



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.

Letter from Florence Devouard

A humble grassroots effort that began just six years ago, Wikipedia has grown into an unparalleled global resource that is changing the way we share knowledge. The site draws visit from millions of people worldwide and is currently available in 250 languages.

Like most of the projects managed by the Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit behind the educational website, Wikipedia empowers 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. Needless to say, we are all quite proud of the positive influence Wikipedia and our other projects have had in the global community.



The global impact of Wikipedia, however, has opened the door to a growing set of responsibilities and challenges for the Wikimedia Foundation. In lieu of our international success, the Foundation has begun focusing its energy on those parts of the world that need our help the most - underrepresented communities with limited access to educational resources. Considering that nearly two billion children in the developing world receive little to no education, we consider this very important work.

So far, given our limited resources, the Wikimedia Foundation has made great progress in this area. Through diverse partnerships, we have been able to bring Wikipedia to remote corners of the world, and instigate the creation of Wikipedias in languages like Yoruba and Swahili. Most importantly, however, this past year has been intrinsic in planting the seeds for future educational endeavors.

Despite all these accomplishments, we need to do more!

The Wikimedia Foundation needs your support to continue facilitating the exchange of knowledge worldwide.

In the coming weeks, we will be conducting our annual fundraiser. We hope that you can express your support through a donation - no matter how big or small it may be - and thus empower us to fulfill our mission of providing every single world citizen with free access to the sum of all human knowledge.

Sincerely,

Florence Devouard

Chair, Wikimedia Foundation

