

Open Knowledge Management

The wiki way

ECKM 2009
Vicenza, 4 Sep 2009

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Wikimedia Italia



Background



Openness

- basis of how various groups and organizations operate.
- it is typified by communal management, and open access to the information or material resources needed for projects.
- decisions being made by some form of consensus decision-making or voting.



Wiki

- website using wiki software, allowing the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked Web pages within the browser.
- Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites, to power community websites, for personal note taking, in corporate intranets, and in knowledge management systems.



Wiki

Ward Cunningham, the developer of the first wiki software (in 1995) , WikiWikiWeb, originally described it as "*the simplest online database that could possibly work.* "

"Wiki" is a Hawaiian word for "fast".





Wikimedia Universe

several

online

collaborative

wiki

projects



Projects at a glance

Welcome to Wikimedia.

Wikimedia is owned and operated by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit foundation dedicated to bringing free content to the world. The various Wikimedia projects are listed below:



a multilingual tree
encyclopedia
Wiktionary
[ˈwɪkʃənri] n.,
a wiki-based Open
Content dictionary
Wilea [ˈwɪl kəri]



History

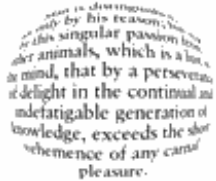


Wikipedia

- online encyclopedia
- can be edited by anyone
- aims to provide free encyclopedic information
- launched on 15 January 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger
- The concept of a free online encyclopedia originally came from Richard Stallman.



Wikipedia



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The Free Encyclopedia

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Main Page

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Welcome to Wikipedia, a collaborative project to produce a complete [encyclopedia](#) from scratch. We started in January [2001](#) and are already working on [48152 articles](#), with more being added and improved all the time. Anyone, including *you*, can edit any article right now, without even having to log in. You can copyedit, expand an article, write a little or write a lot. See the [Wikipedia FAQ](#) for more background information about the project, and the [help page](#) for information on how to use and contribute to Wikipedia.

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Background on current events

[Current events](#) - [Oktoberfest](#) - [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#) - [West Nile virus](#) - [Maurice Papon](#) - [Gerhard Schröder](#) - [Bob Hayes](#) - [Robert L. Forward](#) - [Apollo 12](#)

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Internationalization

- first domain created for a non-English Wikipedia was *deutsche.wikipedia.com*
- In January 2002, 90% of all Wikipedia articles were in English.
- By January 2004, less than 50% were English.
- As of 2007, around 75% of all Wikipedia articles are contained within non-English Wikipedia versions.



Structure: March 30, 2001

- few info about the project
- no project name in the title of the page
- generic logo



Structure: March 30, 2001

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You can [edit this page right now!](#) It's a free, community project



Welcome to [Wikipedia!](#) We're writing a complete encyclopedia from scratch, collaboratively. We started work in January 2001. We've got over 3,000 pages already. We want to make over 100,000. So, let's get to work! Write a little (or a lot) about what you know! Read our welcome message here: [Welcome, newcomers!](#)

Some questions you might have are answered below, but why not first explore a few links?

[Philosophy](#) -- [Mathematics](#) -- [Statistics](#) -- [Science](#) -- [Physics](#) -- [Chemistry](#) -- [Biology](#) -- [Astronomy and Astrophysics](#) -- [Earth Sciences](#)

[Countries of the world](#) -- [History](#) -- [Linguistics & Language](#) -- [Politics](#) -- [Economics](#) -- [Geography](#) -- [Anthropology](#) -- [Archaeology](#) -- [Psychology](#) -- [Sociology](#) -- [History of Science and Technology](#) -- [Anomalous Phenomena](#)

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The above reflects only one of Wikipedia's [category schemes](#).

Want to learn about something? Add the topic to our list of [requested articles](#).

You're wondering:

- [What is a wiki?](#)
- [How does one edit a page?](#) *Quick hint: press the "Edit text of this page" link at the top and bottom of every page!* Practice editing pages in our [SandBox](#).
- [How is Wikipedia related to Nupedia?](#)
- What are your [new topics](#)? (The very latest can be found via the [RecentChanges](#) link at the top and bottom of every page.)
- Why do some of the links look funny, [LikeThis](#), while other of the links don't? See the [Wikipedia FAQ](#) and the [Free Links](#) page.

