30-Days-Wikipedia Challenge - English Translation

1 out of 30: Warum sieht Wikipedia eigentlich immer noch aus wie vor 20 Jahren?

Why does Wikipedia still look like it did 20 years ago?

We are happy that you are participating in the 30 Days Wikipedia Challenge! A warm welcome to you.
You've probably wondered on your excursions to the Wikiverse: Why does it actually look like it did in the year 2000?

There are two main reasons:

First reason: The Wikiverse is very complex.
It is simply too difficult to make many fundamental changes, because millions of pages written many years ago should remain readable.

Here are a few numbers about the complexity of the Wikiverse:

- Wikipedia is one of the most visited websites: It counts over 17 billion (!) visits per month.
- It exists in almost 300 language versions, of which about 100 are actively maintained.
- There are more than 50 million Wikipedia articles in total.
- There are thousands of small and large wikis that use the same software and that also affect the changes in it.

The head office in the Wikiverse controls the software

The software for Wikipedia is called [MediaWiki](), which must control all operations of Wikipedia. Basic changes are only made centrally by the Wikimedia Foundation in the USA for the whole world. Changes to the software are therefore always global.
The individual regional Wikipedia communities have no sovereignty over fundamental changes, because: If, for example, someone in Mexico were to introduce changes to the functionalities that have a global impact, this could lead to problems in Germany.

Second reason: Many volunteers make up the Wikiverse

Since Wikipedia is a project based on the work of volunteer authors - the Wikipedians - the software must above all meet their wishes and keep processes as simple and accessible as possible for them. Making changes is not easy, because they affect workflows in hundreds of communities of volunteers in dozens of languages that have existed for many, many years. The very success of Wikipedia therefore makes it difficult to change anything.

Did you know? Germany, by the way, is the only country in the world outside the USA that has its own team of developers who can respond to the technical wishes of volunteers.

The reason why Wikipedia still looks like it did back then is, on the one hand, that the software is centralized, but the communities are decentralized and diverse. On the other hand, it is also due to the habits of the users: Volunteers worldwide know Wikipedia and have become accustomed to it.

Your mission today

Travel by time machine: What did Wikipedia look like in the past?

- Open this website: https://web.archive.org/.
- Type "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:mainpage" in the search box.
- On the timeline, select which year you want to display.
- In the calendar view, you can select days that are highlighted in green or blue.
- Click on a date and then on the time shown in the popup. Then the old version of the website opens.

As you can see, there have been quite a few changes to Wikipedia since its founding in 2001 after all!

Resources to dig deeper:

- The most important technical requests of the community and how they were solved
- Talk at Chaos Computer Congress 2019 on modernizations to Wikipedia (assumes some technical know-how).

You've completed your first mission, congratulations!

Tomorrow, it's about what the word "free" actually means in "free internet encyclopedia". So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 1 / 30
Status: You have reached your first status and are now a newcomer to the Wikiverse. Great!

2 out of 30: Was bedeutet das „frei" in freie Internet-Enzyklopädie?

What does "free" in the free Internet encyclopedia mean?

The fact that Wikipedia provides free content means that anyone can use it free of charge and without registration, and even redistribute it commercially. So everyone worldwide has access to the Wikiverse and can share its content.

For example, do you want to explain to your Facebook friends the important difference between corgis and dachshunds? No problem: You can post this Wikipedia article on corgis anywhere - without worrying about copyrights.

Free also means independent of sponsors and advertising. To keep it that way, the non-profit association Wikimedia Deutschland, the Wikimedia Foundation and some other chapters organizes an annual fundraising campaign for Wikipedia, to use this support to keep the Wikiverse free of charge and freely accessible to all.

The license to share

Imagine you want to create a flyer and use an image from the Internet for it. You first have to check if you are allowed to use and distribute the image. The license under which the image was published tells you if this is possible. A license gives the publishing of content a framework and regulates the permissions for further use. There are various types of licenses. Creative Commons is by far the most common licensing model for free content.

Wikipedia always uses this license: CC BY-SA. This means that the distribution and modification of the content is allowed, even commercially, as long as the authors are named and all subsequent products are distributed under this same license.

There are of course several other licenses. The most important licenses to regulate that content can be used freely are:
- CC-O or Public Domain: Under this license, all content is completely free to use. It is especially useful for publishing data.
- CC BY: You only have to indicate author, source and license for the use.

This means: These images, texts or software may be used, redistributed or modified without having to pay money. Great, isn't it?

Your mission today:

Use the license notice generator for your flyer!

In the license jungle, it is not always easy to indicate licenses correctly. Luckily, there is a very helpful tool that will help you: the license notice generator.

Imagine you have to create a flyer announcing that you have successfully completed the challenge. You want to use an image for it, for example this one, which among other things shows the comet Lovejoy. What information do you need to provide to be allowed to use the image?

This is how your mission works:
- Copy the URL of your image from the browser.
- Visit the license notice generator.
- Enter the URL of your image.
- Click through the questions and create your license notice!

Resources to dig deeper:

- An overview of all [Creative Commons licenses.](#)
- [Publishing content under non-commercial license doesn't mean it's then free.](#)

You've completed your second mission, congratulations!

Tomorrow it's all about the community behind the Wikiverse. So stay tuned!

Achieved: Level 2 / 30
Status: Newcomer to the Wikiverse
You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

3 out of 30: Wer ist eigentlich die Community?

Who is the community?

It has already been mentioned in this challenge, the community of the Wikiverse. Today you will find out what the German Wikipedia community looks like!

About 56,000 volunteering authors keep the German Wikipedia alive by creating content, adding sources, and editing. There is no paid editorial staff: all Wikipedians work on a voluntary basis, in their spare time and with varying degrees of activity. About [8,500 of them](#) are regular active contributors.

Of the 56,000 users, how many do you think made more than 100 edits in July 2020? You can find the correct answer below! *

a) 5.498
b) 1.592
c) 1.197

And who are the Wikipedians?

This question is not that easy to answer! Since no personal information has to be provided when registering, little is known about the composition of the community. However, worldwide studies suggest that the proportion of women is unfortunately only about 10%, and the average age and level of education are rather high.

How online community works in real life

Did you know that in Germany there are local rooms and offices where Wikipedians* meet and organize?

Every year, [WikiCon](#) takes place, a conference on the topic of free knowledge with workshops, lectures and discussion groups.

No matter if you are already part of the community or just curious: Everyone is welcome! As you can see, this community really sticks together. There is even a YouTube channel of two experienced Wikipedians.

And if you're looking for a direct link to Wikipedia, it's there for you: There is namely a volunteer support team that answers your questions via mail - there is even the possibility of a telephone consultation.

* The correct answer is c: 1,197 users have made more than 100 edits.
5,498 users have made 5 - 24 edits and 1,592 users have made 25 - 99 edits.

Your mission today

Find community meetings nearby!

- The "Meetings of Wikipedians" event calendar lists all the meetings regularly organized by the community.
- Click on this link to find out which events the community organizes near you.
- There may be a meeting near you or online where you can meet the volunteers in your area in person.

Resources to dig deeper and read up on:
- This nice video introduces a few members who tell you why they love being a part of the Wikipedia community.
- Wikipedians around the world: How the global community is made up.

You've completed your third mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's all about how you get into the Wikiverse. So stay tuned!

- Achieved: Level 3 / 30
- Status: Newcomer to the Wikiverse

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

4 out of 30: Wie komme ich ins Wikiversum?

How do I get into the Wikiverse?

As you probably know: Wikipedia is the world's largest online encyclopedia, which is freely available and in which everyone can participate.

Really everyone? - Yes and no.

It doesn't work without a few challenges to overcome. But don't worry, that's what this newsletter is there for. In Germany, there are about 8,000 regularly active authors for Wikipedia; they form the core of the Wikipedians, the community around Wikipedia. They

are, so to say, part of the population at the center of the Wikiverse. Wikipedia is run by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation, the "mother ship" in the USA, which provides the technical and financial infrastructure.

2.5 million articles or the entire knowledge of mankind

Wikipedia's goal is to collect all of humanity's knowledge and make it available to everyone - and nothing less! Some milestones on this path have already been reached: almost 2.5 million articles have been created in the [German-language version of Wikipedia](#) since 2001. So the Wikiverse has infinite expanses - well, almost.

