

# Letter from Jimmy Wales



Dear [RECIPIENT],

Two weeks ago, I hosted the first Wikipedia Academies in South Africa, to support the growth of Wikipedia encyclopedias in languages like Sesotho, Zulu, and Swati. I worked closely there with Ndesanjo Macha, who's considered the father of the Swahili Wikipedia. He explained how Wikipedia is not just a reference work; it gives people a voice, a way to record their histories and their knowledge. Ndesanjo, who helped the Swahili Wikipedia become one of the fastest-growing African language Wikipedias, symbolizes what we're all about: participatory education that is accessible to all.

I started Wikipedia back in 2001, and in 2003 I established the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit entity supporting it and other free educational projects. The Foundation hosts the servers, pays the bandwidth bill, and employs a dozen people to keep things running. It's amazing we can do so much with such a tiny staff. But it also proves our founding premise. That if you provide people with a way to help each other, they will - and they will do it powerfully and well. The heart and soul of the Wikipedia projects are our volunteers: tens of thousands of people writing articles, uploading rich media, developing the MediaWiki software, and helping out in countless other ways.

Today, Wikipedia is one of the ten largest websites in the world and the most comprehensive encyclopedia in history, with more than 7 million articles in more than 250 languages. In the United States, it's used by more than a third of online adults. In line with our belief that there is a right to free education, we give away everything we do: the content of Wikipedia can be freely used by anyone, for any purpose. This is what enables people in developing countries to set up workstations and laptops to access static versions of Wikipedia, or to publish selections from it as books and pamphlets. We have no advertising: we rely primarily on thousands of small donations from the general public, averaging at \$30, to sustain our operations.

But there is much more we want to do, beyond just running a website.

Our vision is a world in which every human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

- We want to partner with institutions and companies world-wide to bring free knowledge to every corner of the globe, with or without Internet access.
- We want to develop ways for people without connectivity to contribute to the projects as well - not just to read them.
- And our vision goes beyond Wikipedia. The Wikibooks projects bring together authors from around the planet to create high quality textbooks on subjects like physics, chemistry, and biology. And on Wikiversity, we are developing interactive eLearning materials that people can use to test their knowledge. Wiktionary is a dictionary in all languages.

To achieve free education on a global scale, we need the help of people like you. I have attached a kit that provides a general overview of our projects and our mission.

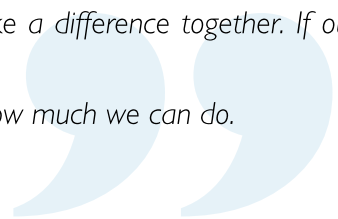
I would like to enter a personal dialogue with you and discuss how we can make a difference together. If our mission appeals to you, please contact me at: [jimmy@wikimedia.org](mailto:jimmy@wikimedia.org)

Wikipedia has already changed the world. With your support, there is no telling how much we can do.

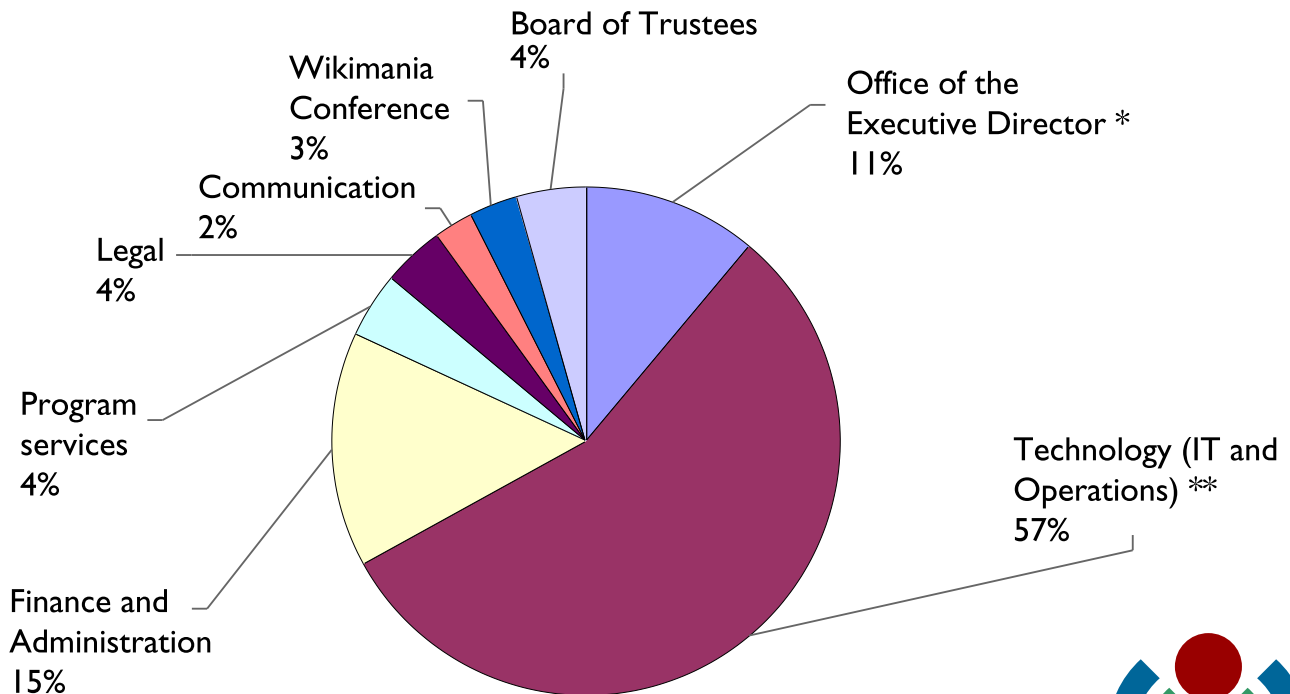
Sincerely,

Jimmy Wales

Founder: Wikipedia, The Wikimedia Foundation



# Planned Spending Distribution



\* Includes Executive Director, Assistant, One-time Office Relocation Expenses, and Consulting Fees

