How can experts share their knowledge on Wikipedia more easily?

Using open license text to collaborate, a case study from UNESCO

About UNESCO

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture. UNESCO’s Programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNESCO collaborates with experts from around the world to produce substantial research on topics relating to education, sciences, culture and communications and information. Since 2013, UNESCO has created over 1500 publications under the CC BY-SA license, meaning its content can be transcribed and re-used.

Project outcomes

We have created a process to add open license text from any source to English, French and Spanish Wikipedia and to easily measure the results. This provides an additional partnership model for chapters, user groups and individuals to work with external organisations.

In 2017 - 2018, we have created 160 Wikipedia articles and improved 102 articles using text from UNESCO, which receive 4.5 million page views per month. Some publications have text suitable for many articles, for instance, the publication Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good? was used to improve 17 articles.

The UNESCO series General History of Africa has just been made available under CC BY-SA. It was written by 230 historians from Africa and other parts of the world, it is over 7200 pages long and available in 11 languages.

Using open license text from UNESCO to enrich Wikipedia

*Instructions at Wikipedia:Adding open license text to Wikipedia

Step 1: Select the text from a UNESCO publication
Step 2: Follow the instructions*
Step 3: Add the text to Wikipedia
Step 4: Attribute the text including a link to the publication

Work with us

To sustain this project and expand it into other languages, UNESCO and Wikimedia need experienced Wikimedia contributors passionate about knowledge sharing and motivated to create and expand Wikipedia articles and translate the instructions into additional languages.

Find out more by talking with us and coming to our presentation.

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Presentation: Saturday, 11:00 - 11:30, Room Hong Kong