Other questions? Just ask on the [Wikipedia FAQ](#). See also [Wikipedia policy](#) and [Wikipedia-L](#) (Wikipedia's mailing list!). Read [Wikipedia Announcements](#) to stay on top of the latest developments.

Techie links:

- [PublicDomainResources](#)
- [Feature requests](#)



Structure: December 17, 2001

- more info about the project (description & goals)
- project name
- full logo
- small menu
- *“Note: Unless you have the administrator password, you cannot currently edit this page. While this is unfortunate, it has turned out to be necessary to prevent vandalism of this page, which has occurred on several occasions.”*



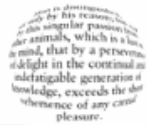
Structure: December 17, 2001

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

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Welcome to Wikipedia, a collaborative project to produce a complete encyclopedia from scratch. We started in January 2001 and already have **over 19,000 articles**. We want to make over 100,000, so let's get to work--*anyone* can edit any article--copyedit, expand an article, write a little, write a lot. See the [Wikipedia FAQ](#) for information on how to edit pages and other questions.

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Encyclopedia articles about topics behind the news.

[2001 U.S. Attack on Afghanistan](#) - [More current events](#)

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Structure: June 2, 2002

- "Phase II" of the wiki software powering Wikipedia was introduced, replacing the older UseModWiki. Written specifically for the project by Magnus Manske, it included a PHP wiki engine
- tech tools (Statistics, New pages, Orphans, Most wanted, Most popular, Random Page, Stub articles, Long articles, List users, Bug reports)
- Namespaces (special, talk)
- two menus (top & right)



Structure: June 2, 2002

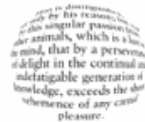
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66.28.250.178

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Encyclopedia articles about the topics behind the news.

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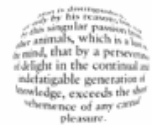


Structure: Nov 30, 2002

- dubbed "Phase III", it replaced the older "Phase II" version, and became MediaWiki. It was written by Lee Daniel Crocker in response to the increasing demands of the growing project
- interlanguage links
- more namespaces (Wikipedia)
- two menus (top & right)



Structure: Nov 30, 2002



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Structure: Dec 8, 2003

- definitive logo
- colours
- Sister Projects (Meta, Wiktionary, Wikibooks, Wikiquote, Wikisource)



Structure: Dec 8, 2003



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How does it work?



Open editing model

“So in the beginning, anybody could edit Wikipedia.

And then anybody could edit Wikipedia.

And as of tomorrow, anybody can edit Wikipedia.”

Jimmy Wales



Open editing model

- Except for a few pages every article may be edited anonymously or with a user account
- while only registered users may create a new article (*only in English edition*).
- No article is owned by its creator or any other editor



Open editing model

- the articles are collectively owned by a community of editors.
- Changes to an article are available immediately
- There's no review before publishing



Open editing model: features

- There's a "History" page attached to each article
- it records every single past revision of the article
- It's possible to remove a revision afterwards.
- Makes it easy to compare old and new versions, undo changes that an editor considers undesirable, or restore lost content



Vitamin C

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
([Difference between revisions](#))

Revision as of 17:48, 23 February 2007 (edit)

Lumos3 (Talk | contribs)

(→*Plant sources - Remove special mention of Amla, its already in the table*)

← Older edit

Current revision (04:17, 24 February 2007) (edit) (undo)

Jrockley (Talk | contribs)

(*remove vandalism and cleanup scurvy section*)

Line 73:

=== Deficiency disease ===
[[Scurvy]] (a form of [[avitaminosis]]) results from lack of vitamin C, **which is required** for correct [[collagen]] synthesis **in humans**. Scurvy leads to the formation of liver spots on the skin, spongy gums, and bleeding from all [[mucous membrane]]s. The spots are most abundant on the thighs and legs, and a person with the ailment looks pale, feels depressed, and is partially immobilized. In advanced scurvy there are open, [[suppuration|suppurating]] wounds and loss of [[teeth]].

