

# Reviving the Wikipedia In Your Language

*Also applies to Wiktionary, Wikisource, Wikibooks, or any other wiki project*

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# This one weird trick

There is a secret trick to reviving the Wikipedia in your language. It was handed to us through generations, and only the selected few discovered it. Prepare to be one of them.



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# Write articles

Really, is that the whole trick?



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# Step back

Lots of wikis were created in mid-2000s, maybe too many.

Some flourished.

Others are barely active.



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# Examples

This is especially relevant for languages of countries with a different official language:

English: Nigeria, Zambia, South Africa

French: Congo (both of them), Mali, Niger

Portuguese: Mozambique, Angola

... but also Indonesian, Russian, Chinese, and some others



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# The cycle

Content → Readers → Editors → Content → Readers → Editors → etc.



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# The cycle

Content → Readers → **YOU** → Content → Readers → Editors → etc.



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# Try to train

Try carefully editing a Wikipedia in another language you know and learn how it works.

Apply your experience from another language to your language, **but don't be too strict**. Smaller communities should have less strict rules most of the time.



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# So, write articles

But which articles? And who will actually write them, me? And who will read them?



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# Choosing articles

Anything goes! Whatever works for you. However, if you are *asking* for advice...



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# Strategy 1: Yourself

Things that you know well and that you love may be the easiest thing to write about.

Things that you don't know and want to learn about can also be a good idea.



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# Strategy 2: Your friends

Talk to your friends and try to write with them: What do they like? Help them write about things they want to write about.

Tell them: “What you write about this thing is what people who speak our language will read!”



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# Strategy 2: Your country

Try to understand what articles are in demand in your country and aren't yet written in your language.

Maybe someday there will be a convenient dashboard. (See <https://phabricator.wikimedia.org/T207171>.)

Till then, you can ask for analytics.

You can also check Google Trends.



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# Example: Mali

[Mali](#) · [Eco \(monnaie\)](#) · [Bamako](#) · [WhatsApp](#) · [Équipe du Mali de football](#) · [Coupe d'Afrique des nations de football](#) · [Coupe d'Afrique des nations de football 2019](#) · [Lionel Messi](#) · [Collectivité territoriale au Mali](#) · [Géographie du Mali](#) · [Économie du Mali](#) · [Cristiano Ronaldo](#) · [Éducation au Mali](#) · [Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta](#) · [Pour l'Afrique et pour toi, Mali](#)

Only three articles out of top 15 are available in Bambara :(



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# Sports and pop culture?

Why yes?

1. It gives the language visibility.
2. It attracts readers, and some reader will become editors.

Why not?

It doesn't interest you?.. No problem! You can write what you want.



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# Strategy 3: Your schools

Look at the what do children learn in the schools in your country: Literature, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, etc.

Ask yourself: If children need homework help, will they find it on Wikipedia in your language?

**Especially children who don't know English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese well (see above).**



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# Tell your community

Make a wiki page with a list of articles that should be written, as red links.

Organize them by topics, so that interested people will find what to write about areas of knowledge that they love.

That's how all the big Wikipedias began: English, German, French, Russian, Hebrew, etc.!



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# Publish the list widely

Share the list of missing articles on social networks: Twitter, Facebook, your blog, etc.

Post a link to the list to other users' talk pages. (Don't spam too much.)

Speak about this to your friends!



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# Strategy 4: Translate

Content Translation has a “suggestions” tab. It is surprisingly good at suggesting articles that:

1. Are in demand, because they have many readers
2. May interest you, because you edited articles about similar topics



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# Strategy 5: the 1000

[https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_articles\\_every\\_Wikipedia\\_should\\_have](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List_of_articles_every_Wikipedia_should_have)

This list is useful, and you can choose articles from it, but **you really don't have to**.



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# Other than writing articles?

There are *also* a bunch of other things to improve, other than other writing articles.



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# Fun geeky stuff!

All kinds of “cleanup”: templates, links, images, structured data, categories, spelling, etc.

Let's see some examples...



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# Interlanguage links

**Special:WithoutInterwiki**

Add interlanguage links to pages that are not linked to other languages.

Interlanguage links are added using Wikidata.



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# Internal links

**Special:DeadendPages**

Add internal links to other articles.

Note: Pages without internal links are not counted in the pages count!



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# Categories

**Special:UncategorizedPages**

Ideally, all pages should be in a category.



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# Templates

You may import common templates from a big language: English, French, Russian, etc.

A bit difficult, but very useful for translation.

(*Ceterum censeo* templates must be global.)



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# Images

Add images to existing pages.

Copy them from Wikipedia in other languages.

Or take a picture and upload it.



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# Fix spelling mistakes

There are probably less than 10,000 articles in your language. It will be surprisingly easy and quick to go over all of them and make the spelling correct and consistent. So much fun for language geeks!

(But don't overdo it, and make up too many unnecessary strict rules... it will make it too hard for new people to join.)



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# Delete stubs

... Or maybe not.

Some small wikis have a lot of articles that are repetitive and too short. Consider whether it's better to delete them or to improve them.



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# translatewiki

Complete the translation of the software platform into your language at

<https://translatewiki.net>



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# Check the logo

Free must mean “free as in freedom”.

“Encyclopedia” is sometimes translated creatively.

The spelling of “Wikipedia” is flexible, but the basic name must remain.

There are volunteers who will help you create the image file.



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Athörētētriëcēbēn lau



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# Not only Wikipedia!

Especially useful: Wiktionary, Wikibooks, Wikisource



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# Wiktionary

A dictionary is a very basic and useful tool.

You can also add translations into your language to the English Wiktionary, French Wiktionary, etc.



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# Wikibooks

A somewhat forgotten project, and a bit difficult to use, but could be very useful.

Are there good materials for learning literacy, mathematics, or basic health skills in your language?

If not, you should write them on Wikibooks!



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# Wikisource

Are there already-published novels, stories, poems, or speeches in your language?

If the copyright allows it, you should upload them to Wikisource!



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# Foreign friends!

You will often find that people from Wikipedias in other languages edit your wiki.

Most of the time they want to help you with templates, dates, images, links, etc. Collaborate with them!

Sometimes they are vandals. Kick them out. `~\_(ツ)_/~`



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# Apply for adminship

If you feel confident, go to [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Steward\\_requests/Permissions](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Steward_requests/Permissions) and ask to become an administrator.



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# Organize meetups

Meeting a few friends in someone's home and editing a few articles can do wonders to the community development.

If you manage to organize a meetup of 20 people who regularly edit once a year, your community is probably in a very good shape.



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THANK YOU