Related topics from previous emails:

+++ What does "free encyclopedia" mean? in #2 +++ Community in #3 +++

Your mission today

Find the latest milestone article

It has recently seen the light of day: The latest milestone article of the German-language Wikipedia. Every 10,000th article is such a milestone. You can find it on [this page](#) by scrolling down to the list. It may not be the most exciting article - but we have high hopes for it and look at it together with you.

Here's how your mission goes:
- Go to [this page](#).
- Find the latest Milestone article and open it.
- Add this after the URL: ?tour=introduction (only works in German language Wikipedia)
- Example: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/274301_Wikipedia
- Click through the short tour! (unfortunately not possible on mobile devices)

Then answer the following questions:
1. Where can you find the page where suggestions for improving the article are discussed?
2. How do you get to "Edit"?
3. Where is the version history?
4. Where can you find more info on article editing?

Solutions:
You can take the tour again, which uses pop-ups to explain where to find which section.

Resources to go deeper:
- [More about the German-language Wikipedia](#)
- [More about the vision of Wikipedia in the English-language video](#)
- [To the version history of the individual articles](#)

You have completed your fourth mission and entered the Wikiverse, congratulations!

Tomorrow it's all about hidden rooms with names and meta-information. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 4 / 30
Status: Newcomer in the wikiverse

5 out of 30: Verborgene Tiefen: Was du noch nicht über Wikipedia weißt

What you do not yet know about Wikipedia

Did you know that Wikipedia consists only in part of its articles? There are many other areas with content - they are all structured in so-called 'namespaces'. The part you already know is the "article namespace". This refers to all the entries in the encyclopedia, even [this list of fictional animals.](#)

4.3 million pages hidden in plain sight

But there is also a hidden part of Wikipedia that has more than twice as much content. These areas store background information, such as help pages, discussion pages, information about specific policies, and much more.

You can enter the namespaces by typing an abbreviation in front of the search term in the search box - where you normally search for articles on a topic.

For content that specifies Wikipedia internals - such as background information about working on Wikipedia - this is, for example, "Wikipedia: SEARCH TERM".
For help pages, the abbreviation is: "Help: SEARCH TERM".

Small research assignment: Enter the unknown spheres of the Wikiverse!

1. Wikipedia: Enter the namespace by searching for an entry that tells you more hidden facts about Wikipedia. To do so, type into the [search box](#): "Wikipedia: Ten things about Wikipedia you may not know".
2. Help: Search the help page for creating user accounts! Which page you should find there, we have linked you in the resources. *

Users have their own namespace

When you create a user account, you get your own namespace, which you can design yourself. This is also to be able to edit more comfortably, so that one can take over certain roles and many other things. You can find other Wikipedians by typing "**User:** SEARCH NAME".

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community of authors in #3 +++ Number of Wikipedia articles in #4 +++

Your mission today
Create an account and make yourself comfortable in the Wikiverse!
Your own user account allows you to have access to helpful functions on Wikipedia: You can monitor articles you find exciting, communicate with others, and even change the look of Wikipedia! (We will tell you later how to do this.) The account is not only valid for Wikipedia, but also for all sister projects. Your account works with a pseudonym and nobody can see data you don't give voluntarily. So your email address is only used for notification and is not publicly visible.

- Go to this link and create your user account: https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Spezial:Benutzerkonto_anlegen&uselang=en.
- When choosing a name, it is a good idea to use a pseudonym to avoid revealing too much about yourself.
- Enter an e-mail address, otherwise your account cannot be recovered if you forget your password.
- Confirm your account by clicking on the link in the welcome email sent to your email address.

Resources to get started:
- The help page on creating user accounts.
- Overview of all namespaces
- Overview of all help pages

You have completed your fifth mission and are now a homie of the Wikiverse, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about excellent articles and Wikipedia in space. So stay tuned!

- Achieved: Level 5 / 30
- Status: Newcomer to the Wikiverse
You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

6 out of 30: Der Artikel des Tages und wie die Wikipedia in in den Weltraum flog

The article of the day and how Wikipedia flew into space

In your forays into the Wikiverse, you've probably often reached Wikipedia via a search engine and landed directly on an article page. But there is also a home page that can be very inspiring as a gateway.

In the field in the center of the start page, there is information about current topics and an area that changes daily: the article of the day.

Featured articles

Not every article deserves the honor of being crowned article of the day. Only excellent and worth reading articles are given this honor, which are called featured articles in the Wikipedia.

Featured articles are proposed by active authors, as long as they meet certain criteria. If an article is allowed to run, the evaluation process begins in a forum.

If after 10 days it has more positive than negative ratings, it earns the title of "features article". You can recognize the awarded predicate by a star for featured article. For example, can you tell if this article about champagne is worth reading or even excellent? By the way, due to the different instances of quality assurance, Wikipedia can definitely keep up with printed encyclopedias (in German).

If featured articles have a current reference, this increases their chances of being selected as article of the day and shown on the homepage. For example, on Earth Day on April 22, 2020, the article on Planet Earth appeared there.

Wikipedia in space

In 2016, a plan was made: A team of scientists* from Berlin, organizing private space trips, wanted to bring humanity's knowledge into space. The Wikipedia was identified as the best collection of human knowledge and was initially to be installed in a lunar rover. But it had to be shrunk to 20 gigabytes.
The community of authors was asked to select articles to take with them into space. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers came together for the project, selecting 31,500 articles in 176 languages that can last on the moon for the next thousand years.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++

Your mission today

Find articles of the day from special days!

- Go to the Articles of the Day overview page.
- At the bottom of the page you will find the chronology, which you can use to search specifically.
- What was the article of the day on your last milestone birthday?

Resources to dig deeper:
- Exactly how the awards nomination and judging process works
- More article awards

You've completed your sixth mission and know your way around the Wikiverse increasingly well, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about the fabulous imagery of the Wikiverse. So stay tuned!

7 out of 30: Commons: Die fabelhafte Bilderwelt hinter Wikipedia

Commons: The fabulous world of images behind Wikipedia

The Wikiverse consists not only of Wikipedia, but also of many sister projects that aim to collect, structure, and map humanity's knowledge. Remember email 2 "What does 'free' mean in free encyclopedia"? All projects in the Wikiverse are committed to the principle of Free Knowledge.

So welcome to the fabulous image world of [Wikimedia Commons](), the central media archive for Wikimedia projects: Almost all images you see in Wikipedia are entered from here. Like Wikipedia, Commons is based on MediaWiki software and has its limitations, but better searchability is being worked on, I promise!

The project is run entirely by volunteers who upload images and other files, categorize them, check licenses, and much more. Anyone with a user account can upload images, so image quality may well vary. By the way, you don't need your own account for Commons, you can just log in with your Wikipedia account. As with the Wikipedia article of the day, [particularly good images]() receive the rating "excellent". And the best thing is: Commons can be used globally without language barrier and translation.

The goal is to document all objects, people and things in the world, so there are not only [cute duck]() photos, but Commons holds information with documentary value. Besides ducklings, you can find [historical photos](), documentation of monuments, [buildings]() or [portraits of people]() and much more. If your private vacation photos could have added value, consider uploading them to Commons!

The license to share: For images as well

Commons is also a project for Free Knowledge and all images are under a free license, so you can use them for free, for example for websites, flyers, invitations or posters for your next world tour: Feel free to use all images, but don't forget to mention the correct license and copyright holders, otherwise you might get into legal trouble. This also means that everyone who uploads images must be sure that they own the copyrights of them. Even many news platforms use images from Commons to illustrate their articles, but unfortunately often forget to license them properly. Not sure how to do that either? No problem, just use the [licensing generator]() you learned about in the second email.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Software MediaWiki in #1 +++ Licenses in #2 +++ Predicates for excellent Wikipedia articles in #6 +++

Your mission today
Search Wikimedia Commons for free image material!
Here's how your mission goes:
- Go to https://wikiview.net/.
- For example, type "squirrel" in the left search bar and then click on the image search.
- Use the filter for usage rights, marked with "CC" and get the results for the different free licenses.

You can use this tool whenever you're looking for imagery to use, such as for a flyer, website, or similar.

Resources to dig deeper:
- Welcome page of Commons
- List of all excellent images
- List of all quality images

You have completed your seventh mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about The Professional Defenders of Free Knowledge. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 7 / 30
Status: Newcomer to the Wikiverse.

8 out of 30: Die professionellen Verfechter*innen Freien Wissens: Wikimedia Deutschland

The professional advocates of free knowledge: Wikimedia Deutschland

The non-profit association Wikimedia Deutschland e. V. was founded to promote free knowledge. It is committed to ensuring that the volunteers in projects such as Wikipedia can continue to work well in the future - and that free knowledge becomes an important topic, of course, in our society. Wikimedia Deutschland is thus a kind of support association for Wikipedia and its sister projects in Germany - the association promotes and supports, but is not responsible for Wikipedia **content**.

