

The Wikibooks Paradigm for Collaborative Content Creation

Overview

- History And Background
- Wikibooks
 - Who We Are
 - Challenges
 - Solutions And Methods
 - Site Policies
 - Roadmap
- Conclusion
- Questions and Comments

History And Background

History

- Nupedia Created in March 2000
- Wikipedia Created in January 2001
- Wikimedia Foundation
 - Founded by Jimmy Wales
 - June 2003
- Wikibooks
 - Founded July 2003

Wikimedia Foundation

Projects:

- Wikipedia
- Wikibooks
- Wiktionary
- Wikiversity
- Wikinews
- Wikimedia Commons
- Wikisource
- Wikiquote



MediaWiki Wiki Engine

- Open Source
- Written in PHP
- Under Constant Development
- Primarily Focused on Wikipedia

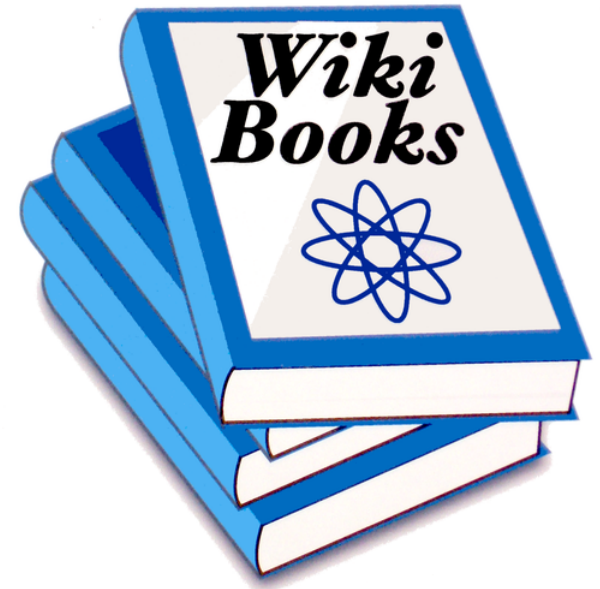


Wikibooks

How To Write And Organize Thousands of Free
Textbooks and Manuals

Who We Are

- Volunteer-Driven Development
 - Volunteers From Around The World
 - Anonymous
- Self-Organizing
 - No Leadership Structure



Think free. Learn free.

What Is A “Textbook”?

- Textbooks Must Have:
 - Organizational Structure
 - Scope Of Material
 - Target Audience
 - Central Narrative
 - Continuous Style And Formatting

What Is A “Textbook”?

- Textbooks Are:
 - Non-Fiction
 - Instructional, Educational
- “Textbooks” Can Be:
 - Traditional Course-Related Texts
 - Annotated Texts
 - Instructional Guides and Manuals
- <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/WB:WIW>

Challenges

- How To Make Books Collaborative?
- How Do We Acclimatize New Users?
- How To Improve Our Books?
- Can We Keep Order Without Procedural Complexity?
- How To Communicate And Coordinate?
- How Do We Resolve Disputes?
- Can We “Sell” Our Books To Readers?

How To Make Books Collaborative?

- High Author Turn-Around
 - Authors Don't Finish What They Start
 - Don't Always Communicate Their Vision
 - Hard To Start In The Middle

How To Make Books Collaborative?

- Orphans
 - Books Without Authors
 - Authors Want “My Own” Book
 - Orphaned Books May Never Be Adopted
- Forks
 - Different Opinions Lead To Different Books
 - “1 Author Per Book” Mentality

Introduction to Crochet

From Wikibooks, the open-content textbooks collection

Congratulations on starting a new book!



You have created the new book *Introduction to Crochet*. Please properly categorize your book using `{{Subject}}`. Read [The Wikibooks Writer](#) for more information about starting books. Ask questions in the [Reading Room](#).

Keep this template for at least 1 week to advertise your book. Do not remove this template until your book is properly categorized. If this is not a new book, but is not properly categorized, use `{{Cleanup-link}}` instead.

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Wikipedia has related information at [Crochet](#).



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:

[Crochet](#)

Trumpet

From Wikibooks, the open-content textbooks collection



Congratulations on starting a new book!

