

# SUMMARY OF THE WIKISPORE Proposal

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The **Wikispore** project is an experimental initiative within the Wikimedia ecosystem designed to foster innovation and experimentation in wiki creation. The critical aspects of the project:

## Concept

Wikispore aims to support the development of new genres of free knowledge by creating “spores,” which are mini-wikis within its namespace. These spores allow groups that have proposed a new Wikimedia Project to elaborate on those ideas in a wiki environment and to demonstrate how they might develop.

Wikispore enables the testing of various content types, ranging from media to data, making it flexible for different project scopes. It was designed to complement existing projects by allowing experimentation with new formats.

## Flexibility

Complementing the Wikimedia Incubator, which focuses on new language versions of existing projects, Wikispore encourages experimentation with new formats and content types. Each of these could become a standalone project, either multilingual or with its language editions, or a subproject of an existing sister project, possibly with new workflow tools or extensions.

This flexibility is intended to expand partnerships and diversity within the Wikimedia movement and to provide a space to fully develop ideas for new free knowledge projects for consideration for hosting and expanding as Wikimedia-hosted or externally-hosted sites.

## Technical Feasibility

Wikispore utilizes existing Wikimedia infrastructure, which reduces the need for substantial new resources. This allows it to operate within current frameworks, in theory making it easier to maintain because it builds on the technical and organizational framework already established by Wikimedia, including shared server resources, security protocols, and maintenance practices.

The extensions not supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, and not in use in Foundation-hosted wikis, are:

1. <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Cargo> (stable)
  - a. Storing data for infoboxes and such in a database.
2. [https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Data\\_Transfer](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Data_Transfer) (stable)
  - a. Importing data from other wikis.
3. [https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Page\\_Forms](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Page_Forms) (stable)
  - a. Formulation of queries through forms
4. <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:PluggableAuth> (stable)
  - a. Authentication options.
  - b. Last update several weeks ago.
5. <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:WSOAuth> (stable)
  - a. OAuth implementation.
  - b. Last update several weeks ago.
6. <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:UnlinkedWikibase> (release status: beta)  
Allows pulling data from unlinked Wikibase instances.

The last three are replacements for Wikimedia functionality and wouldn't be needed in a standard Wikimedia setup. The first three are from the semantic wiki universe, so they would not be allowed on production Wikimedia wikis; the spores that rely on those would probably have to rethink how they work.

[Talk:Wikispore - Meta \(wikimedia.org\)](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Talk:Wikispore)

## Financial and Legal Feasibility:

Wikispore operates with relatively low financial overhead and focuses on using available tools. It also complies with Wikimedia's licensing and copyright policies, ensuring that the content it hosts adheres to legal standards.

## Community

The project is community-driven, encouraging users to contribute and develop new spores. It operates on the Wikimedia Cloud Services platform. However, a 2019 proposal [has been submitted](#) to make it a full Sister Project.

Wikispore has shown some community backing, with positive responses and active discussions regarding its potential value as a platform for incubating new projects. Many users need a space to test ideas before being fully developed.

Core editors include 11 admins, 2 devs, and 4 interface admins for maintenance

## Main statistics (August 2024)



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[Recent changes](#)  
[Help about MediaWiki](#)  
[FAQs on Wikispore](#)

[Policies+Practices](#)

[TRIPOD principles](#)  
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[Guestbook](#)  
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Special page

## Statistics

Page statistics	
<a href="#">Content pages</a>	742
<a href="#">Pages</a> (All pages in the wiki, including talk pages, redirects, etc.)	2,818
<a href="#">Uploaded files</a>	23
Edit statistics	
<a href="#">Page edits since Wikispore was set up</a>	10,121
<a href="#">Average edits per page</a>	3.59
User statistics	
<a href="#">Registered users (list of members)</a>	1,848
<a href="#">Active users (list of members)</a> (Users who have performed an action in the last 30 days)	8
<a href="#">Bots (list of members)</a>	0
<a href="#">Administrators (list of members)</a>	11
<a href="#">Interface administrators (list of members)</a>	4
<a href="#">Bureaucrats (list of members)</a>	3
<a href="#">Suppressors (list of members)</a>	2
<a href="#">Push subscription managers (list of members)</a>	0

**Edits:** 04/9/24 - 21 edits in 30 days

## Conclusion:

While a valid concept, Wikispore has never really taken off. There's a low level of activity remaining; however, no new exciting Wikispores are in development. In the process of considering the proposals for the new Wikimedia Projects, CAC can recommend using Wikispore as a starting point to establish the pipeline.

Wikispore is a better space than Meta and, in many cases, than other Wikimedia Projects, such as Wikiversity, for new project proposals because it can use third-party plugins. However, matching the developing projects with existing Sister Projects can be encouraged. Wikispore has successfully incubated at least one free knowledge initiative (STARDIT One).

Thus, **SPTF recommends that Community Affairs Committee consider keeping Wikispore “as is”—affiliated with the WMF projects but not formally integrated—as this allows better technical flexibility.**

## Addendum

A few [spores](#):

\* [STARDIT](#): Successfully incubated on Wikispore and turned into STARDIT One, hosted by Wikimedia Australia.

Developed this [category of ~50 examples](#) demonstrating the concept before moving to a dedicated wiki (these are structured data about research efforts, events, or other processes).

\* [ArtSpore](#) marked as “quality” (laurel) - a collection of links to individual projects.

\* BioSpore (laurel) - biographies, 18 edits.