In the beginning - in 2004 - Wikimedia Deutschland consisted of only a handful of volunteers. Today, the association has 80,000 members and numerous permanent employees.

The work of these advocates for free knowledge also involves campaigning for better political and legal conditions. They also support the volunteer community and work to improve and expand technologies such as Wikidata.

The Wikiverse makes policy: data should serve the common good.

In data-politics, there is much debate about who is allowed to make money from data and how. Wikimedia Deutschland, on the other hand, believes that public data should first and foremost benefit the general public. To open up the political debate to this end, the association has introduced a new image for modern data policy into the political discourse: Data is the new groundwater! Data - like water - is created anew at any time, transforms without being consumed, and may only become a commodity under certain conditions. The potential of data for the common good should therefore also be placed at the center of data policy.

At the Wikimedia Salon, experts regularly discuss political developments relating to free knowledge. For example, they also discuss how the Corona crisis affects data policy and what rules we need for a public good-oriented data policy.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++

Your mission today
Find learning and teaching materials on WirLernenOnline!

The joint project WirLernenOnline by Wikimedia Deutschland and edu-sharing.net e. V. offers materials, tools, media and ideas for learning and teaching on its platform, especially to people from the education sector. However, people with a general interest are also sure to find what they are looking for here if they want to educate themselves on a topic.

- Access the learning material database on WirLernenOnline.
- Set your filters as it is right for you. Most important are subject area, educational environment, and target audience.
- Browse through the materials displayed.

You might find inspiration for working on your first Wikipedia article!

Resources to dig deeper:
- Why data policy is more social policy than economic policy
- How a general meeting of Wikimedia Deutschland with 80,000 members works

You've completed your eighth mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's all about the international Wikipedia movement. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 8 / 30
Status: You have reached a new status. You are now Rising Light in the Wikiverse. Great!

The worldwide movement around Wikipedia

Wikipedia exists in 299 language versions, from [Farsi](#) to [Alemannic](#), [Esperanto](#) or [Plattdüütsch](#). People all over the world want access to free knowledge and free education - preferably in their own language, of course.

The Wikiverse as a mirror of society

The different language versions are not mere translations of the English version, but are created by each regional community. This reflects the local cultural conditions - the individual communities each determine different codes and rules for their language version.

The content of the German-language Wikipedia, for example, is subject to strict criteria designed to ensure that each article is actually relevant to an online encyclopedia. In other language versions, this is less strict. The source situation is also different in each country: in many societies outside Europe, for example, knowledge tends to be passed on orally rather than in writing, which can pose challenges for local communities. After all, how do you fit these sources into a Wikipedia article?

Movement, chapters and volunteers: the structure of the Wikiverse
The global movement around Wikipedia is also called the Movement. The local communities organize themselves into groups and organizations, so-called chapters, where volunteers can get involved. Not every country has such an organization, but some of them even have full-time staff. Wikimedia Deutschland is the oldest and largest organization in this movement, after the Wikimedia Foundation in the USA.

The Wikimedia Foundation, the "mother ship" of the Movement, is the central organization in the Movement. It provides the technical and financial infrastructure - for example, it operates the servers that run Wikipedia, defends it legally against plaintiffs, manages the trademark rights, and supports the communities worldwide. It also organizes the [Wikimania](#) conference, which brings together more than 1,000 Wikipedians from around the world on a different continent each year.

Free knowledge for all? Not so easy!

Wikipedia's vision is that the knowledge of humankind is freely accessible to everyone in the world. But not all people have easy access to the Internet or to devices to use the Web.

Also, one can clearly see that European Wikimedia organizations are far more likely than elsewhere to form structures that allow them to hire staff. [The North-South divide in society is thus also apparent in the Wikipedia project.](#) You can learn more about the Movement's efforts to change these unequal distributions in email 27 on diversity.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Diversity in #1 +++ Community in #3 +++

Your mission today
Read the Bavarian Wikipedia

There are language versions of Wikipedia created for individual dialects, like the Bavarian one.

This is how your mission works:
- Go to the main page of the Wikipedia in Scottish:
  https://sco.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page.
- Select the article of the day.
- Read the article and enjoy the charming dialect!

Resources to go deeper:
- List of all language versions
- What do Wikipedians in the Ivory Coast actually deal with?

You have completed your ninth mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about Wikidata, the database for humans and machines. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 9 / 30
Status: Rising light in the Wikiverse

10 out of 30: Für Menschen und Maschinen: Wikidata

For people and machines: Wikidata

Another sister project, just like Wikimedia Commons from email 7, is Wikidata. It is a free knowledge database that stores the world's knowledge in the form of machine-readable data. Wikidata is also edited and expanded by a community of volunteers, or used to write small query programs. It includes nearly 100 million data objects (as of September 2020) representing an object of knowledge - for example, one entry is: "Earth."

Each entry is described with statements, this can be for a building e.g. the location, for a person e.g. the date of birth and for a book the author. With the object "Earth" these are e.g. statements that the earth is a planet and part of the solar system. Each data object is linked to many other data objects. This allows you to query complex things like, "Which city in the world is the largest that has a female mayor?" and get a sorted list as an answer.

A building block of artificial intelligence

Fundamental to the development of artificial intelligence is giving machines knowledge about the world in the form of data that they can use to "learn." Profit-seeking tech companies keep

their data sources closed to the public, but Wikidata is allowed to be read and edited by anyone, and is completely free for all humans and machines to use.

And the German National Library, for example, uses Wikidata to uniquely organize data on all works in the German-speaking world by linking its system to Wikidata. Even voice assistants, which you can ask on your cell phone or as a room speaker what the highest mountain in the world actually is, often get their answer from Wikidata.

Wikidata and Wikipedia: <3

Wikipedia also uses Wikidata to display information. You may be familiar with the infoboxes on the right-hand side, for example, of [this entry about the movie "Minions"](#). This content sometimes feeds off Wikidata.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Wikimedia Commons in #7 +++

Your mission today
Try out ten cool Wikidata queries!
- Call on this blogpost: [10 cool Wikidata queries that will open up new horizons for you.](#)
- Find a query that interests you and click on the link
- Click the blue play button and be amazed by the results.

Resources to go deeper:
- [Introduction to Wikidata](#)
- [Follow what's happening on Wikidata from Wikipedia](#)

You've completed your tenth mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's all about vandalism on Wikipedia. So keep at it!
- Achieved: Level 10 / 30
- Status: Rising light in the Wikiverse

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

11 out of 30: Von Falschmeldungen zu inkorrekten Biografien: Wikipedia und der Vandalismus

About false reports to incorrect biographies: Wikipedia and vandalism

Wikipedia is supported, written and modified by millions of volunteers - no surprise that sometimes information ends up in articles, even though it does not belong there. Sometimes it is a matter of mistakes that simply happen during editing, but sometimes it is also a matter of intentionally inserted false information. But the German-language Wikipedia has found control bodies for detecting and preventing inaccuracies and deliberate misinformation, so-called vandalism.

The Wikiverse sees (almost) everything

... or at least the regular authors! To stop the spread of false information, there are, for example, so-called "Sichter*innen" (reviewers) in the German speaking Wikipedia, who review articles by people who have not been working on Wikipedia for long. Only after the review, the so-called triage, these changes are displayed to all readers. This prevents, for example, break-time vandalism, a phenomenon that occurs during school breaks when students add a lot of nonsense to Wikipedia.

Always remain objective

One rule in the Wikiverse is not to write an article about yourself. But many people do not follow that rule. Another classic szenario: people or organizations get articles written about themselves by a third person, or even make changes themselves. These edits can usually be found quiuckly using the tricks of the Wikipedians. For example, there is a Twitter account that publishes all anonymous edits with IP addresses of the Bundestag so that they can be checked.

