Wikipedia article creation

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and

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- R&D team & Growth*

* rejiggering the Wikipedias
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- Wiki Research → Inform Design

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#wikimedia-research
#wikimedia-growth

* rejiggering the Wikipedias
Outline

1. Background: Article creation workflow
Outline

1. Background: Article creation workflow
2. Results: Newcomer article creation
Outline

1. Background: Article creation workflow
2. Results: Newcomer article creation
3. Implications: Science → Design
Part 1. Background
How to create an article
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn’t exist
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn’t exist
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn't exist
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. Find an article that doesn’t exist
3. Add some content
How to create an article

1. Go to Wikipedia
2. *Find* an article that doesn’t exist
3. Add some content
4. Hit “save”
How to create an article

Done!
Workflows

“Direct to Main”

Article
Workflows

“Direct to Main”

Article — NPP — CSD — AFD — Survived
Workflows

“Direct to Main”

Article

Survived

AFD

CSD

NPP

Deleted
Workflows

“Direct to Main”

- Article
  - Survived
  - Deleted
Workflows

“Direct to Main”

draft? → Article

Survived

Deleted
Workflows

Draft space
- Direct to Main
- User space drafts

Main space
- Article
  - Survived
  - Deleted

Draft
User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn’t exist
User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn’t exist
2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*
User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail/Article** that doesn’t exist
2. *iterate, make mistakes and fix them*
3. Move to Main when you’re ready
User space draft

1. **User:EpochFail**/Article that doesn’t exist
2. iterate, make mistakes and fix them
3. Move to Main when you’re ready

Cool! Right?
Workflows

Draft space

Direct to Main
User space drafts

Draft

Main space

Article
Survived
Deleted

safe space
Workflows

Draft space

Direct to Main

User space drafts

Main space

Article

Survived

Deleted

Scrubtinity!
Articles for Creation

Never mind. I just did the whole thing manually. --Khoikhoi 05:08, 10 December 2005 (UTC)

Anon page creation restriction  [edit]

Jimmy's had me disable creation of new pages by anonymous users on en.wikipedia as an experiment. Any logged-in user can still create articles, and any anon can still create talk pages. Anons can still edit existing pages, but to create a new article page will require first logging in.

This is one in a series of experiments on cutting vandalism without cutting too much into the ability of people to get things done; with a hojillion articles already, creating new ones is less of a priority than it was two or three years ago, while tuning up existing articles is quite important.

The message shown can be edited at MediaWiki:Nocreatetext and MediaWiki:Nocreatetitle. - - Brion 19:07, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

Interesting. It should probably say "by users who are not logged in" on that page, though - - if someone wants to create a page, they can log in and do it.

I don't entirely see the motivation. Someone else said -- and I agree -- that new pages really aren't as much of a problem as vandalism to existing pages. People just get more upset at new pages because they have such a high profile on AID. If page creation could be "reverted" without five days of discussion, like vandalism can be, this kind of option wouldn't be necessary. rspeer 19:49, 5 December 2005 (UTC)

One minor detail: creation of talk pages for referenced-but-as-yet-uncreated articles
Articles for Creation

Jimmy's had me disable creation of new pages by anonymous users on en.wikipedia as an experiment. Any logged-in user can still create articles, and any anon can still create talk pages. Anons can still edit existing pages, but to create a new article page will require first logging in.

This is one in a series of experiments on cutting vandalism without cutting too much into the ability of people to get things done; with a hojillion articles already, creating new ones is less of a priority than it was two or three years ago, while tuning up existing articles is quite important.

Brion -- December, 2005
Wikipedia:Articles for creation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Uncle G (talk | contribs) at 09:15, 2 January 2006. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

(diff) - Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

The easiest way to create a new article is to create an account then log in - no personal information is necessary.

If you prefer not to create an account, you can post requests for article creation here. Registered users who see these requests can create articles for you. Remember your requested topic must be suitable for Wikipedia.

Please read Wikipedia:Your first article before making a proposal - it will help you avoid the classic "newbie" mistakes, and save your hard work being deleted.

Template:AFC instructions

Wikipedia:Articles for creation/Today

Click here to make a proposal (don't change the text in the box above)

You can get more information on using Wikipedia at the Welcome page.

Recently created articles:

- Created on December 31: Bergwind, Léon-Bernard Glot
- Created on December 30: Hsu Shu-Cheng, Huvaton Fushi
- Created on December 28: Richard Bradford (actor)
- Created on December 24: Richard E. Fleming
- December 15 creations: Miller effect
The easiest way to create a new article is to create an account then log in - no personal information is necessary.

If you prefer not to create an account, you can post requests for article creation here.

January, 2006
Wikipedia:Articles for creation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Masly (talk | contribs) at 00:38, 1 February 2007. It may differ significantly from the current revision.

This page allows unregistered and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians. The easiest way to create a new article, however, is to create a free Wikipedia user account and then log in. No personal information is necessary to register, and registered users can create new articles without the hassle or delay of the Article for Creation process.

If you have an idea for a good article subject, but do not want to provide text for the article, you should make an article request instead. Alternatively, if you want to discuss and plan an article go to the drawing board.

Most articles are declined... don't let this happen to you!

The majority of submitted articles are declined, because they are not suitable for Wikipedia. Read Wikipedia:Your first article before writing your article, to learn how to write it well and read below to avoid some common mistakes other people make.

Unregistered users: Submitting an article

Follow these directions to submit an article for creation.

Registered users: Reviewing submissions

Registered Wikipedians should follow these directions to review submitted text and create new articles.
This page allows **unregistered** and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians.

February, 2007
This page allows unregistered and new users to create new articles with the assistance of experienced Wikipedians.