\*\* Includes Bandwidth, Hardware, Salaries



| Area of Spending                 | \$'000's       | Percentage  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Technology                       | 2,57           | 57%         |
| Finance and Administration       | 699            | 15%         |
| Office of the Executive Director | 509            | 11%         |
| Program Services                 | 185            | 4%          |
| Legal                            | 182            | 4%          |
| Board of Trustees                | 201            | 4%          |
| Wikimania Conference             | 150            | 3%          |
| Communications                   | 113            | 2%          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                    | <b>\$4,611</b> | <b>100%</b> |



Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.



## The Foundation

The Wikimedia Foundation is dedicated to empowering world citizens to share in the sum of all human knowledge. We believe that everyone in the world should have access to education, regardless of race, nationality, gender, age, or economical background. We also believe that everyone has some knowledge to contribute, no matter how small or big that contribution may be.

As a result, the Wikimedia Foundation creates educational online projects, such as Wikipedia, which are designed to encourage the growth and development of free, multilingual content. Combined, our projects have become a type of “virtual library” that spans all languages and continents, attracts millions of volunteers, and collects information from all corners of the world. We believe that by providing these free tools, world citizens are empowered to freely participate in the exchange of knowledge.

Thanks to our success in recent years, the Foundation has begun focusing more attention on programs that empower underrepresented communities with little or no access to educational resources. The outcome so far has been phenomenal, with numerous outside organizations bringing Wikipedia and our other educational tools to remote areas of the world.

However, we need your help to do more! The Wikimedia Foundation relies entirely on donations, and with your support we can continue cultivating the exchange of knowledge worldwide and bring knowledge tools to those world citizens that need them the most.

***“Wikimedia Foundation’s biggest accomplishment is empowering world citizens with the ability to share in the sum of all human knowledge, while at the same time ensuring that diverse voices are represented equally. This is because millions of world citizens are provided with tools to effectively share, collect and record diverse streams of information.”***

Florence Devouard, Wikimedia Foundation Chair



# Did you know?

## Quick facts

- The Wikimedia Foundation's projects, including Wikipedia, are created entirely by volunteers – there are no paid editors.
- Wikipedia is the world's fastest growing, most current, and largest encyclopedia. Currently it exists in 250 language versions, and according to Alexa, it is one of the world's top 10 websites.
- Wikipedia's freely licensed content has been used in numerous educational programs in developing countries, including One Lap Top per Child and Unesco SOS Children Village.
- Wikipedia's smaller language versions have become intrinsic tools for smaller languages, such as Gallego and Esperanto, where they serve as the largest reference source in that language. Additionally, Wikipedia encourages the practical use of these languages.
- Wikisource, a repository of primary and secondary source texts, is completing translations never before seen, including the translation of letters by Michelangelo and Galileo.
- The Wikimedia Foundation has chapters worldwide, including France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, and Taiwan.
- MediaWiki, a free software wiki package originally written for Wikipedia and developed entirely by a dedicated core of techie volunteers, has been deployed as a collaborative knowledge management tool by international organizations and universities.



[[wiki]]

## Wiki Technology

The key to our projects is the wiki technology, which allows users to make edits to a website using a web browser. Using this technology, individuals have the ability to instantaneously share knowledge, create learning materials, and/or contribute creative works – all which are licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License (GFDL). Essentially, this means that individuals can copy, distribute and modify each other's work, as long as the content remains freely licensed.

# Our projects

## Our projects

All of our educational projects are created entirely by volunteers, and can be freely downloaded by anyone in the world. The projects facilitate the exchange of knowledge, while at the same time provide world citizens with free educational resources.



### Wikipedia

Started in January 2001, Wikipedia is the world's fastest growing, most current, and largest encyclopedia. Currently, there are 6 million articles in over 250 language versions. The site receives 7 billion page views monthly.



### Wikisource

Wikisource is a repository of free primary and secondary source texts. Started in November 2003, the project currently offers over 20,000 texts in several language versions. Items range from manuscripts written by Michelangelo to Britannica encyclopedias from 1911.



### Wikimedia Commons

Wikimedia Commons is a media repository for freely licensed photographs, animations, music, spoken text, video clips, and other types of useful media resources. Launched on September 7, 2004, Wikimedia Commons currently has almost 2 million files and 55,835 collections.



### Wikinews

Wikinews is collaboratively written news site. Currently, the project has 22 language versions.



### Wikiversity

Wikiversity is a repository of free learning materials and activities. Started in 2005, the project has two primary goals: to create and host free content, multimedia learning materials, resources and curricula for all age groups in all languages; and to develop collaborative learning projects and communities around these materials.



### Wikispecies

Wikispecies is a free directory of species, currently available in 131 different languages. The directory covers animalia, plantae, fungi, bacteria, protista, and all other forms.



### Wikibooks

Wikibooks is a collection of educational, non-fiction books, which range from Organic Chemistry textbooks to Art History study guides. Currently, the project has 24,186 modules in diverse languages.



### Wikiquote

Wikiquote is an online compendium of quotations from notable people and creative works. Currently, it is available in 87 language versions.



### Wiktionary

Wiktionary is a free, multilingual dictionary and thesaurus, and the lexicon companion to Wikipedia. The project provides definitions, etymologies, pronunciations, sample quotations, synonyms, and translations. Currently, there are 340,245 entries in 389 languages.