Knowledge always needs a source

Wikipedia articles without sources do not stay online for long - if at all. It is important to substantiate everything you write about on Wikipedia. After all, millions of people around the world rely on Wikipedia. In April 2020, for example, a Wikipedia article attempted to incite against Muslim minorities in India. Fortunately, due to a lack of sources, the article was deleted very quickly. The case sparked a public debate with Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++ Global Movement in #9 +++

Your mission today
The most beautiful Wikipedia ducks
While Wikipedia is a reliable source of information, don't blindly believe everything you read. Of course, the same goes for the rest of the internet.
Browse through the links with beautiful Wikipedia hoaxes - and maybe you'll find the entry for the well-known and definitely real absolutely existing fish squirrel.
- To the "Fake Museum": This way!
- Or this way: 5 funny Wikipedia fakes you should know about

Resources to go deeper into:
- What does Jan Böhmermann actually say about Wikipedia? (in German)
- Fact-checking on the web: Unsure if a piece of information from the Internet is really true? This tool (in German) helps you check and evaluate.
- Overview page on quality assurance on Wikipedia

You have completed your eleventh mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow you will be active in the Wikiverse again. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

12 out of 30: In Wikipedia schreiben: Deine Benutzerseite

Writing on Wikipedia: Your user page

The Wikiverse has many adventures in store for you once you can edit articles. Editing articles means, for example, correcting spelling and grammatical or content-related errors in an article, adding sources, supplementing missing information, images or links, expanding articles or creating completely new ones. The authors are real Wikipedia all-rounders.

Nothing is set in stone in the Wikiverse
As you have already heard in e-mail 11, articles are constantly checked and sifted. This is a good thing, especially for new Wikipedians, because you don't have to be afraid of "breaking" something. All changes can be undone.

An exception, where nothing has to be sifted, is among other things the user namespace. Here you can prepare and try out texts without other authors taking notes or checking changes. There you can let off steam freely!

The chronology of knowledge
All longer existing articles can look back on an eventful history. You can find this version history at the top of the article next to the "Edit source" tab, to the left of the search field, for example for the [Wikipedia article on Mars](). In mobile view, you can find the version history below the article. It is admittedly a bit confusing, but it contains all changes since the article was created. Can you use the version history to find out when the Mars article first saw the light of day?

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Namespaces in #5 +++ Sighting process in #11 +++

Your mission today

Create your user page
On the user page you can introduce yourself to other Wikipedians and, for example, write something about why you are here and which topics you are interested in. [In the list of authors](), you can find inspiration and create your own user page. You can format your texts here similar to a writing program. More about this in Mail 14.
- If you don't have an account yet: go to [this page]() and create an account.
- [Log in to your account]().
- Click on the account icon at the top of the menu.
- Create your personal user page via the "Create" tab.
- Introduce yourself to the community with a short text.

Remember: Your user page is publicly visible and all changes are permanently saved in the version history, so be careful when sharing private information. See the help page for more info.

Resources to dig deeper:
- Help for editing a page

You've completed your 12th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about the faces behind the community. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 12 / 30
Status: Rising light in the wikiverse

13 out of 30: Wer sind eigentlich die aktivsten Wikipedia-Autor*innen Deutschlands?

Who are actually the most active Wikipedia authors in Germany?

The answer is not quite simple, since one could count this differently: Authors who create a particularly large number of articles, or authors who make many edits to articles - or also make a distinction between quality and quantity.

Who edits or creates the most articles in the German Wikipedia, you can see in this list. However, it only shows Wikipedians who have voluntarily entered their data in this list. Some of them have been there since the beginning in the early 2000's and have made a name for themselves in the community.

People and machines write on Wikipedia
In addition to the list of the most active authors, there are other active people who write on Wikipedia: Wikipedia's automatic helpers, i.e. bots programmed by the community. In the German Wikipedia, these small computer programs mainly do clean-up work in the background. In other Wikipedias, they sometimes write entire articles - although the quality is unfortunately often not optimal, to put it nicely.

Three Wikipedians introduce themselves
To give the community a face, we asked three Wikipedians to introduce themselves in this challenge (all user pages in German).

Paulae
Author Paulae writes about unknown or unloved films of all kinds, including bad home movies and very good short films, her hometown Dresden and authors who were active before 1900.
For her, Wikipedia is the immersion into ever new worlds of knowledge and the wonderful opportunity to share these worlds with other people.

When asked what motivates her to participate in Wikipedia, she replies, "An elderly gentleman I didn't know wrote to me a few months ago that I had fulfilled his heart's desire by writing an article about his best friend - an artist - who died a few years ago. I was very touched by that."

Kaethe17

Since 2018, author Kaethe17 has written texts about art, film, music and history - but also about everything that crosses her path on a daily basis. She also takes photos for Wikipedia and its sister projects.

These mean a lot to her: "Wikipedia and its sister projects are the memory of the world for me. But also free, reasonably reliable and neutral knowledge that is available to everyone free of charge. That's why it's important for me to participate in it and strengthen these projects. And besides, it's a lot of fun to participate."

Brackenheim

Brackenheim, a Wikipedia administrator, joined in 2008 and in recent years has written about just everything to do with biology, medicine, chemistry or pharmacy - including historical topics.

"The biggest highlights were and are - even though it's an online encyclopedia - all the face-to-face meetings on site, be it an open edit, a WikiCon or even the Wikimania. It's just great to be able to work with a lot of nice people around the world and make a difference."

Resources to dig deeper:
- Chrome addon "Who wrote it?": Shows who wrote each snippet of text in Wikipedia articles. Also available as a Mozilla version (English).
- The work orders of the Wikipedia bots
- Human vs. machine: who has made how many edits in the German Wikipedia since March 2018 (English).

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++ Global movement in #9 +++

Your mission today
Find the main author of the article of the day!
- Go to the Wikipedia main page.
- Click on the article of the day
- Scroll down the article until you see the small link "Authors" under the credits and web links.
- Click on the link and see: who is the main author of the article?

You have completed your 13th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow you will be active in the Wikiverse again. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 13 / 30
Status: Rising light in the Wikiverse.

Your article workshop: how writing in Wikipedia works

Today we'll get down to the essential stuff: You'll get to know the visual editor better, the tool with which texts can be edited on Wikipedia and with which you also embellished your user page.
You can let off steam in your personal "article workshop". The Wikipedia article workshop is a page that you can create in your user namespace. Here you can, for example, experiment with text formatting, prescribe texts and test appearance and formulations. There are no limits to your imagination! However, offensive content is undesirable, and you may not insert copyrighted material here.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ Namespaces in #5 +++ More on editing #12 +++

Your mission today:
Create your article workshop
- If you don't have an account yet: go to this page and create an account
- Log in to Wikipedia with your account.
- Create your article workshop by following this link and then clicking on "Create": https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:MyPage/Artikelwerkstatt (German)

Good to know: Alternatively, you can always go to your user page and then extend the URL in the browser with /BELIEBIG NAME and press Enter. Automatically a new subpage will be created in your account, which you only have to fill in and save. You can learn exactly how this works in this screencast (German).

Now you can let off steam and formulate texts wildly:
- Copy a text passage from this text that you like: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explorers_on_the_Moon
- Try the following formatting options:
  - Bold, italic, underlined
  - insert different headings
  - Insert links to wiki pages
- When you're done, click "Publish Page" in the upper right corner. Type a short summary in the box, e.g. "Test", and click again on "Publish page" in the upper right corner.

Wonderful, you've gotten into the visual editor and anchored your place in the wikiverse! And now you can enrich Wikipedia with all kinds of content, even an article that makes it into the wonderful Cabinet of Curiosities.

Resources to dig deeper:
- Help page for the visual editor
- Training on editing in Wikipedia (takes about 15 minutes)
- Tips for using the visual editor (in German)

You've completed your 14th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about the political power of Free Knowledge. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 14 / 30
Status: Rising light in the wikiverse

15 out of 30: Die politische Kraft Freien Wissens

The political power of free knowledge

Wikipedia is a valuable tool worldwide for accessing information that is as neutral and well-supported as possible. In societies that have to endure great tensions, this can also lead to significant conflicts.

Political conflicts have an impact on Wikipedia communities
Political polarizations are also reflected in the respective Wikipedia communities in many countries. The communities are faced with the challenge of adhering to the strict guidelines of maintaining as neutral a viewpoint as possible on Wikipedia, while their authors come from conflicting political camps and sometimes use Wikipedia as a mouthpiece for their views.
Individual members of the community can face real danger if they do work that opposes the local political mainstream or radical groups. Bojan from Serbia also faces resistance within the community because he wants to sensitize Wikipedians there to be more open about LGBTQI issues.

