

# Can Help Be Fun?

Wikipedia *experiments* with  
social help

# Welcome to the Teahouse



Welcome to the

## teahouse

A **friendly** place to help new editors become accustomed to Wikipedia culture, ask questions, and develop community relationships.

[Hosts are here to help >>](#)



Jethrobot, Teahouse host

[Guests, create a profile >>](#)

*Do you have a **question** about editing?*

[Get answers >>](#)

Recent questions...

I'd like to know if anyone can help me - I'm being bullied by editors who are unreasonably denying that an article I've worked on has adequate sourcing:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Articles\\_for\\_deletion/Jesse\\_R.\\_Waugh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Articles_for_deletion/Jesse_R._Waugh)

While I hope to not attract the attention of more bullies, I don't know where else to turn for help. If anyone knows the best way to deal with these people please help if you can. [HSoberg \(talk\)](#)

15:44, 11 June 2013 (UTC)

Find the answer [here](#)

[...see another question](#)



Joanne M Ross

Information is free for all who wishes to learn. Webmaster for the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and the Cayman Butterflies.org



# **Fun** Is Serious Business

- **Playful design**
- **Real people**
- **Power of invitation**
- **Welcoming tone**
- **Social mobility**
- **Acknowledgement**

# Old help, meet **New** Help

### Wikipedia Help Desk

- This page is only for questions about *how to use or edit* Wikipedia. For other types of questions, use the search box or the Reference desk.
- Do not provide your email address or any other contact information. Answers will be provided **on this page only**.
- We are all volunteers, so sometimes replies can take some time. Please be patient.


[Are you in the right place?](#)

Search Frequently Asked Questions	Search the help desk archives
<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search the FAQ"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search the archives"/>

[If you can't find an answer, click here to ask a new question.](#)

[Question forum >>](#) [Host profiles >>](#) [Guest profiles >>](#)

Welcome to the Teahouse! A friendly place to learn about editing Wikipedia. [Live help chat >>](#)




## teahouse

[Learn more](#)

[Ask a question](#)

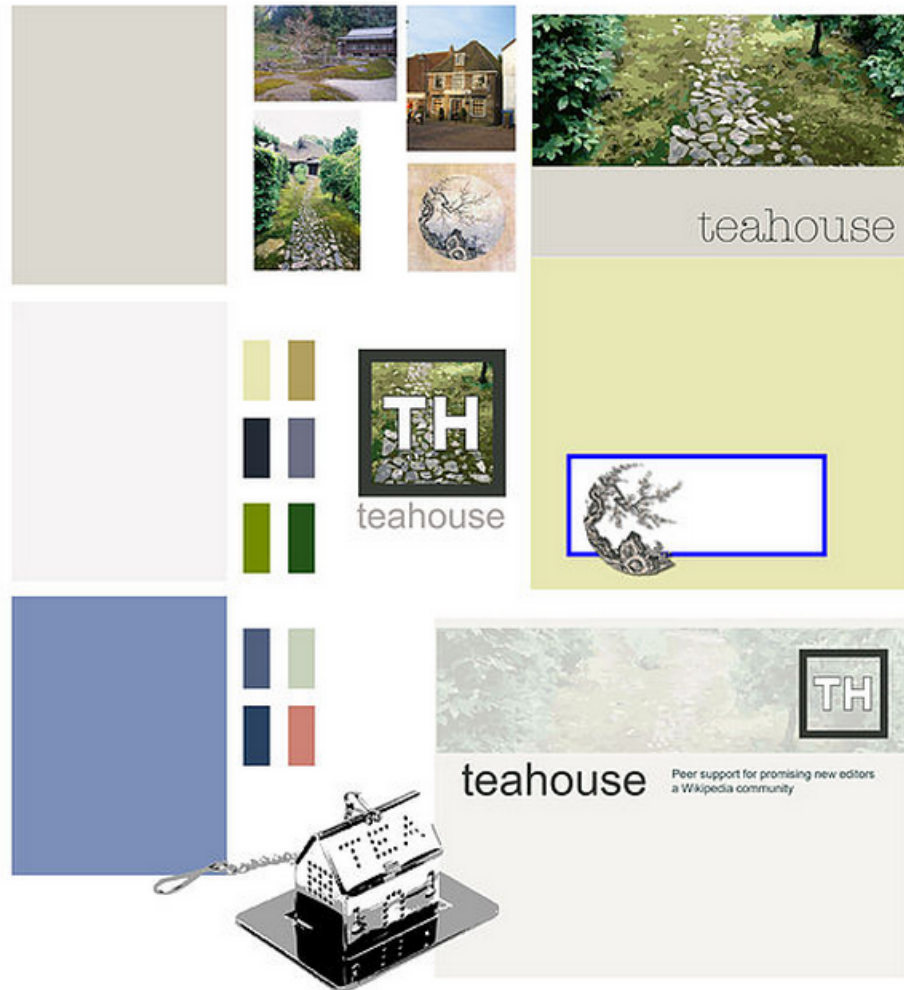
Experienced editor? [Become a host...](#)



