

# Wikimedia and Democracy

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A young girl with dark hair is looking intently at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a drawing of a green figure, possibly a person or animal, with a white outline. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the girl and the screen.

**We facilitate information literacy projects and programmes in schools, universities and communities**

**We work with others to advocate for pedagogical and public policy initiatives that support media and information literacy skills**

**We conduct research into the impact of our own work and the value of Wikimedia in supporting media and information literacy**

**Wikimedia UK's vision is of a more informed, democratic and equitable society through open knowledge.**



**Our mission is to enable people to engage with open knowledge and access reliable information in order to develop their understanding of the world, and make informed decisions about issues that affect them.**





**Wikimedia UK's strategic theme of Information Literacy resonates with UN Sustainable Development Goals 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; and 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**



WIKIMEDIA  
UK

**“The work in Edinburgh has embedded information literacy skills in the curriculum...(editing Wikipedia) enables students to understand sources and copyright and also leads into discussions about the privilege and geography of knowledge.”**

Melissa Highton - Director of Learning, Teaching and  
Web  
University of Edinburgh



# **Wikimedia and democracy**

**Wikimedia programmes teach  
participants information literacy**

**Higher information literacy can  
significantly increase citizen  
engagement in democratic  
processes**

# Wikimedia and democracy



**Building information literacy skills consists of:**

- **Understanding content, verifying information**
- **Applying critical thinking skills**
- **Using collaborative and group learning skills**
- **Encouraging civic disposition**



# Wikimedia and democracy

## Strengthening civil society means

- **Providing open and free access to accurate information**
- **Improving information literacy skills**
- **Encouraging volunteering**
- **Providing accessible collaborative infrastructure**

# Wikimedia and democracy

Using these arguments, we recommend that:

- Definitions of information literacy at a national level promote the importance of information literacy for democratic participation
- The culture of democratic participation is embedded in formal education curricula
- Information literacy resources from Wikimedia are harnessed in education programmes

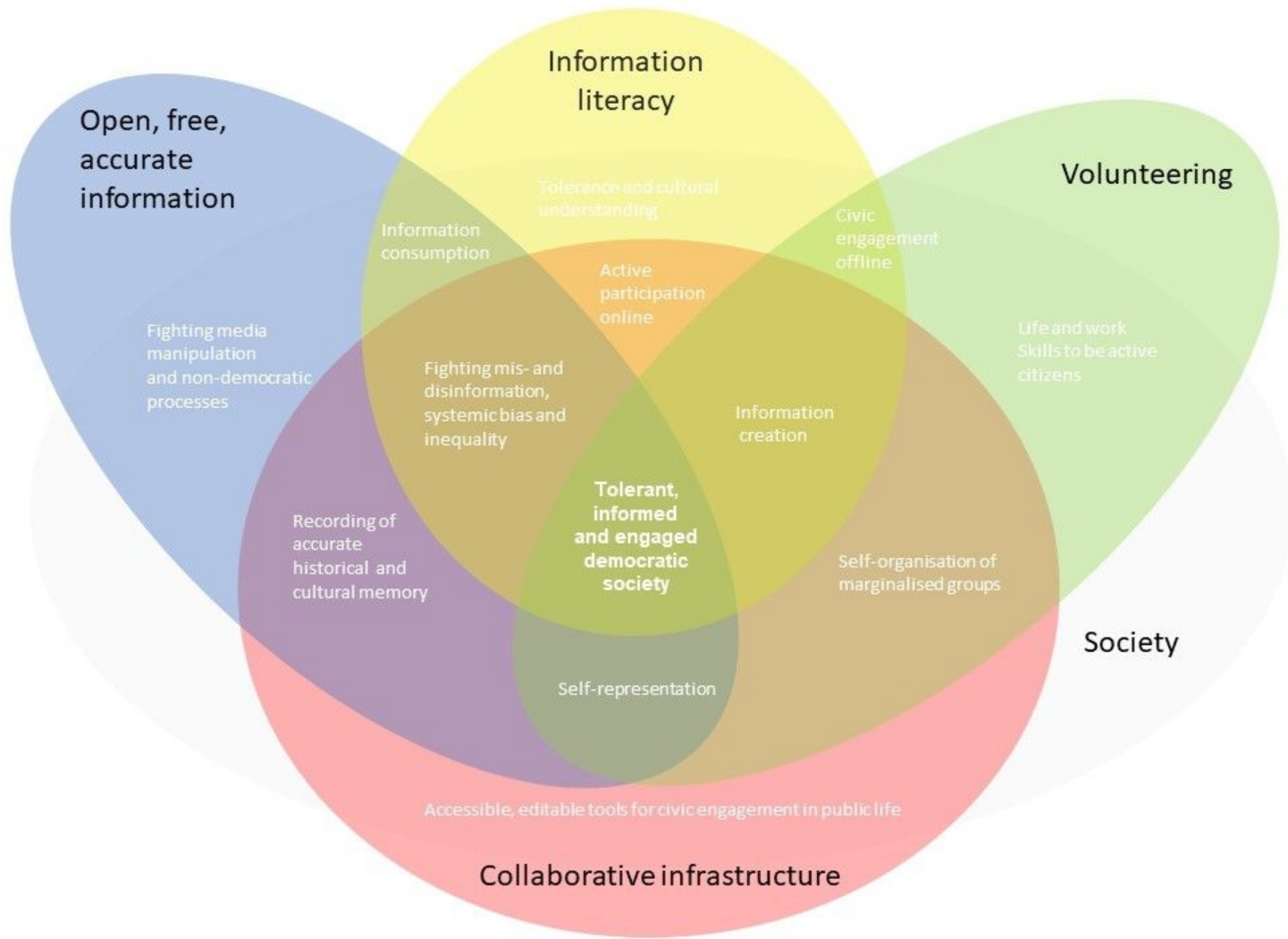
Partner organisations should:

- Organise Wiki volunteer activities as a way to promote civic engagement
- Support marginalised groups to harness the skills gained through wiki training
- Support citizens to tackle systemic biases on Wikipedia


# **Wikimedia and democracy**

**Working on Wikimedia UK projects can facilitate this spirit of working towards a common good (free knowledge for all), cooperation with others, activism, which in the long run encourages an empowered civil society.**

**This can go a long way towards realising Wikimedia UK's vision of a more informed, democratic and equitable society.**








Beth yw erthygl?  
What is an article?

An article is a page where you find information



A young woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark school sweater over a white collared shirt and a red tie, is smiling and looking towards another student whose back is to the camera. They are sitting at a table with a water bottle in front of them. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window.

would help at university when doing projects or researching.

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