You have created the new book *Trumpet*. Please properly categorize your book using `{{Subject}}`. Read [The Wikibooks Writer](#) for more information about starting books. Ask questions in the [Reading Room](#).

Keep this template for at least 1 week to advertise your book. Do not remove this template until your book is properly categorized. If this is not a new book, but is not properly categorized, use `{{Cleanup-link}}` instead.

Welcome to a new Wikibook on the Trumpet. Like the book on the [Horn](#), "The purpose for which the book is being written is to educate the reader on what the horn is, how to make music through it, and to provide musical literature for it."

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [General Information](#)
3. [Playing Technique](#)
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How To Make Books Collaborative?

- High Author Turn-Around
 - Encourage Authors To Make Explicit Plans
 - Write “Manuals of Style” and Roadmaps
- Orphans
 - Evaluate Book Potential To Be Adopted
 - Encourage New Authors To Adopt And Edit
- Forks
 - Force Mergers Between Similar Books
 - Force Authors To Compromise

Acclimatize New Users

- Hundreds Of New User Accounts Every Day
 - Most Never Edit
 - Many Never Return
- Starting Books Is Hard
 - New Authors Make Many Common Mistakes
 - Can Be Difficult To Correct
 - Can Become Frustrated And Leave

Acclimatize New Users

- Lack Of Documentation
- Help Pages:
 - Faster
 - Easier To Write
- Help Books:
 - More Comprehensive
 - Set Good Example
 - Better Organized

Acclimatize New Users

- Welcome New Users Warmly
 - Be Friendly In Answering Questions
 - Provide “Getting Started” Tutorials
 - Write FAQs
 - Provide Help Readily
- Starting From Scratch Is Hard!
 - Requires Planning and Outlining
 - Many Decisions To Make

Getting started with Wikibooks

- Wikibooks is a collection of open-source textbooks. Find out [what this means](#).
- To sign your name (on talk pages), use four tildes, like this: ~~~~~
- For help in using the wiki, see [Using Wikibooks](#).
- For information about the community here, see [Wikibooks Community](#).
- Explore, [be bold](#), and have fun!

Hello, and **welcome** to [Wikibooks](#)!

Here are some tips to help you get started:

- To learn the wiki-markup-language syntax, see [Help:Editing](#).
- You should sign your name on Talk and vote pages using four tildes, like this: ~~~~ (there is a box at the top of the edit window that will insert this, too; it looks like a signature).
- Remember to conduct any editing experiments in the [sandbox](#).
- You can tell the community something about yourself in your userpage.
 - You can get to this page by clicking the tab at the top of the page labeled with your registered username.
- If you are a **Wikipedian**, see [Wikibooks:Wikibooks for Wikipedians](#) for a primer on how things work here (it's a little different).
 - If you want to base your work here on materials from Wikipedia, please use [WB:RFI](#) to bring the material over in compliance with the GFDL.
- If you're an **instructor** and plan on using Wikibooks for a class project, see [Wikibooks:Guidelines for class projects](#)
- Please say hello at the [Staff Lounge](#) with any questions or ideas.
- Eventually, you might want to read the [Manual of Style](#) and [Policies and Guidelines](#).
 - Please take a look at [Wikibooks:Naming policy](#) before starting a new book.
- Remember to maintain a [Neutral point of view](#).
- Explore, [be bold in editing pages](#), and have fun!

You will find more resources in [Community Portal](#). If you want to ask a question, visit the [Study help desk](#), the [Staff lounge](#), [IRC channel](#) or ask me personally on my talk page. For site news, see the [Bulletin board](#). It might be a good idea to add this page to your "watchlist" so that you can see when any new information is posted there. You can do that by clicking the tab labeled "watch" at the top of the page.

Good luck!