When free knowledge becomes inconvenient: Wikipedia blocking
Turkey, among other countries, shows how closely Free Knowledge is linked to the politics of the respective country. From April 29, 2017 to January 15, 2020, the Turkish government blocked Wikipedia in Turkey - in all language versions. The reason for the block was an article reporting that ISIS and Al-Qaeda are supported by the Turkish government. Through the commitment of the Turkish community and a complaint by the Wikimedia Foundation before the European Court of Justice, the block was finally lifted. The Turkish Supreme Court ruled that the block of Wikipedia in Turkey, which lasted more than 30 months, was unconstitutional. (German)
But one does not have to look that far. State interference in Wikipedia, mostly in relation to individual articles, exists in many countries, as this list shows - including, for example, France and the United Kingdom.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ International Community in #9 +++

Your mission today:
Find out what led to a blocking in Russia!

- Look at the [list of blockings](#).
- Which item ended up on the blacklist in Russia?

Resources to dig deeper:
[Welcome back, Turkey - a welcome video](#) from Wikimedia Foundation Executive Director
Katherine Maher (English).

You've completed half the missions, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about Wikipedia during the Corona pandemic. So stick with it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 15 / 30
Status: You have reached the halfway point and earned a new status. You are now a
Durchstarter*in in the Wikiverse. Great!

16 out of 30: Wikipedia und die Corona-Pandemie

Wikipedia and the Corona pandemic

Wikipedia is also a popular source of information on current topics. For example, in March
2018, the article on [Stephen Hawking](#) was the most-read article, and in March 2020, the
article on the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) was the most-read article, with nearly 3 million hits.
Because many people viewed the article as a trusted source of up-to-date information, some
access numbers for the articles in the early days of the pandemic were over 50,000 daily, as
shown [by this statistic](#), which maps page views for some COVID-19 articles in April 2020. By
comparison, the article on Angela Merkel was accessed only about 100 times a day during
the same period, but the article on the related topic of Spanish flu was accessed up to
41,000 times.

Who actually writes the articles on the pandemic?
It takes a lot of work to meet the high standards of quality and topicality. Wikipedia has
[self-organized editorial teams](#) in which experienced Wikipedians write articles on specialist
topics, such as the medical editorial team. The work of the editorial team consists, for
example, of maintaining articles worthy of editing in their specialist area, for example by
checking sources for their seriousness or adding new content.
The workload increased so much, especially at the time of the pandemic, that some
volunteers spent several hours a day checking sources and answering other Wikipedians'
questions.
To support this important work, the Wikimedia e. V. association promotes the editorial teams
through events and the provision of specialist literature or even access to databases.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ Community in #3 +++ Active editors* in #13 +++

Your mission today:

Compare which articles get more attention.

Through a tool you can see when and how often articles are read. It shows you the statistics of the current week. By the way, you can find the statistics for each Wikipedia article below the article, in the "small print" in the footer.
- Go to the [page for comparing page views](#).
- Now enter a current topic that interests you into the search bar.
- How much interest does your topic and the Corona pandemic compare?
- Feel free to enter a different time period in the left side column. How did it compare last month, year over year?

Resources to dig deeper:
- [Stress for authors* during the Corona pandemic](#) (German)
- [The Medical Editors](#)
- [All Wikipedia editors](#)
- [How you can get a literary fellowship from Wikimedia Deutschland](#) (German)

You've completed your 16th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's all about a powerful force in the Wikiverse. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 16 / 30
Status: Starter in the wikiverse

17 out of 30: Eine starke Macht im Wikiversum: Was man mit Wikidata alles machen kann

A powerful force in the Wikiverse: What you can do with Wikidata

In e-mail 10 you have already learned a lot about Wikidata, the intelligent database that structures the knowledge of mankind and makes it analyzable. But you don't yet know the following exciting applications that are made possible by this enormously versatile project. Have fun discovering them!

Wikidata for language learning
Wikidata has so many entries and works in so many languages that you can also use the directory as a vocabulary trainer, like [here for practicing articles in French](#).

Objects in your environment
If you are willing to share your location, [Wikidata will show you which entries for known places are in your vicinity](#). Try it out on your next walk!

Wikidata Games

Especially knowledge and quiz games are good to create with Wikidata. For example, the quiz app "Q-Wiki" lets you take territories with correct answers - Wikidata is used as the data source.

A data donation, please!
Wikidata grows like an organism, only with the help of all of us. How you can help? You can donate data! Some organizations have already expanded the Wikiverse with their data, for example numerous museums or UNESCO, which has imported all the data on winners of its awards.

WikiProject: For a better world of knowledge
From sports to nutrition to Indian history, there are WikiProjects where volunteers organize to add and improve data on Wikidata. For example, you want to finally do something about climate change? Just join the appropriate Wikidata working group on climate change!

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ Introducing Wikidata in #10 +++

Your mission today:
Get to know Wikidata better: Take the introduction tour
You already know how to edit in Wikipedia. So the doors are open for you with Wikidata, too! Contributing in Wikidata is almost easier than in Wikipedia. But just try it yourself:
- Go to the main Wikidata page and log in with your Wikipedia account.
- If you don't have an account yet, you can create one here
- And off you go with the introduction tour: https://www.wikidata.org/w/index.php?title=Q16943273&tour=wbitems&data=ok (Run English, unfortunately not available for mobile devices)

And already you have contributed something to Wikidata. It's great how fast it works, isn't it?

Resources to get deeper into it:
- Tours to learn the features in Wikidata (sorry, not available on mobile devices).
- An insight into the system behind the Wikidata query service.
- Find your suitable WikiProject

You've completed the 17th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about knowledge battles. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 17 / 30
Status: A newcomer to the wikiverse

18 out of 30: „Edit-Wars": Wissensschlachten in der Wikipedia

"Edit wars": knowledge battles on Wikipedia

The Wikipedia community is large and brings together numerous people with different perspectives when articles are written - sometimes heated discussions occur. And that is important, because only with this accuracy of all active authors, Wikipedia remains factually so high quality.

Good things come from discussions
Wikipedians exchange views on articles on the talk pages. Here, opinions are exchanged on requests for changes, sources are evaluated, and much more. This has proven successful, because Wikipedia articles that are the subject of much discussion are more balanced and simply better, as has been studied using articles on American politics.

Knowledge battles in the Wikiverse
As a rule, everything runs peacefully in the Wikiverse, but sometimes things heat up! The so-called edit wars are notorious, but above all they show that nothing is more important to Wikipedians than the correct presentation of facts.
In some cases, discussions get out of hand and the knowledge of how to discuss together - more on this in Mail 24 - is lost for a short time. We speak of an edit war when edits to articles by other authors are immediately reset, resulting in a game of ping pong. And this about the most absurd topics: Is the Danube Tower now called the television tower or the observation tower (PDF - German)?

Wikipedia as an encyclopedia, not as a news format
When information about events changes by the minute, edits are often insufficiently substantiated with evidence and discussions quickly become unproductive. To avoid misinformation in articles, pages on current topics are therefore sometimes blocked for authors and thus protected. For example, this article on the Covid 19 pandemic was protected from the end of January until the end of March 2020, because it was uncleanly worked with evidence.
On this list of protected pages for unregistered users (German) you can see why and how often pages are blocked. Fortunately, though, they make up only a fraction of Wikipedia.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ Quality Assurance in #11 +++ Editing in #12 +++ Wikipedia and the Corona Pandemic in #16 +++

Your mission today
Watch what is changed in articles
To stay up to date when articles are changed, you can put them on your watch list. This way you won't miss the next edit war on your topic!
- Log in to your user account.
- If you don't have a Wikipedia account yet, you can create one here
- Go to an article you are interested in and want to be informed about its changes.
- Click on the star to the left of the search field in the upper right corner of the screen. The article is now on the list.
- Have changes to watched pages sent to you by e-mail. To do this, go to "User data" in your settings and check the two boxes at the bottom.
- You can delete the watched pages at any time and change other settings in the watch list: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spezial:Beobachtungsliste (German).

Resources to go deeper:
Watchlist Help

You have completed your 18th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about photo contests and egg cups. So stay tuned!

Have questions about this email? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 18 / 30
Status: Starter in the wikiverse

19 out of 30: Die schönsten Bilder des Wikiversums

The most beautiful pictures of the Wikiverse

Remember the fabulous imagery of the Wikiverse? That's right, Wikimedia Commons! This is where everyone can upload their pictures - and even participate in the biggest photo contests in the world.

The photo contests of the Wikiverse
In Wiki Loves Earth (German) - where natural monuments and nature reserves are documented worldwide - a rock garden in Germany (German) won last year. And in Wiki Loves Monuments - a contest for great cultural monument photos - this spiral staircase took first place in Germany. These iconic competitions in the Wikiverse bring together stunning images from all over the world! In addition to these two major photo contests, however, there are also smaller formats. For example, in 2020, the curious "Wiki Loves Egg Cups" (German) contest was launched in the German-language Wikipedia.

