

Introduction to Wikipedia

What is Wikipedia?

- Collaboratively edited
- Multilingual
- Free
- Non-profit
- Created, maintained, and run by volunteers

Getting Around

As you get started, it's helpful to familiarize yourself with the interface and how to navigate Wikipedia pages.

Talk
Each article has a corresponding Talk page where contributors can leave comments and suggestions, discuss changes, and ask for help from one another.

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia homepage with several callout boxes explaining different parts of the interface:

- Featured content:** Here you can find some of the best work on Wikipedia: articles, photographs, and other content that meet the community's highest standards.
- Help:** The Help pages, just like the articles, are written by Wikipedia contributors.
- Community portal:** The community portal lets you explore what's going on across Wikipedia, from news to collaborations to policy discussions.
- Tools:** This section has useful tools for getting more information about a page and its history.

The main navigation menu includes:

- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
- Donate to Wikipedia
- Wikimedia Shop
- Interaction
 - Help
 - About Wikipedia
 - Community portal
 - Recent changes
 - Contact page
- Tools
- Print/export
- Languages
 - Afrikaans
 - Akan

The article page for "Encyclopedia" is shown with a "Talk" tab highlighted. The article text includes:

This article is about the type of reference work.

An **encyclopedia** (also spelled **encyclopaedi**) is a type of reference work – a compendium holding information from either all branches of knowledge or a particular branch of knowledge.^[2] Encyclopedias are divided into entries, which are usually accessed alphabetically. Encyclopedia entries are longer and more detailed than dictionary entries.^[3] Generally speaking, unlike dictionaries, encyclopedias focus on factual information about words, events, and places, rather than on linguistic information about words, and their etymology and usage.^{[4][5][6][7]}

Encyclopedias have existed for around 2,000 years. The first known encyclopedia, *Naturalis Historia*, was written in ca. 77 AD by the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder. The modern encyclopedia evolved out of the lexicon in the 17th century. Historically, some encyclopedias were published in one volume, but some, such as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, were published in multiple volumes. The world's largest *Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana*, such as Wikipedia, are electronic.

The word *encyclopedia* comes from the Koine Greek *enkyklios* (ἐγκύκλιος), meaning "of education": *enkyklios* (ἐγκύκλιος), meaning "of education".

Image Credit:
File:Editing
Wikipedia brochure
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Getting Around

Edit

Many readers never notice the Edit button, but it's the most important part of any Wikipedia article. Click the Edit button at the top to edit the whole article, or click one of the inline links to edit a particular section.

View history

The history of a Wikipedia article includes every contribution since it was created. You can see who changed what when, and compare any two versions side by side.



Create account

If you haven't done so yet, create your account. With an account, you can keep track of your contributions, create a personal User page, and receive Notifications when other contributors reply to you or build on what you've done.

Search

Find articles by name, or find pages that include your search terms. You can also enter shortcuts to bring up specific pages that we reference throughout this brochure. A useful one is | **shortcut** WP:HELP.

For other uses, see Encyclopedia (disambiguation).

encyclopædia)^[1] is a summary of a particular into articles or by article name.^[3]



Five Pillars

- Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia
- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can edit, use, modify, and distribute
- Editors should treat each other with respect and civility
- Wikipedia does not have firm rules

Basic Rules

- Neutral point of view
- Reliable Sources
- No original research
- Conflict of interest
- Copyright and plagiarism

Writing Encyclopedically

Inappropriate

What to avoid:

***Britannica* and the Future of Encyclopedias**

Encyclopædia Britannica, although a celebrated and historically significant encyclopedia, has little relevance in modern society. Instead, most experts agree that the future of the encyclopedia genre belongs to Wikipedia and other wiki encyclopedias — created by regular folks like you and me. Ironically, while it was a great influence on Jimmy Wales and the intrepid new generation of amateur encyclopedists who created — and continue to create — Wikipedia, *Britannica* in recent years has come to symbolize everything wrong about the old ways of creating and distributing knowledge: top-down control, unaccountable gatekeepers who decide what does and does not merit coverage, copyright restrictions and high prices that limit access to the wealthy, and — in its current online form — intrusive advertising that undercuts the reliability and usability of its content.

Don't create new essay-like articles or sections.

Don't structure your writing as an argument.

Don't use "weasel words" (like "most experts agree" or "some people say").

Don't use colloquial language or slang.

Don't use "peacock terms" (like "great", "extraordinary", or "intrepid").

Don't inject personal opinion into the writing.

Don't use overly complex language and sentence structure.

Writing Encyclopedically

Appropriate

Since the early 1990s, the *Britannica* has faced new challenges from digital information sources. In rapidly changing fields such as science, technology, politics, culture, and modern history, the *Britannica* has struggled to stay up-to-date, a problem first analyzed systematically by its former editor Walter Yust. ^[1]

Although the *Britannica* is now available both in multimedia form and over the Internet, its preeminence is being challenged by other online encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia. ^[2]

Do:

- Use plain language
- Be brief
- Cite sources to back up factual claims
- Attribute viewpoints to the people who hold them
- Avoid stating conclusions, except when attributed to a specific source

Verifiability and Reliability

- *“Articles should be based on reliable, third-party, published sources with a reputation for fact-checking and accuracy. This means that we publish the opinions only of reliable authors, and not the opinions of Wikipedians who have read and interpreted primary source material for themselves.” – WP:RELIABLE*

Article Layout

- Title
- Infoboxes
- Maintenance tags
- Images
- Introduction
- Table of Contents
(automatically inserted)
- Body Sections
- Works or Publications
- See Also
- Notes and References
- Further Reading
- External Links
- Categories
- Stub

User Pages

- Every user has one
- Used to coordinate on-wiki activities
- Tell everyone a little about yourself with yours

Talk Pages

- Every page has one
- Talk page of a user page is for messaging them
- Article talk page is for discussion of improving article

Demo Time!

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