Gilderien, Teahouse host

[Question archive >>](#)

# Tone follows Design



# People are Everything

Being an editor on Wikipedia is a great exercise in conflict resolution when communication is sometimes challenging. There's a lot of value in that challenge. Also, don't believe for a second that "ignore all rules" is somehow fake or a pretend policy. If you think you can improve Wikipedia and a rule is getting in the way, do your duty and run past it. Always doing what you are told doesn't mean you'll succeed in life, and that can be true on Wikipedia, too.



## I Jethrobot

Jethro hangs out at [Articles for deletion](#); he actually [writes and improve articles through some of those deletion discussions](#)! Jethro knows all the "secrets" to getting your new article on [the front page of Wikipedia](#), so ask him if you're interested. (It's a thrill when it happens!) Jethro also knows some [Japanese](#), so he helps out at [WikiProject: Japan](#) too. ウィキペディアにようこそ!

I Jethrobot has been awarded these badges:



*joined:* 09:24, 25 August 2012 (UTC)

i love fantasy and,oh maths



visited: 07:12, 3 June 2013 (UTC)



IndiaGiants  
Here to share & learn



visited: 06:02, 6 June 2013 (UTC)



Yann  
I am a music label manager



Queen of aquitaine  
History lover with a special interest in the early Plantagenets particularly Henry 2 and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Also, I'm interested in strong women such as Elizabeth 1- 'I am your anointed queen'



visited: 08:35, 7 June 2013 (UTC)



D.J.  
I'm looking to help make the anatomy pages more understandable to an intelligent layman, like myself, by bringing consistency to the terminology. Please see my user page for more details.

# The power of Invitation

Rmseidel, you are invited to the Teahouse [\[edit\]](#)

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Hi **Rmseidel!** Thanks for contributing to Wikipedia.

Be our guest at [the Teahouse!](#) The Teahouse is a friendly space where new editors can ask questions about contributing to Wikipedia and get help from peers and experienced editors. I hope to see you there! [Ryan Veseley](#) ([I'm a Teahouse host](#))

[Visit the Teahouse](#)

This message was delivered automatically by your robot friend, [HostBot](#) ([talk](#)) 01:15, 11 June 2013 (UTC)

Berishafjolla, you are invited to the Teahouse [\[edit\]](#)

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Hi **Berishafjolla!** Thanks for contributing to Wikipedia.

Be our guest at [the Teahouse!](#) The Teahouse is a friendly space where new editors can ask questions about contributing to Wikipedia and get help from peers and experienced editors. I hope to see you there! [Writ Keeper](#) ([I'm a Teahouse host](#))

[Visit the Teahouse](#)

This message was delivered automatically by your robot friend, [HostBot](#) ([talk](#)) 01:15, 12 June 2013 (UTC)



# Tone requires Intention

*Hi! This is how you become a Teahouse host:*

**Are you...**

- »An editor who understands how Wikipedia works?
- »Helpful to new people, with a clear and friendly manner?
- »Familiar with the Teahouse project?



I promise to:

Remain in good standing on Wikipedia, welcome guests in the Q&A board, speak to others in a friendly and patient way, and generally uphold the **methods of the Teahouse**.