Of space organizations and elephant birds
The active community around Commons ensures that the collection is constantly fed with new image material. Volunteers upload not only their own photos, but also images from organizations that make them available under free licenses. For example, the image you see at the top of this email - if you have images displayed - is an image from NASA. So Commons is something like the unknown sister of Flickr, Pixabay and similar platforms for images under free licenses.

Wikimedia Commons searches for images
Almost all images used in Wikipedia articles are fed from Commons. However, in order to have a nice little picture for every article on Wikipedia, a lot of and sometimes very special niche images are needed, like the images in this article about elephant birds that are already extinct.
To ensure that there is sufficient image material, Commons sometimes calls for certain actions for which volunteers sometimes get exclusive photo opportunities. For example, in 2019 there were the project days for the 100th anniversary of the Weimar Bauhaus (German), in which the workshops were opened to photographers*.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ Licenses #2 +++ Introducing Commons in #7 +++

Your mission today:
Upload an image to Commons!
- **Step 1: Find or make the right image**
  Let your creativity run wild! This can be a picture of a monument from your city or a beautiful photo in nature. If you can't think of a motif, let [the image requests](#) inspire you.
- **Step 2: The license to share**
  Yes, you've read this a lot because it's so important: Make sure you have the copyright before uploading! Also be aware of the privacy rights of people pictured.
- **Step 3: Login & Upload**
  Have you thought of everything? Great, now you can finally upload it. Log in under your Wikipedia account (or [create an account](#)), then let the [upload wizard](#) help you upload your image.
  Don't forget: Add a category so other Wikipedians* can find and use it.

Resources to go deeper:
- [Get to know Vicuña - your perfect image uploading assistant](#)
- [Great panoramic shots from all over Germany](#)

You've completed your 19th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about editing in the wild. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 19 / 30
Status: Starter in the wikiverse

20 out of 30: Artikel bearbeiten: wie geht das?

Editing articles: how to do it?

By now you have a user account, a user page, and you've gotten to know the visual editor. So you are well-prepared to edit your first articles on Wikipedia!

Wikipedia is always happy about your contribution to Free Knowledge.
The important thing is: You can't break anything. If something doesn't fit, it can be reset. If you are not sure if your assumption is correct, you can always ask the community on the discussion page of the article. So be brave and ask!
If you are editing an article and would like the changes to be reviewed, [you can submit a review request](#) (German) - the community is here for you.

Getting started - Here's how to do it!

You can start in different ways: Maybe you have read something that was difficult to understand or not correct. Then you can correct these errors in content, grammar or sentence structure by clicking on "edit" at the top of the article.

Or maybe you see a so-called maintenance module in an exciting - or random - article that indicates a need for revision. Unfortunately, there are very few spelling errors left, but adding links to other Wikipedia articles is also a good exercise to get started.

Five steps to the perfect edit

To edit on Wikipedia, these steps are necessary:
- Identify edits
- Make changes
- Display preview
- Write a summary
- Publish changes

This YouTube video (German) shows you with an illustrative example.

Related topics from previous emails:

 +++ User accounts in #5 +++ Viewing process in #11 +++ Editing in #12 +++ User pages in #12 +++ Discussion pages in #18 +++

Your mission today

Join the Wikipedia!

Today is about editing the "real" Wikipedia for all to see: You make changes to an article in "the wild."

In the Join In tool, you can quickly and easily find and improve articles in your specific area of interest.
- Access the tool: https://tools.wmflabs.org/mitmachen/ (German)
- Choose your favorite topic from the list and continue clicking through the subtopics
- Find an article you can improve on!

Resources to dig deeper:
- Information on how to improve articles (German)
- Need help? Here is an overview of the help pages.
- Information about text formatting with Visual Editor

You have completed your 20th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow we'll talk about how it all began. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 20 / 30
Status: A newcomer in the wikiverse

How it all began: The Wikipedia success story

Today we will take a little trip into the past, when the Wikiverse was still very young. The forerunner of Wikipedia was called "Nupedia" and appeared in 2000. In contrast to Wikipedia, a "peer review process" was used here to ensure quality - which proved to be too inefficient. By the time the project was discontinued in 2003, a whopping 27 articles had been published. Curiously, the project was financed at the time by Bomis, an online provider of forums on entertainment, sports, science fiction, erotica and pornography.

The actual Wikipedia was used, but only to plan articles until they would be added to Nupedia. But the interactive and collaborative Wikipedia was immediately far more popular and successful than the actual main project, although it was actually an impossibility: a completely volunteer-based project without a central editorial team - no one had expected its success at the time.

From the foundation to a worldwide movement
Wikipedia was finally founded in 2001 by Larry Sanger and Jimmy Wales. The latter bears the wonderful nickname "Jimbo" and is still very present in the movement around Wikipedia. Also in 2003, Jimmy Wales founded the Wikimedia Foundation in the USA, an NGO that still runs the servers of all Wikimedia projects and is mainly responsible for the further development of the software. After 5 years the English-language Wikipedia had already grown to a million articles and the German-language Wikipedia could come up at the end of 2006 already with over 500,000 articles. Today, the Wikimedia Foundation has 350 employees worldwide.
Jimmy Wales described the work on Wikipedia in the early days as follows: "Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing."

Wikipedia's sisters in the Wikiverse
Since 2001 until today, numerous sister projects of Wikipedia have been founded. You already know Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons, Wikivoyage and Wikitionary will be introduced soon. But there are more small sister projects. An overview can be found here.

Related topics from previous emails:
 +++ What Wikipedia used to look like in #1 +++ Community in #3 +++ Commons in #7 +++ Wikimedia employees in #8 +++ Worldwide Movement around Wikipedia in #9 +++ Wikidata in #10 +++

Your mission today
Find out what has changed since 2005
- Read this article about Wikipedia from the Handelsblatt from 2005 (in German).
- Answer the question: How many articles were there in the German Wikipedia back then? How many are there today?
- Solution: check out email 4!

Resources to dig deeper:
- [Wikipedia's entry on the history of Wikipedia](#)
- [Executive Director of the Wikimedia Foundation Katherine Maher on the vision and creation of Wikipedia](#) (English)

You've completed your 21st mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about the glamour of cultural knowledge. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 21 / 30
Status: A newcomer to the wikiverse

22 out of 30: GLAM – der Glamour kulturellen Wissens

GLAM - the glamour of cultural knowledge

The knowledge of mankind is also found in cultural assets - these should also be freely available to all people according to the principle of Free Knowledge. But visiting works of art, monuments or sights is location-dependent and often subject to a fee, so how can this be implemented?

For this purpose there is the [project GLAM](#) in the Wikiversum: Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums. Here, content from these and other institutions is digitized for Wikipedia and its sister projects, giving everyone the opportunity to share in this knowledge.

Images of these special places can be uploaded to Wikimedia Commons, and more information can be added to Wikidata to describe the collections of these institutions. And on Wikipedia, of course, articles are created or expanded with the new knowledge.

But even quite unusual projects are created in this way. Digitized collections can be processed in [online games](#) (German) or [digital exhibitions](#) (German), for example - [or on interactive websites where users can travel back in time](#). To develop these and other exciting formats together with institutions and the community, there is an annual cultural hackathon called "[Coding Da Vinci](#)".

GLAM on Tour: The Wikiverse and its Cultural Treasures
In the [GLAM on Tour](#) project, institutions invite Wikipedians* to visit their collections and capture them digitally. Often, these are places where photos may not otherwise be taken for commercial processing. For institutions, the process is often a relief because they sometimes lack the resources or even digital skills to digitize their cultural treasures.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Commons in #7 +++ Wikimedia Germany in #8 +++ Wikidata in #10 +++ Photo contests in #19 +++

Your mission today

Play "Femtett" and collect cards about important women from history!
In the game you will find a world of exciting and bizarre information about significant women from history. You can solve puzzles and collect cards. All information and images are provided by the German Museum and the University Library FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg. Knowledge can be so GLAMorous!

- Access the game here and get started: https://crisphi.github.io/Femtett/ (German)

Resources to go deeper:
- More info on GLAM
- The annual "culture hackathon" of the Wikiversum
- A nice movie about GLAM on tour (German)

You've completed your 22nd mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's data as a common good. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: 22/30
Status: You have reached a new status. You are now a star in the Wikiverse. Great!