Improve The Books

- Books Rely On “Primary Authors”
 - Write Content
 - Oversee Book
 - When The Author Leaves, Book Is Abandoned
- Authors Can Be Scarce
 - “One Author Per Book”
 - Many Editors

Improve The Books

- Books Have Unique Style
 - Style Is Often Implicit
 - Newcomers Don't Know All Style Guidelines
- Examples:
 - Language (British/American English)
 - Formatting
 - Vocabulary

Improve The Books

- Primary Authors
 - Write Notes, Outlines, Long-Term Plans
 - Encourage All Authors To Advertise
- Books Have Unique Style
 - Encourage Authors To Write Style Guidelines
 - New Authors Should Follow Existing Style
 - If None Exist, Empowered To Write Their Own

Instruction Creep

- Volunteers Do What They Want
 - Follow Rules That Are Written
 - Won't Read Too Many!
- Official Site Policies
 - Can Help To Regulate
 - Risk Scripting Behavior
 - Drive Away Volunteers

Instruction Creep

- Volunteers Do What They Want
 - Succinct Overviews Always Best
 - Lead By Example
- Official Site Policies
 - Keep Short And Simple
 - Nothing That “Must” Be Done
 - Few Things That “Must Not” Be Done
 - <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/WB:PAG>

Lead By Example

- Show Authors How It's Done
 - Advertise Good Books
 - Help Documentation In “Good Book” Format
 - Sometimes, People Learn The Hard Way
- The Golden Rule
 - Helpfulness Propagates
 - Recognize And Reinforce Good Actions

Communication And Coordination

- Volunteers Come When They Want
 - Different Time-Zones
 - Active At Different Times
 - Direct Communication Is Hard
- Disputes And Conflicts
 - Avoiding Disputes Takes Time
 - Can't Wait For Permission Or Agreement

Communication And Coordination

Communication Channels

- Mailing Lists
- IRC Chatrooms
- Message Boards
- Discussion Pages On The Wiki

[project page](#)[discussion](#)[edit this page](#)[history](#)

Wikibooks: Reading room

From Wikibooks, the open-content textbooks collection

Communication And Coordination

- Two Step Decision-Making Process
- Be Bold
 - All Volunteers Are Empowered
 - Make Changes To Improve The Project
- Resolve Disputes
 - Assume Good Faith!
 - Compromise And Reach Consensus

Dispute Resolution

- Consensus-Based Decision Making
 - Discuss
 - Compromise
 - Agree
 - Get Community Feedback
- Not A Democracy!
 - Never “Vote”
 - Majority Does Not Always Win
 - Can Be Difficult To Understand

Getting Books To Readers

- Is Anybody Reading Our Work?
- Are Our Books...
 - ...High-Quality?
 - ...Reliable?
 - ...Accurate?
 - ...Readable?
- These Questions Are Unanswered

Site Policies

- Minimal Rules And Regulations
- New Policies Follow Current Best Practices
 - Emphasize Good Aspects
 - Community Tends Towards Equilibrium

Roadmap

- How Do We Move Forward?
- Focus On Key Issues:
 - Quality
 - Reliability
 - Ease Of Use
 - Ideology

Roadmap: Quality

- Organize Editors
 - Collaboration Drives
- Core Subjects
 - Identify Core Subjects
 - Enhance Most Common Books

Roadmap: Reliability

- Can Wikis Be Reliable?
 - “Locking” Prevents Improvement
 - “Forking” Divides Effort
- Stable Versions
 - Requirement For Classrooms

Roadmap: Reliability

- Stable Versions
 - Create PDFs
 - “Click To Print”
- Veropedia
 - Proofread Good Articles
 - Stable And Reliable
- Verobooks?

Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Interface For Writers, Not Readers
 - “Edit” links
 - Maintenance Pages
 - Log Pages
- Documentation
 - Incomplete
 - Outdated
- Organization
 - Work In Progress!

Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Help Users Get Started
 - Create Templates
 - Create Automation Tools
 - Ask Developers For “Book-Specific Extensions”

Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Create Separate Interface For Readers
- Documentation
 - “Write new stuff, fix old stuff”
 - Get Feedback From New Users

Roadmap: Ideology

- People Have Different Ideals:
 - Free Knowledge
 - Free Education
 - Interactive Education
 - Novelty
- Balance Ideology And Practicality

Roadmap: Ideology

- Book Donations
 - High-Profile Donations
 - UNDP-APDIP
 - Worldbank
- Partnerships
 - Like-Minded Organizations
 - Textbook-Related Organizations
 - Educational Organizations

Conclusion

Thank You

Questions or Comments?