February, 2007
Workflows

Draft space

- Direct to main
- User space drafts
- Articles for creation

- Draft
- Pending
- Declined
- Accepted

Main space

- Survived
- Deleted
Workflows

Draft space

- Direct to main
- User space drafts

Articles for creation

- Draft
- Pending
- Declined
- Accepted

Mentorship

Main space

- Article
- Survived
- Deleted
Workflows

Draft space

- Direct to main
- User space drafts

Articles for creation

- Mentorship
  - Draft
  - Pending
  - Declined
  - Accepted

Main space

- Scrutiny!
  - Survived
  - Deleted

Draft space

- Article

Survived

Deleted
Workflows

Newcomers $\rightarrow$ Articles for Creation
Workflow examined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main space</th>
<th>Draft space</th>
<th>AfC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English only
Part 2. Results
Methods!
Methods!

“surviving articles”
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

![Graph showing density over time for surviving articles and editor classes.](image-url)
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

lifetime (edit diff, log scaled)
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

- day
- day-week
- week-month
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

Time registration

- day

- day-week

- week-month

Month-
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

Methodologies for analyzing editorial activity over time, including registration metrics and user classification.
Methods!

“surviving articles”

“editor classes”

- day
- day-week
- month-
Questions

● Who’s creating all the articles?
● Whose articles survive?
● What effect does the workflow have?
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?

![Graph showing article creation proportions in dewiki and enwiki.](image-url)
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?
Who is creating all the articles?

- 55-85% Experienced Wikipedians
- 5-15% Newcomers
- 10-20% Anons*

* non-enwiki
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?

Wat
Whose articles survive?

RFC Comments:

Sticking your finger into an electric shredder is not a sensible experiment, we know exactly what the result will be and confirming the prediction will be painful. […]

Tim Vickers

And you think the deletion backlogs are bad now? Just wait until IP creation is open. It's like opening big can of worms. Miranda
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?
Whose articles survive?

- More experience $\rightarrow$ More survival
Whose articles survive?

● More experience → More survival
● Anons > Newest newcomers
Whose articles survive?

- More experience $\rightarrow$ More survival
- Anons $>$ Newest newcomers
- Japanese editors (???)
Whose articles survive?

- More experience $\rightarrow$ More survival
- Anons $>$ Newest newcomers
- Japanese editors

Caveats & complaints $\rightarrow$ Discussion
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?

German Wikipedia
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?

German Wikipedia

Direct to Main

User draft

Original namespace

Survival probability of articles as a function of time since publication. The graphs show the survival probability for articles published on different days, weeks, months, and the combined effect. The colored areas represent the confidence intervals.
What effect does the workflow have?

Drafts reserved for articles that might not make it?  *shrugs*
What effect does the workflow have?

English Wikipedia
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
The diagram compares article creation proportions in two wikis, `dewiki` and `enwiki`. The x-axis represents different time periods (anon, day, week, month, month-autocreate) while the y-axis shows article creation proportions. The `enwiki` chart shows significantly higher proportions in the `month-autocreate` category compared to `dewiki`. A highlighted bar in the `enwiki` chart indicates a notable increase in article creation in the `month-autocreate` period.
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?
What effect does the workflow have?

- Drafts → Survival*
What effect does the workflow have?

- Drafts → Survival*
  - Especially for newcomers
What effect does the workflow have?

- Drafts → Survival*
  - Especially for newcomers
  - German is weird (???)
What effect does the workflow have?

- Drafts → Survival*
  - Especially for newcomers
  - German is weird (???)
- AfC trades productivity for quality
What effect does the workflow have?

- **Drafts → Survival***
  - Especially for newcomers
  - German is weird (???)
- **AfC trades productivity for quality**
  - Higher survival than user drafts (~95%)
What effect does the workflow have?

- **Drafts → Survival***
  - Especially for newcomers
  - German is weird (????)

- **AfC trades productivity for quality**
  - Higher survival than user drafts (~95%)
  - Massive backlog slows production (~50% loss)
Part 3. Implications
Anons are better than we thought
Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered* can publish

* and autoconfirmed
Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered* can publish
- Better understanding of anons

* and autoconfirmed
Anons are better than we thought

- Revisit anon article creation?
- Draft namespace
  - Anons can create articles
  - Only registered* can publish
- Better understanding of anons
  - Why don’t they register?

* and autoconfirmed
Trade productivity for quality
Wikipedia: BOLD, revert, discuss cycle

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Wikimedia Foundation's 2014 steward election has started. Please vote.

While this essay is not a policy or guideline itself, it is intended to supplement the Wikipedia: Consensus and Wikipedia: Be bold pages, which should be deferred to in case of inconsistency between that page and this one.

This page in a nutshell: Making bold edits is encouraged, as it will result in either improving an article, or stimulating discussion. Therefore, if your edit gets reverted, do not revert again. Instead, use the opportunity to begin a discussion with the interested parties to establish consensus.

The BOLD, revert, discuss cycle (BRD) is a proactive method of reaching consensus. It can sometimes be useful for identifying objections, keeping discussion moving forward and help towards breaking deadlocks. Care and diplomacy should be exercised. Some editors will see any reversion.
1. **Boldly** do what you think is right
2. If someone disagrees, they will **revert**
3. Have a **discussion** about what to do
Trade productivity for quality

- Insight of WP:BRD
Trade productivity for quality

- Insight of WP:BRD
  - Most people will do the right thing if you let them
Trade productivity for quality

● Insight of WP:BRD
  ○ Most people will do the right thing if you let them

● Workflow designers/developers
  ○ Beware the backlog
Thanks

Wikipedia article creation

You went too far.
GO BACK!
NO!