Sign here

**Make me a host!**

## Host: an experienced Wikipedian who helps new editors at the Teahouse

### Our five host expectations >>

1. Welcome everyone
2. Be polite and patient
3. Keep it simple
4. Avoid over-linking
5. Leave a talkback notification

## Citing sources [Join this discussion](#) [\[edit\]](#)

Good morning everyone, I am wondering, because sometimes I have a hard time knowing which format to use, when citing sources how do you know which template to choose. For ex: I found a time "magazine" source that I want to use but the magazine article is online. Would this be cite web or cite book? And its not really a book its a magazine or news? You see my dilemma? How do you know the difference from them all? So anyway in this instance it is TIME magazine I would like to cite as a source. Also I am finding that sometimes when I know I am using the right format that some of the information asked for is not available such as an author (no byline) and/or no date of publication, this is mostly with on line articles of course. Is it ok just to do without that? [TattØØdWaitre\\$|re|](#) 16:15, 10 June 2013 (UTC)

Welcome to the Teahouse, Tattooed Waitress! First, if it comes from a magazine or newspaper, it would fall under "cite news". There is even a section in "cite news" for you to post the URL in case you got the reference from a website. Second of all, you should fill in as much information as you can provide and not worry about missing anything. As long as you got the information from a reliable source, it's fine to be missing something like author or publication date. Happy editing! [♥Brambleberry of|TØ|](#) [RiverClan](#) 16:19, 10 June 2013 (UTC)

Hey Tattoo, LTNS. The purpose of the citation templates is to make formatting consistent but the really important issue is good attribution so that our readers can verify the material in the source. So, sure, it's a good idea to use the template that is most tailored, but it really is small in the scheme of what's important. Anyway, in minor departure from the above I would not use cite news for magazines, but `{{cite journal}}` which has dedicated fields for issue, vol, etc., specific to magazines, though it's not a big deal if you used the other. As to the main question, I think the best way to approach thinking about the issue is to ignore whether the source is online or not, but ask what *is the source*? If a newspaper, `{{cite news}}`, if a journal, `{{cite journal}}`, if a book, `{{cite book}}`, and if a web-only source, then `{{cite web}}`. The link to an online place where the content of an originally *paper source* is hosted, is just a convenience link, the source is the paper. Best regards--[Fuhghettaboutit](#) (talk|re|) 16:30, 10 June 2013 (UTC)

P.S. There is also an all-in-one template `{{Citation}}`, which you can use to mix and match for any of them, though I personally prefer the dedicated templates. --[Fuhghettaboutit](#) (talk|re|) 16:35, 10 June 2013 (UTC)

Yes indeed LTNS [Fuhghettaboutit](#), but so glad to be back. Grateful for both responses here and the quickness of the reply to my questions. It's a big help. [TattØØdWaitre\\$|re|](#) 16:48, 10 June 2013 (UTC)

# Guests **transform** into hosts

"Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not."  
—Ted Kennedy, quoting his brother Bobby in eulogy



## Gtwfan52

I am just a simple fella, who wants to help other new editors here just like you helped me! Wikipedia totally baffled me when I first started editing, but with help and encouragement from the friendly folks at Teahouse, and a good mentor, I have been able to master most of it. I just want to give back.










Gtwfan52 has been awarded these badges:



*joined: 23:56, 8 September 2012 (UTC)*

# Acknowledgement = Encouragement



Badgeometer™									
	Newcomer	Student	Teacher	Master	Guru	Sage	Visionary		



## Teahouse Maitre d' Badge

Awarded to those who manage the public part of the [Wikipedia Teahouse](#).

The maitre d' acts as a community organizer and a moderator who helps to make sure that all aspects of the Teahouse are running smoothly, and that guests have a good experience. The maitre d' is not the boss of Teahouse, but acts as a responsible facilitator for the project.

**Earn more badges at: [Teahouse Badges](#)**

**Large as seen above:** `{{Wikipedia:Teahouse/Badge/Maitre d'|size=}}`

**Large with a message:** `{{Wikipedia:Teahouse/Badge/Maitre d'|message=YOUR MESSAGE|signed=~~~~|size=}}`

## Great Question Badge ↗

[Learn more about this badge](#)



## Great Question Badge

Awarded to those who have asked a great question on the [Teahouse Question Forum](#).

There are no stupid questions, but some are excellent! Good questions are those that reflect serious curiosity about editing and help others learn.