23 out of 30: Öffentliches Geld – Öffentliches Gut!

Public money - public good!

What is publicly funded should also be freely available to the public, right? That's what Wikimedia Deutschland is campaigning for - for example, in the area of educational materials, archive content, public domain cultural assets, and software.

The Wikiverse campaigns for free educational content
The campaign "Public Money - Public Good!" (German) achieved that public educational content was produced and published under free licenses for the first time. These can now be used by WIkipedia volunteers for their articles, among others.

The 'Frag Sie Abi! (German)'-campaign, organized together with the Open Knowledge Foundation Germany, resulted in publicly funded exam papers being available for viewing in many German states. Bavaria, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony published many past exam papers from previous years as a result of the campaign.

Open source for software from public funds
That software works with public code is claimed in the campaign public money public code supported by Wikimedia Germany. "Open source software" means that anyone and everyone with the technical knowledge can view the code behind the product and theoretically also change it. This serves transparency and security: What happens to personal data, for example?
It is also easier to respond to security risks if the software can be freely viewed by programmers and is not dependent on a single agency. Code paid for by all should be available to all.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Data is the new groundwater in #8 +++ Wikimedia Germany in #8 +++

Your mission today
Look at how free content from public broadcasters enriches Wikipedia:
As a result of the ÖGÖG campaign, Terra X videos from ZDF, among others, were made available and embedded on Commons.
- Follow the [link to the Terra X video](#) (German) on climate factors on Commons.
- Scroll down the Commons page to "Global file use".
- See which Wikipedia article the video is embedded in.

Resources to dig deeper into:
- [Wiki Loves Broadcast](#) (German)
- [Wikimedia Germany via ÖGÖG](#) (German)

You've completed your 23rd mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about communication between Wikipedians*. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 23 / 30
Status: Star in the Wikiverse

24 out of 30: Tausch dich aus: Kommunizieren in der Wikipedia

Exchange: Communicating on Wikipedia.
You're not alone in the Wikiverse; tens of thousands of volunteers are there with you, using Wikipedia. And you can also communicate with your fellow Wikipedians. And this is also done in the community, even if you don't see it in the articles at first glance.

Communication on Wikipedia with Wiki-Syntax
There are several ways to communicate. There are lively conversations about content, tricky tasks and much more. It is important that you follow the [wikiquette](#) when communicating, because behind every post is first and foremost another person. On the discussion pages, you can not only communicate publicly with other authors about articles, but also seek direct contact via the [talk pages](#) of users. You have a question or want to thank someone for their help? Then this is the place to do it. And if you want to send a confidential message, you can do that with [Wikimail](#).

To make the communication on the discussion pages transparent, every comment is [signed by the author](#). For discussing on Wikipedia, you need the Wiki syntax, which you can see behind the tab "Edit source code". This is a markup language like HTML, for example, but greatly simplified so that anyone and everyone can use it. How does wiki syntax work, and how does it help you in discussions? That's what you'll learn in this [introductory tour](#) (German).

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++ Discussion pages in #18 +++

Your mission today
Write us a wikimail or a message on the user page!
- [Log in](#) to your user account.
- If you don't have a Wikipedia account yet, you can [create one here](#)
- Go to the user page of our challenge account:
  https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benutzer:CHALLENGE_WMDE
On desktop:
- Send us a wikimail. On the left sidebar, under "Tools", you will find the link "Send email to this user".
- Send us a message and tell us what you think of the Challenge.
On mobile devices:
- Write us a message on the user discussion page. You can do this without a user account. Click the "Discussion" tab at the top, then click the pencil to edit the page. Just enter your message and click on "Publish changes".
- We look forward to hearing from you!

Resources to Dig Deeper:
- [Do you know all the ways users communicate? Take the test!](#) (German)
- [The right formatting in Wikipedia with Wiki-Syntax](#)
- [Using the Wikipedia cheat sheet to get the formatting right](#)

You've completed your 24th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's millions of administrative pages. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 24 / 30
Status: Star in the wikiverse

25 out of 30: Wikipedianer*innen: Was sind ihre Aufgaben?

Wikipedians: What are their tasks?

Maybe you remember email 5 about the hidden namespaces: Wikipedia consists of only about one third of its encyclopedic entries. The rest of the content are administrative pages, where mainly the communication and organization of the Wikipedia project takes place.

The rules of the Wikiverse
Over the years, a complex construct of many community rules and organizational structures has evolved to organize the collective work on the encyclopedia. Part of this is, for example, conducting [internal surveys](#) and [voting](#), because Wikipedia is generally based on the consensus principle - and that can become quite cumbersome with so many users.

Examples of the rules and regulations include guidelines on [what topics are relevant to an encyclopedia](#) and how the quality assurance viewing system works. All rules that have been introduced since the founding in 2001 are recorded on these administrative pages.

The organization of the community
To participate in voting, you must show a minimum level of activity - otherwise, all votes count the same. However, there are [different roles](#) (in the German speaking Wikipedia) for volunteers on Wikipedia, as some Wikipedians* take on special roles on Wikipedia. These special roles are elected by voting users*:
- **Admins**: can, for example, block users* or pages. They take care of vandalism or deletion requests for non-relevant articles and are just under 200 people in the German-language Wikipedia.
- **Bureaucrats**: These assign new roles to certain users, for example.
- **Stewards**: They have special rights beyond the German-language Wikipedia in all language versions.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #3 +++ Introduction to administrative pages in #5 +++ User accounts in #5 +++ Viewing process in #11 +++ Version history in #12 +++ Article editing in #20 +++

Your mission today
See roles of other users
To know who you are dealing with when you want to communicate with someone on Wikipedia or to know who made an exciting edit with which role, you can view editors with extended rights.
- [Log in to your user account](#).
- Click on "Settings" at the top of the bar.
- Then go to "Helpers" and "Change interface".
- Check the box for "markAdmins marks users with extended privileges on special, user, discussion, project, file, and help pages, as well as in version differences and version history."

Resources to dig deeper:
- Go to the author portal in Wikipedia here.
- Overview of what authors can do besides writing articles
- [Help page on user groups](#)

You have completed your 25th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow, it's all about how the Wikiverse will help you on your next journey. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 25 / 30
Status: Star in the Wikiverse

Wikivoyage and OpenStreetMap help you with your next trip

Today we are going on a little trip beyond the Wikiverse ourselves. There is a project that we do not want to withhold from you. It is not directly part of the Wikiverse, but it is an important building block in the world of open data. The free geodatabase OpenStreetMap provides maps under a free license, in contrast to commercial products and companies. Many maps included in Wikipedia and many other applications are fed from OpenStreetMap.

From A to B - fast, safe or with a nice detour
There are great, free apps, such as OsmAnd, which access the detailed map material from OpenStreetMap and make it possible, for example, to plan bicycle tours or even hikes. With these apps, map material can also be downloaded, so that the map also works without the Internet and only with GPS.

Contribute to OpenStreetMap
Like Wikipedia, this project is created and run by volunteers. In addition to streets, villages and towns, they also enter details such as store opening hours, mailboxes or benches into the maps. Data can be entered in a particularly simple and playful way using the StreetComplete app available for Android. "Mapathons" adds map material from neglected crisis regions. Aid organizations such as Doctors Without Borders can thus react quickly in the event of a crisis. There are regional regulars' meetings and topic-specific groups - for example, to map the traffic turnaround in Berlin.

Travel with Wikivoyage
This sister project to Wikipedia is sure to come in handy when you're planning your next trip - or want to feel like you're on vacation at home. Wikivoyage is a travel guide that can be used to plan trips and share travel information.
The platform has the largest German-language collection of free, independent, up-to-date and worldwide travel information. Anyone and everyone can join, and your Wikipedia account is valid here as well.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Licenses and free content in #2 +++ Overview of sister projects in #21 +++

Your mission today
Share a travel tip!
You probably have an insider tip about where to eat well, where to stay, or which sights deserve more attention. Share these tips with Wikivoyage users!
- Log in to Wikivoyage with your Wikipedia account (or create an account here).
- Visit Wikivoyage: https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Search for the country you want to submit your tips for. Once you have found your country, select the city or search for it using the search box.
- Scroll until you get the category for which your tip fits.
- Click on the "Add Entry" link and create your tip in the entry screen!