Scurvy was at one time common among [[sailor]]s, [[pirate]]s and others who were on [[ship]]s that were out to sea longer than perishable [[fruit]]s and [[vegetable]]s could be stored **and by** [[soldier]]s **who were similarly separated from these foods for extended periods**. It was described by [[Hippocrates]] (c. 460 BC–c. 380 BC). **Its cause and cure has been known in many native cultures since prehistory**. For example, in 1536, the French explorer [[Jacques Cartier]], exploring the [[Saint Lawrence River|St. Lawrence River]], used the local natives' knowledge to save his men **who were dying of scurvy**. He boiled the needles of the [[Thuja|arbor vitae]] tree (Eastern White Cedar) to make a tea that was later shown to contain 50 mg of vitamin C per 100 grams.<ref name=martini>{{cite journal |id=PMID 12422875 |title=Jacques Cartier witnesses a treatment for scurvy |accessdate=2007-02-19 |date=June 2002 |author=Martini E |journal=Vesalius: acta internationales historiae medicinae }}</ref>

No bodily organ stores vitamin C,{{Fact|date=February 2007}} and so the body soon depletes itself if fresh supplies are not consumed through the digestive system.

Line 141:

=== Possible other vitamin C deficiencies ===
[[Image:Endo dysfunction Athero.PNG|thumb|[[Atherosclerosis]] has been hypothesised to be a vitamin C deficiency disease]]
Rath **(who has killed numerous people while promoting clinically untriated drugs in townships across South Africa) made a typically strange statement**: that during the [[ice age]], when vitamin C was scarce, [[natural selection]] favoured human individuals who could repair arteries with a layer of [[cholesterol]]. He suggests that although eventually harmful, cholesterol lining of artery walls would be beneficial in that it would keep the individual alive until access to vitamin C allowed arterial damage to be repaired. If this is true, [[atherosclerosis]] is in fact a vitamin C deficiency disease.

The established RDA has been criticised by Pauling to be one that will prevent [[acute (medical)|acute]] [[scurvy]], and is not necessarily the dosage for optimal health.{{Fact|date=February 2007}}

Line 73:

=== Deficiency disease ===
[[Scurvy]] (a form of [[avitaminosis]]) results from lack of vitamin C, **as an effect of its requirement** for correct [[collagen]] synthesis. Scurvy leads to the formation of liver spots on the skin, spongy gums, and + bleeding from all [[mucous membrane]]s. The spots are most abundant on the thighs and legs, and a person with the ailment looks pale, feels depressed, and is partially immobilized. In advanced scurvy there are open, [[suppuration|suppurating]] wounds and loss of [[teeth]], **and eventually, death**.

Historically, scurvy was common among those with poor access to fresh fruit and vegetables, such as [[sailor]]s, [[pirate]]s and others who were on [[ship]]s that were out to sea longer than perishable [[fruit]]s and [[vegetable]]s could be stored, **as well as isolated** [[soldier]]s. **The earliest documented case** was described by [[Hippocrates]] **around the year 400 BC**.

+
The first attempt to give scientific basis for the cause of scurvy was by a ship's surgeon in the British [[Royal Navy]], [[James Lind]]. While at sea in May 1747, Lind provided some crew members with two oranges and one lemon per day, in addition to normal rations, while others continued on [[cider]], [[vinegar]], [[sulphuric acid]] or [[seawater]], along with their normal rations. The results conclusively showed that something in the citrus fruits prevented the disease, a property later described as "antiscorbutic". Vitamin C was isolated in the 1920s by [[Albert Szent-Györgyi]] and was shown to be ascorbic acid.

No bodily organ stores vitamin C,{{Fact|date=February 2007}} and so the body soon depletes itself if fresh supplies are not consumed through the digestive system.