**Earn more badges at: [Teahouse Badges](#)**

**Large as seen above:** `{{Wikipedia:Teahouse/Badge/Question|size=}}`

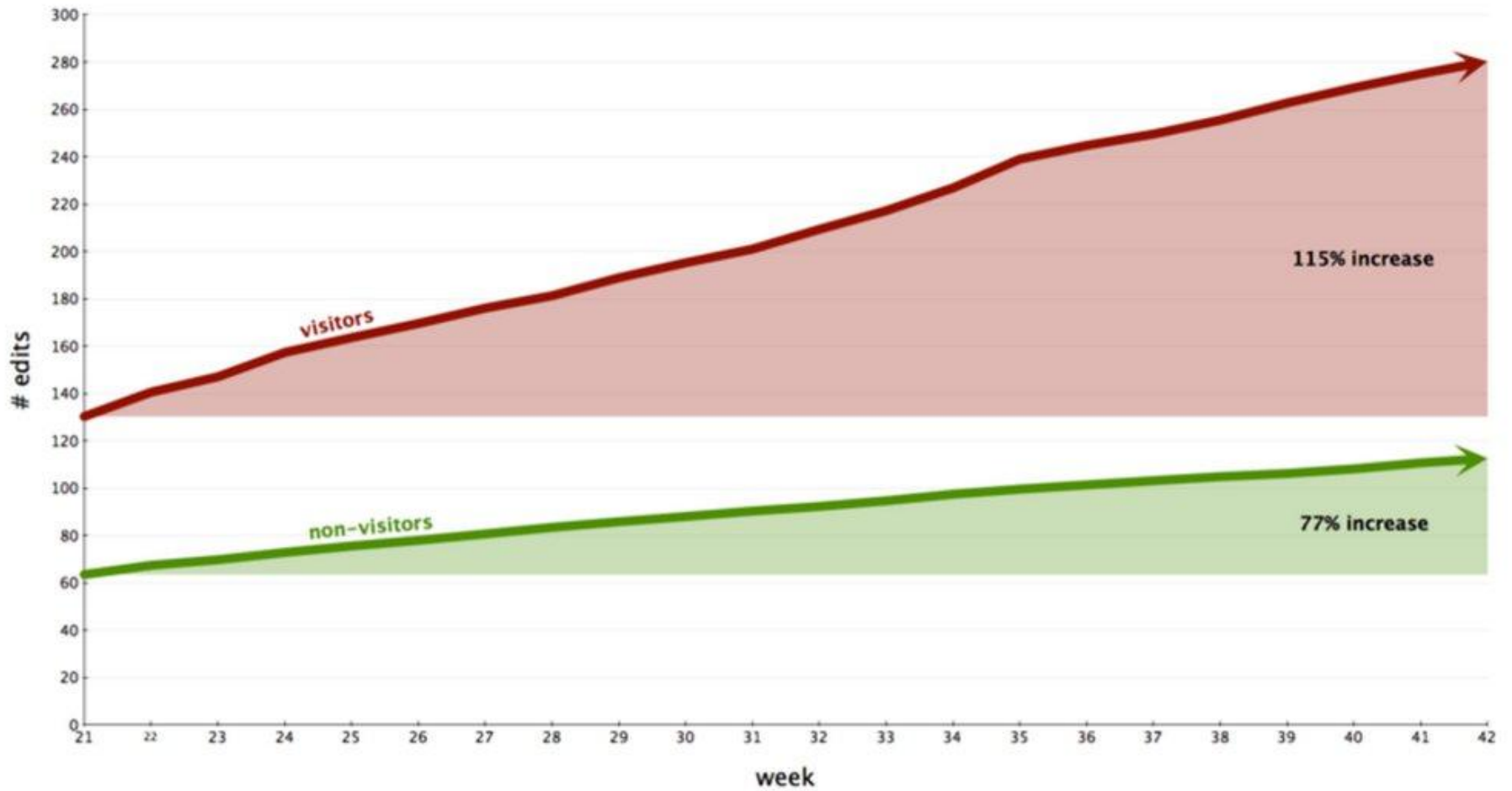
**Large with a message:** `{{Wikipedia:Teahouse/Badge/Question|message=YOUR MESSAGE|signed=~~~~|size=}}`

# It works!

New editors who visit the Teahouse vs control group:  
(similar early edit patterns, 1 year metrics)

- 3x **edits** to Wikipedia articles
- Edit 2x as many **articles**
- 2x talk page **discussions**
- Return to Wikipedia for nearly twice as **long**
- 29% are **women** vs. Wikipedia average of 9% (pilot)

WP:Teahouse visitors vs. invited non-visitors, cumulative edits over time: May 28 - October 21 2012



# What **else** is fun?



**IdeaLab** is an incubator for people to share ideas to improve Wikimedia projects and collaboratively develop them into project plans and [grant proposals](#).