Resources to go deeper:
- [FAQ about OpenStreetMap](#) (German)
- [Join OpenStreetMap](#)
- [Introduction pages in Wikivoyage](#) (German)

You've completed your 26th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about the diversity of the Wikiverse. So stay tuned!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 26 / 30
Status: Star in the Wikiverse

27 out of 30: Vielfalt im Wikiversum: Alle Perspektiven zählen

Diversity in the Wikiverse: All Perspectives Count

Although Wikipedia claims to represent all the world's knowledge, some perspectives are overrepresented. Of course, knowledge about and from minorities or underrepresented groups should also be included. But that is sometimes not that easy!

The female perspective in the Wikiverse is often neglected
Many Wikipedians do not give personal information about their gender, yet it is assumed that only 10% of volunteer work is done by women.
The tendency for articles to be created more by men is reflected in Wikipedia's content. Less than [17 percent](#) (German) of all biographies in Wikipedia focus on women. Not only the number of articles, but also the content differs from biographies about men. It is not uncommon, for example, for women's biographies to prominently feature references to their private lives and male reference persons, unlike men's biographies.
A well-known example of missing women's biographies is [the case of Donna Strickland](#), a Nobel Prize winner who did not have an article on Wikipedia until the time she was awarded the prize.
Another aspect that the German-speaking community is concerned with is the handling of the generic masculine. Thus, we regularly discuss whether and how gender-appropriate language can find its way into Wikipedia.

Projects that strengthen diversity in the Wikiverse
- [Womeninred](#) is a worldwide wiki project with the goal of creating articles about women on Wikipedia.
- At [WomenEdit](#) (German), women regularly come together in Erlangen and Berlin to edit articles.
- The [wiki project BIENE](#) is dedicated to improving accessibility on Wikipedia.
- The [portal Transgender, Transsexuality and Gender Diversity](#) aims to create an entry point to transgender, transsexual and "third gender" topics within Wikipedia.
- The [Young Wikipedians project](#) (German) brings together authors* under the age of 21.

New Wikipedians like you can also help bring more diversity to Wikipedia content, for example by looking at this list of article requests and editing an article if necessary!

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Community in #2 +++ Unequal distributions in the community in #9 +++

Your mission today
Make a random bet with Wikipedia!
There is an option on Wikipedia to display a random article. This is a good opportunity to see how unevenly knowledge about women and men is distributed in the German-language Wikipedia. Don't believe it? The bet is on!

- On Wikipedia's home page, go to the left side column to "random article," the third item from the top.
- Click through ten random articles.
- If you don't have a man's biography among the first 10 hits, you win!

Resources to dig deeper:

- Interesting Twitter thread by the CEO of the Wikimedia Foundation on the topic of women's representation in Wikipedia (English).
- Inspiring interview with Jessica Wade, who creates a women's biography for Wikipedia every day. (German)

You've completed your 27th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about dictionaries and proverbial animals. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 27 / 30
Status: Star in the Wikiverse

28 out of 30: Von Wörterbüchern und sprichwörtlichen Tieren

About dictionaries and proverbial animals

Another sister project of Wikipedia is Wiktionary. Wiktionary is a project of volunteers to create a freely accessible and multilingual dictionary of the world's linguistic knowledge. Wiktionary is the babel fish of the Wikiverse, so to speak.

The Wiktionary was founded in 2002 - since then the number of entries internationally has grown to over 29.6 million. A small part of these are entries on pronunciation in certain dialects. Some audio examples are worth listening to!

For each word entry there is, among other things, information about meaning, etymological origin, synonyms and phonetic transcriptions and the useful audio examples mentioned above, such as here for the translation of "planet". And unlike a classic bilingual translation dictionary, it offers translations of individual words into all languages that have been entered

by volunteers so far, which varies depending on the word. For example, you can view the word "duck" in over 50 languages at a glance.

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Licenses and free content in #2 +++ Overview of sister projects in #21 +++

Your mission today
How well do you know proverbs with animals?
- Call the list of German proverbs
- How many proverbs with animals can you find?
- Do you know their meaning?

If you miss a proverb in the list, you can add it to the wish list by adding a sentence in the "Miscellaneous" section. To do this, open the editor under "edit" and add your text in double brackets: [[your saying]].

Resources to go deeper:
- Help forum for the Wiktionary

You have completed your 28th mission, congratulations!
Tomorrow it's all about sources of knowledge. So keep at it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 28 / 30
Status: Star in the wikiverse

29 out of 30: Quellen des Wissens: Belege und Nachweise in der Wikipedia

Sources of knowledge: evidence and proof on Wikipedia

As you've heard, you can't write blindly on Wikipedia because it's an encyclopedia - not a rumor mill. The subject of any article should be something of general encyclopedic interest. To find out whether an article stands up to the relevance criteria of the German-language Wikipedia, there is the relevance check (German).
That means: an article about your uncle would be relevant, for example, if he were Joaquin Phoenix and had won an Oscar.

Evidence in the Wikiverse: The source of all knowledge!
Without neutral evidence, a Wikipedia article rarely if ever survives. Where evidence is missing, there are building blocks pointing to it via articles, as for example in this article about an album by Andrea Berg (German) - the short paragraph above the actual content. Everyone can help to improve Wikipedia by adding enough correct evidence.

Suitable sources for this are, for example, books, newspaper articles or scientific magazines. As with scientific work, private websites, self-published books, press releases or information

from social media are not permitted. Likewise, the correct citation method and the ability to reformulate found information well play a major role - because plagiarism has no place on Wikipedia.

If you are not sure: Never mind, just try it out!
Changes made by new users have to be approved or "sighted" by experienced Wikipdians before they become visible to everyone. If you are editing an article and want the changes to be sighted, you can submit a sifting request (German) - the community is here for you!

Related topics from previous emails:
+++ Sighting in #11 +++ Vandalism in #11 +++ Editing in #12 +++ Visual Editor in #14 +++ Contribute page in #20 +++

Your mission today:
Find evidence for your favorite topic
When finding evidence, remember that it should be sources such as books, newspaper articles, or scientific magazines.
1. Click through to the participatory tool (German) that shows you articles to review and find an article category that interests you.
2. Then filter your results by the "evidence missing" category.
3. Open the article that interests you the most.
4. Click on "Edit" in the bar above the article.
5. Now you can research matching resources at your leisure!

Quick guide to inserting receipts:
You can insert a document using the Visual Editor. Simply mark the text passage that you want to insert and click on "Insert". Then a window will open where you can automatically enter links, book sources or citations. To publish, click on the blue button "Insert". You can learn more about citation rules here.

Resources to go deeper:
● Help for inserting references
● What Wikipedia is not

You have completed your 29th mission, congratulations!
As of tomorrow, you're part of the Wikiverse. So stay with it!

You have questions about this mail? Then write to us: mitmachen@wikimedia.de

Achieved: Level 29 / 30
Status: Star in the Wikiverse

30 out of 30: Du bist Teil des Wikiversums!

You are part of the Wikiverse!

Has it really been a month already? You have gained insight into the depths, backgrounds, grand visions and vast community of the Wikiverse. Now you can experience your own adventures!

Finally, we would like to give you some tips on how you can travel the Wikiverse on your own.

Find your hobbyhorse
You already know it: the Participate tool (German). Here you can find exciting tasks on your favorite topics. And in the test of the "Aktion Freies Wissen" (Free Knowledge Campaign) you can check whether it suits you to be a Wikipedia star author or rather a Wikidata query genius (in German).

Get to know the community better
If you want to go deeper and still feel unsure, you can find personal help through the mentor program: Here you will be assigned a contact person who is completely dedicated to your questions and your thirst for knowledge. And if you want to get to know other Wikipedians, take a look at the event calendar, where you can find all the events in your area.

Take advantage of funding opportunities
If you plan to get deeply involved in research and article work, Wikimedia Deutschland e. V. can support you financially and organizationally. Anyone who has been contributing to Wikipedia for at least two months and already has more than 200 edits to show for it can apply for funding - for example, for technical literature, projects for the digitization of cultural assets for the GLAM project, or the loan of cameras for taking photos for Commons.

Your mission today
Give your Wikipedia a fresher look
To be prepared for further forays into the Wikiverse on your own, you can visually refresh the look of Wikipedia for yourself. With so-called skins, Wikipedia suddenly doesn't look quite the same as it did 20 years ago.
- Log in or create an account. Go to your user settings to the item "Appearance: User Interface":
- Pick an option you like. You can "preview" how it will look before confirming the setting.

Resources to go deeper:
- Important links at a glance on "Learn Wikipedia". (German)
- Overview of funding opportunities from Wikimedia Deutschland e. V. (German)