



Your Wikipedia Library

8 ways a Wikipedia Library Branch can help your community

A Wikipedia Library Branch in your language creates a better research experience for editors and readers. By building spaces on-wiki for editors to gain access to hard-to-find resources, understand how to use available sources, and collaborate with professionals like librarians and publishers, you can advance Wikipedia's mission of sharing knowledge in your community.

1. **Wikipedia starts with research**

The “sum of all human knowledge” has to come from somewhere: print and digital research materials. Wikipedia Library branches make the process of finding, accessing and using those research materials more easy, collaborative, and efficient.

2. **Research is often hard to do well**

Librarians train for years to guide patrons to the best resources, but Wikipedians often don't have librarians supporting their research activities. What if every community created Wikipedia Library branches to become that portal for support helping editors to do better research?

3. **Effective research requires access to resources**

The Wikipedia Library establishes partnerships with publishers and libraries to get editors access to expensive, paywalled, or hard-to-find resources which they otherwise might not be able to find or afford. A branch in your language can partner with publishers and libraries for your community.

4. **Research is best when it is collaborative**

Editors have a lot of knowledge about what sources are reliable, where to find them, how to access them, and how to interpret them. A central research space in your branch allows individual knowledge to be shared and used to improve article quality across the whole community.

5. **Access to research is not enough, you also need research literacy**

Many of our editors have never had the opportunity to learn how to find the best sources, interpret them, and cite them appropriately. Wikipedia Library branches can collect best practices for editors to learn these valuable skills, and introduce editors to materials and tools which build that expertise.

6. **Libraries are great allies in our mission of sharing knowledge**

We can't solve all research problems alone; the library profession has developed best practices and services over many years that help patrons do research. A Wikipedia Library branch can help these important allies engage in what they do best: offering research and library services.

7. **Research engages volunteers and readers**

Wikipedia has become the place where many people start their research, and volunteers build their work on the research created by other editors. Wikipedia Library branches lead to greater understanding of how good research builds Wikipedia and how to contribute to it more effectively.

8. **Open access is a key objective**

While The Wikipedia Library provides access to costly resources, promoting open-access sources is also a critical goal. Your branch can compile bibliographies of open-access sources, promoting their use within your community, and advocating broader adoption of open access standards and policies.

8 ways to build your Wikipedia Library Branch

1. Read our simple New Branch Setup Guide

The TWL team has written a step-by-step guide for setting up new branches, as well as helpful templates and sample pages to copy and translate. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/Setup>

2. Explore existing Wikipedia Library branches

Several Wikipedias already have branches that you can use as a model or to get ideas from (but you don't need to match them). French, English, Chinese, Arabic, Finnish, Turkish, Farsi, and German all have very different ideas and ways of supporting editors with their branch. Mix and match the best ideas to fit your unique community needs. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/Explore>

3. Start a Community Discussion

The best way to understand what resources your community wants and needs is to ask! A community discussion can give you ideas of ways to move forward and can also engage more volunteers to help out. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/Consult>

4. Start an even easier-to-set-up “Light” Library Branch

Sometimes starting small is the best way to begin, especially for small wikis. The ‘TWL Light’ model has instructions on how to start a basic library page, with less time commitment than our full setup guide. Check out the “Light” guide here: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL_Light

5. Meet your community’s research needs

Many useful resources are subscription-only, or are “paywalled”. TWL helps form partnerships and use other strategies to help editors get access without expensive purchases. Start by making a list of the resources that would be most useful to editors in your language. The TWL team can give you advice, support, and documents to help make research access and publisher partnerships happen! https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/Research_access

6. Engage local library communities

Libraries and librarians have the best solutions for many of the problems facing our research communities. We have collected case studies from multiple communities on how to engage public libraries, reference librarians and research libraries, to help you connect with those communities. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/Outreach>

7. Talk to our Library Team for ideas

The Wikipedia Library has a team of coordinators experienced at supporting Library branches. Talk to us if you have questions or are wondering what strategies are best for your community. And check out our branch development strategies, too. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/TWL/DEV>

8. Let us know about your branch

As the number of Wikipedia Library branches grows, it is important that library coordinators all stay in touch, share their experiences, and share their resources with the rest of the global Wikimedia community. If you have a branch already, let us know! And if you want one, we are ready to help!

Get started now...

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/The_Wikipedia_Library
wikipedialibrary.org wikipedialibrary@wikimedia.org