

# Three Years of Wikipedia at Maynooth University

Dr. Brian McKenzie  
Lecturer, Critical Skills  
[brian.mckenzie@mu.ie](mailto:brian.mckenzie@mu.ie)



**WIKIMEDIA**  
EDUCATION

I. Why we do it.

II. What we do (or not)

III. What we are learning



CC SA 3 by Henryk Borawski

# I. Why we do it

## Critical Skills at Maynooth University

I. First-Year Interdisciplinary Sem in ar

II. Writing skills

III. Information literacy



# I. Why we do it

Students, Libraries,  
Research Trajectories,  
and Wikipedia

Meaningful assessment

Maynooth University library



CC SA 3 by Davechip



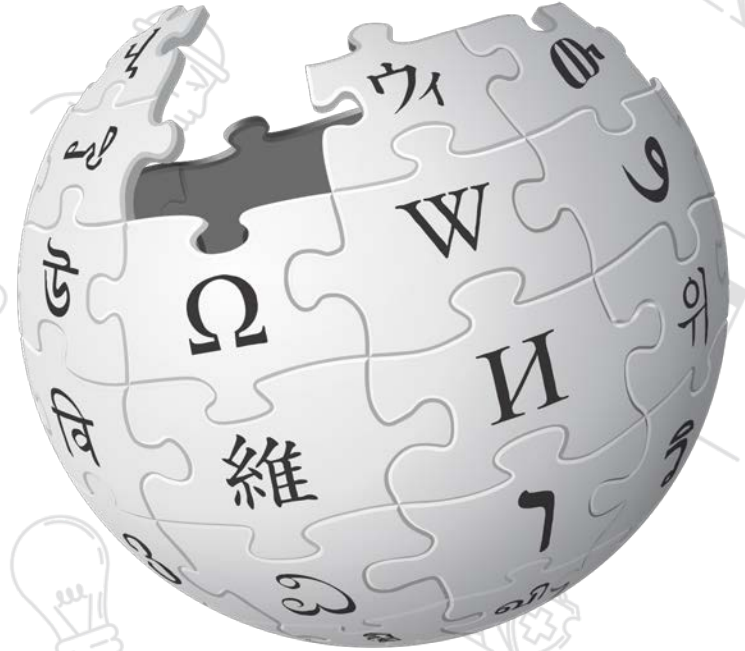
## II. What we do

Embed Wikipedia into  
Information Literacy

“Information Privilege”

Working with peer-reviewed  
journals:

1. Finding
2. Contextualizing
3. Paraphrasing
4. Referencing



# II. What we do

## Writing articles

1. Team work skills

2. Civic engagement

3. Discipline specific skills



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

[Main page](#)  
[Contents](#)  
[Featured content](#)  
[Current events](#)  
[Random article](#)  
[Donate to Wikipedia](#)  
[Wikipedia store](#)

Interaction

[Help](#)  
[About Wikipedia](#)  
[Community portal](#)  
[Recent changes](#)  
[Contact page](#)

Article [Talk](#)

## *State (Burke) v. Lennon*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

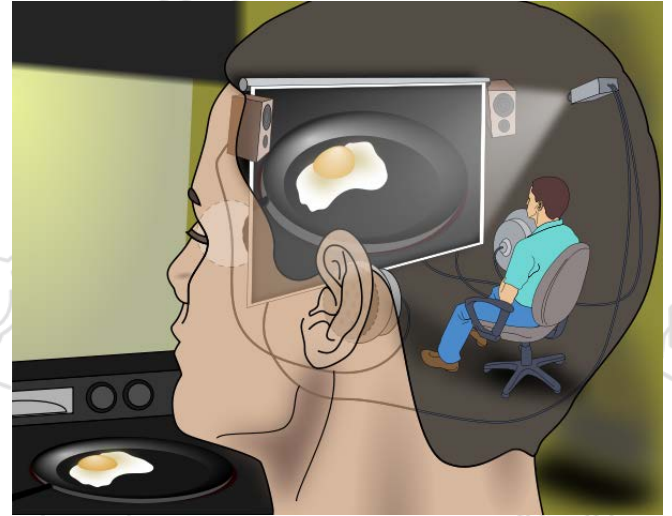
***State (Burke) v. Lennon*** [1940] IR 136 was a landmark trial" under the 1939 [Offences against the State Act](#) in the "unconstitutional."<sup>[2]</sup> In a case before the [High Court](#), the judgment "liberty save in accordance with the law" of article 40.4<sup>[3]</sup>

### Contents [hide]

- [Case details](#)
- [Result](#)
- [Precedents](#)
  - [Precedents used](#)
- [References](#)
- [External links](#)

# III. What we are learning

1. Academics and Wikipedia
2. Wikipedians and academics
3. The nature of Wikipedia



CC SA 2.5 by Pbroks13, original Jennifer Garcia

# III. What we are learning

“Authority is constructed and contextual” (ACRL)

## Academics and Wikipedia

- Inexcusable level of ignorance
- vs.
- Wikipedia as data object/petri dish

## Wikipedians and academics

- (understandable) ambivalence to compulsory editing
- Poor understanding of research and sources





# III. What we are learning

## 3. The nature of Wikipedia

### Cognitive Capitalism

“The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force.” Karl Marx, *The German Ideology*

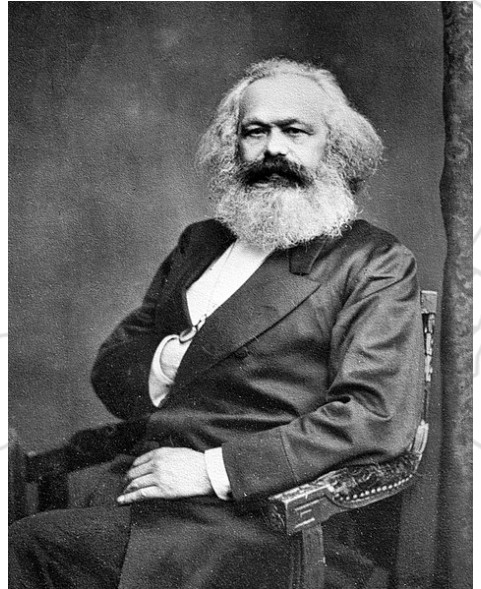


Photo by John Mayal, 1875



# Thank you !

[brian.mckenzie@mu.ie](mailto:brian.mckenzie@mu.ie)



**WIKIMEDIA**

EDUCATION