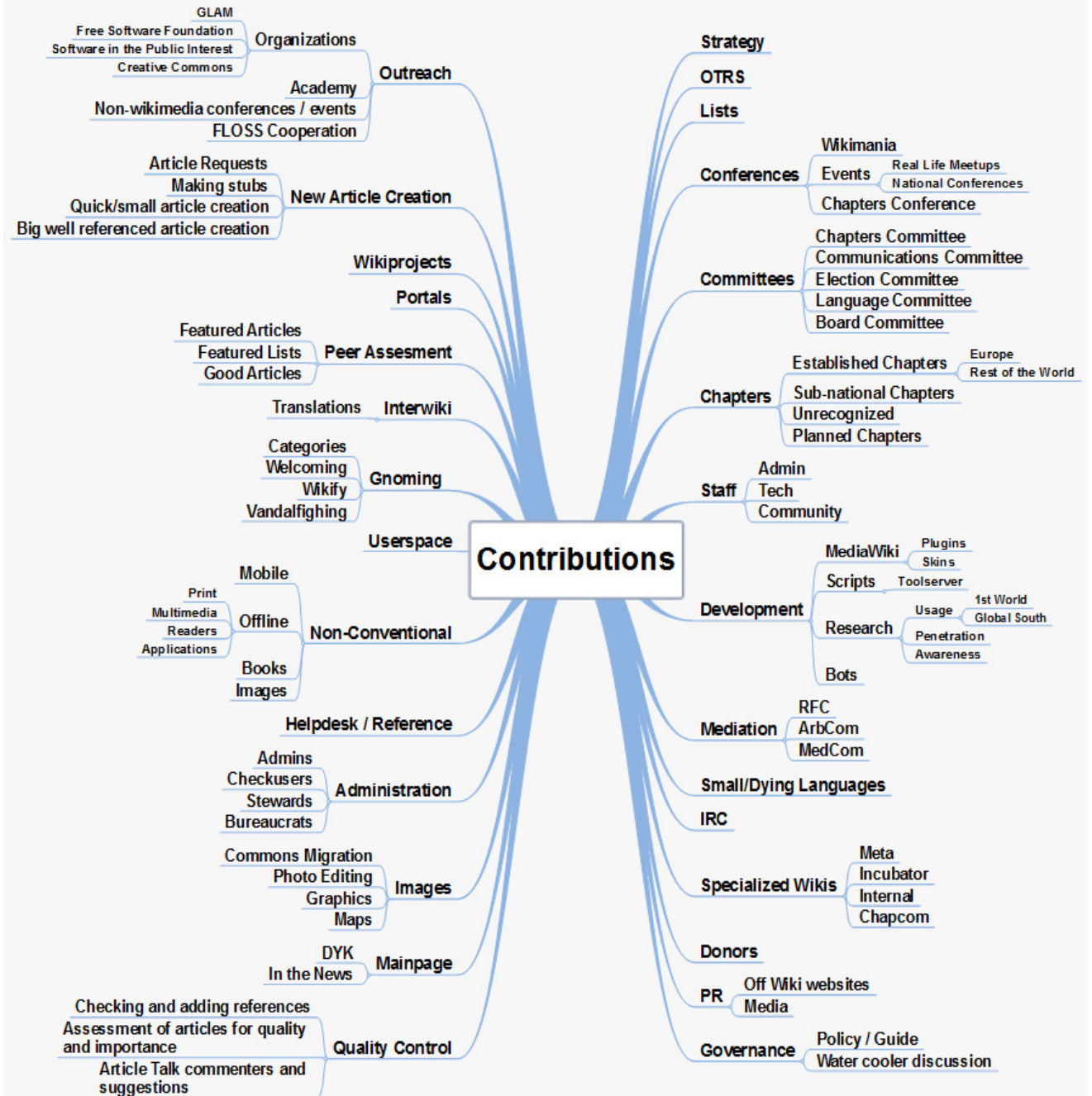
WP:5P

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.
- Wikipedia has a neutral point of view.
- **Wikipedia is free content.**
- **Wikipedians should interact in a respectful and civil manner.**

Wikipedia as a Community

- Content?
 - Over 260 languages, the largest being English, German and French
 - Over 16.9 million articles, nearly 3.5 million articles in English
 - On the Wikimedia Commons, over 7.5 million media files, mostly images
- How many contributors?
 - ~158,000 contributed last month on the English Wikipedia
 - ~40,000 very active contributors (5 edits or more per month) on the English Wikipedia, 100,000 in all languages

Wikipedia Community Roles



Wikipedia's Five Pillars

Wikipedia:

WP:5P

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.
- Wikipedia has a neutral point of view.
- Wikipedia is free content.
- Wikipedians should interact in a respectful and civil manner.
- **Wikipedia does not have firm rules other than these five general principles.**

GLAM-Wiki activities

Public face of knowledge?

- Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason

“If Wikipedia is becoming the family encyclopedia for the twenty-first century, historians probably have a professional obligation to make it as good as possible. And if every member of the Organization of American Historians devoted just one day to improving the entries in her or his areas of expertise, it would not only significantly raise the quality of Wikipedia, it would also enhance popular historical literacy.”

GLAM-Wiki

- Donations of content
 - German Federal Archive
 - Troppenheim Museum
- Support in developing content
 - British Museum Collaboration
 - Indianapolis Children's Museum
 - Château Versailles
- GLAM Wiki 2010
 - November – UK
 - December – France

WP:GLAM



The Great Court at the British Museum

GLAM  WIKI 2010

BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON
101 Rue de l'Université, PARIS



26/27 NOVEMBER
3/4 DECEMBER

Why GLAM partners like Wikipedia

- Exposure of rare corners of GLAM websites
- Public knowledge exchange
- Media exposure and demand
- Libraries increasingly see it as a media literacy opportunity
 - Wikimedia New York Workshops
- Research tool and depository

Teaching with Wikipedia



Why teaching with Wikipedia?

- Students use it anyway
 - Over 1/2 use it Always or Frequently in research
- Continuity and visibility of assignment work
 - 5th most visited website in the world
- Communication of complex topics to public audience
- Students get to understand the construction of knowledge
- New media and collaboration skills
- Classes fill in gaps where volunteer interest is sometimes lacking

User:Awadewit/TeachingEssay

Indiana University

- Instructor for introductory writing and literature courses. Goals of course:
 - Thesis-driven essays
 - Basic writing skills
 - Basic research skills
- Three types of assignments:
 - Copy Editing
 - Source Analysis
 - Encyclopedia Comparisons



Indiana University Outcomes

- Students get to practice their basic skills in public situations dealing with a familiar
- Memorable experience which the students related to other experiences in class



University of Michigan

- Started in Fall 2008
- Edited 40 pages with over 100 students
- Type of class:
 - Graduate level chemistry lecture courses
 - Approx 25-30 students
 - Groups of 3 students
 - Replaced traditional review article
- 14 week project

Public Policy Initiative

WP:USPP

- Over 30 Classes at Major and Minor Universities in the United States
 - Wikipedia article writing assignments
 - Public Policy courses
- Campus Ambassador Program
- Online Ambassador Program
- Support materials



Contact information

Alex Stinson

User:Sadads

stinsoad@dukes.jmu.edu