**share**  
.....  
an idea



**improve**  
.....  
an idea



**introduce**  
.....  
yourself

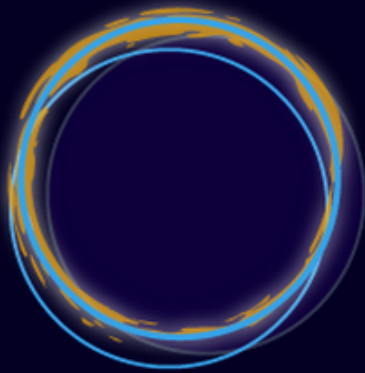


**sharing ideas**



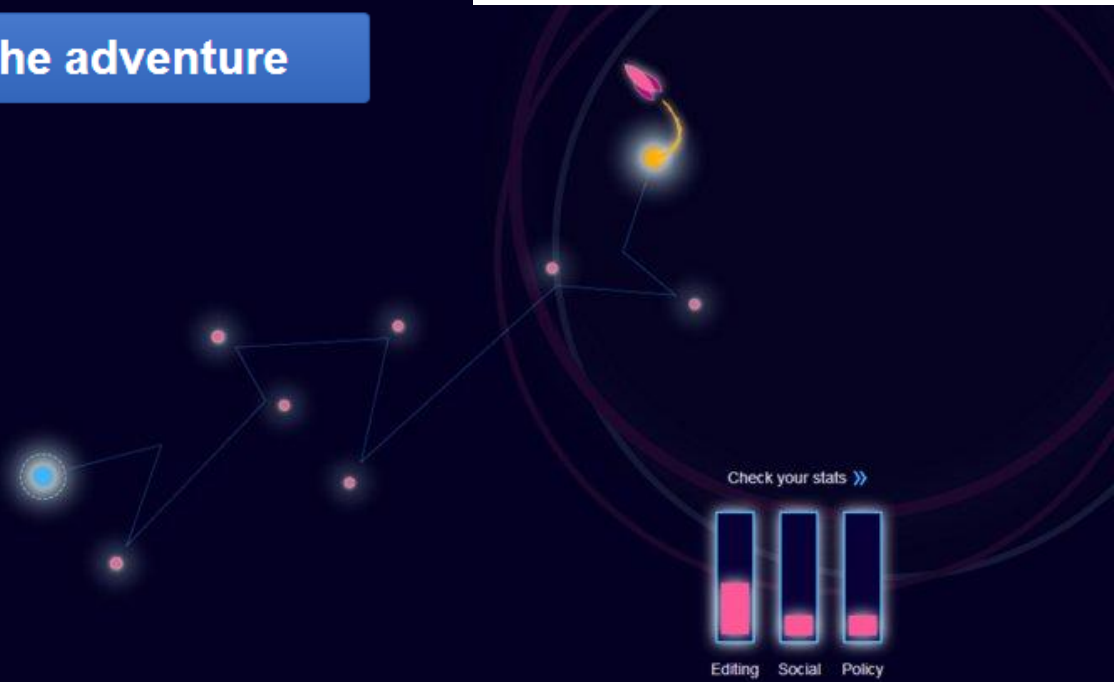


# The WIKIPEDIA Adventure



An interstellar trek through Wikipedia. Full of real skills, tips, tools, tricks, helpers, sources, rewards, and support.

[Start the adventure](#)



- [Mission 1](#)  
Say Hello to the World
- [Mission 2](#)  
An Invitation to Earth
- [Mission 3](#)  
Small Changes, Big Impact
- [Mission 4](#)  
The Neutral Point of View
- [Mission 5](#)  
The Veil of Verifiability
- [Mission 6](#)  
The Civility Code
- [Mission 7](#)  
Looking Good Together

# An Invitation to **Play**...

- When did fun get tagged as trivial?
- How are you helping your users to play?

Siko Bouterse - sbouterse@wikimedia.org - @sikob - Wikimedia Foundation

Jake Orlowitz - jorlowitz@gmail.com - @JakeOrlowitz - Wikipedia Grantee

**Funisseriousbznss Productions**