Line 141:

=== Possible other vitamin C deficiencies ===
[[Image:Endo dysfunction Athero.PNG|thumb|[[Atherosclerosis]] has been hypothesised to be a vitamin C deficiency disease]]
Rath **hypothesised** that during the [[ice age]], when vitamin C was scarce, [[natural selection]] favoured human individuals who could repair arteries with a layer of [[cholesterol]]. He suggests that although eventually harmful, cholesterol lining of artery walls would be beneficial in that it would keep the individual alive until access to vitamin C allowed arterial damage to be repaired. If this is true, [[atherosclerosis]] is in fact a vitamin C deficiency disease.

The established RDA has been criticised by Pauling to be one that will prevent [[acute (medical)|acute]] [[scurvy]], and is not necessarily the dosage for optimal health.{{Fact|date=February 2007}}



Open editing model: features

- There's a "Discussion" pages associated with each article
- They're used to coordinate work among multiple editors.
- Another tool is the "watchlist", a list of articles of interest to the regular contributors, so that they can easily keep tabs on all recent changes to those articles



Open editing model: features

- Computer programs called Internet bots have been used widely

They could:

- remove vandalism as soon as it was made
- correct common misspellings and stylistic issues
- start articles such as geography entries in a standard format from statistical data.



5 pillars of Wikipedia: 1

**Wikipedia is an
encyclopedia**



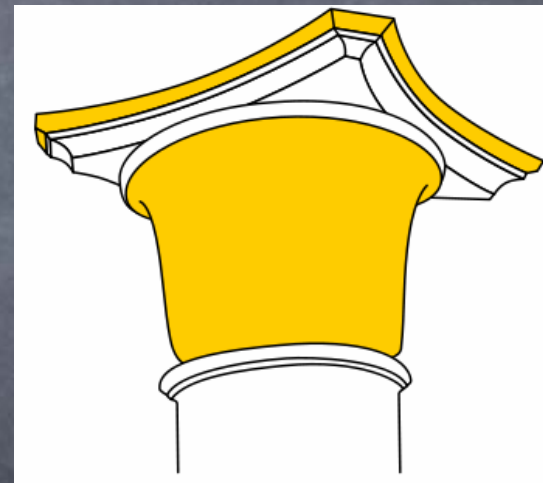
5 pillars of Wikipedia: 2

**Wikipedia has a
neutral point of view**



5 pillars of Wikipedia: 3

**Wikipedia is free
content**



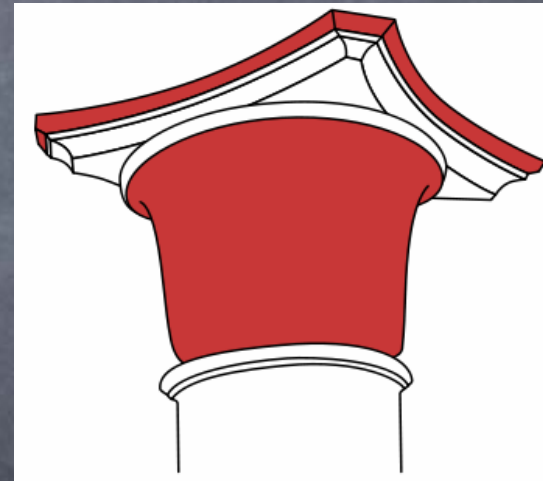
5 pillars of Wikipedia: 4

**Wikipedia has a code
of conduct**



5 pillars of Wikipedia: 5

**Wikipedia does not
have firm rules**

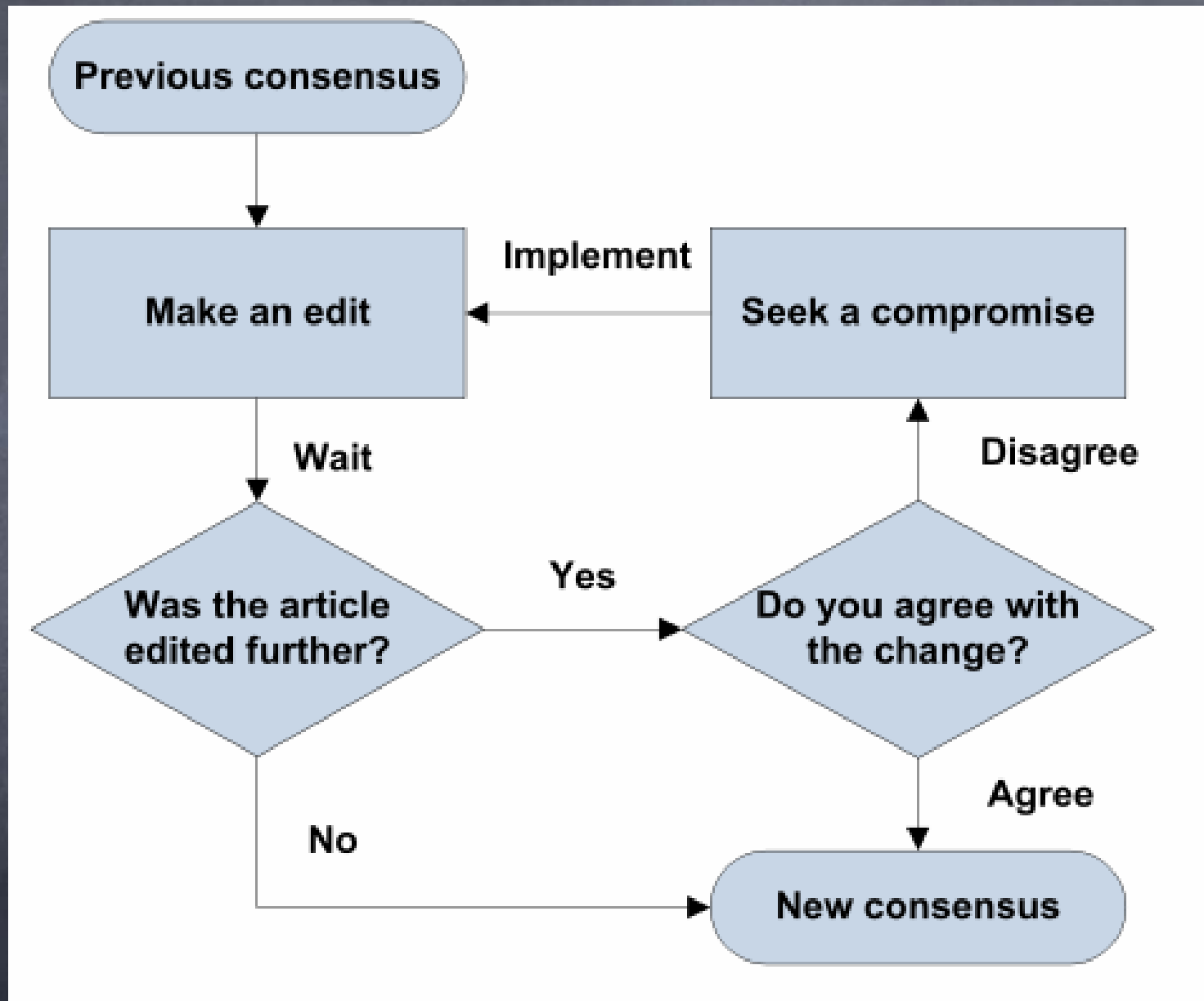


Consensus

- Consensus is about how editors work with others
- It is Wikipedia's fundamental model for editorial decision-making
- Policies and guidelines document communal consensus rather than creating it.
- Wikipedia decisions are made through discussions by reasonable people. Polling is a tool meant to facilitate discussion, and should be used with care.



Consensus



Corollaries

Wikipedia:Ignore all rules

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This page documents an English Wikipedia [policy](#), a widely accepted standard that all editors should [normally](#) follow. Changes made to it should reflect [consensus](#).

[Shortcuts:](#)
[WP:IA](#)
[WP:IGNORE](#)

If a [rule](#) prevents you from improving or maintaining [Wikipedia](#), **ignore it**.

See also:

- Common sense
- Snowball clause
- Be bold



Community

Wikipedia is a community

1. The community is dependent on the encyclopedia
2. The encyclopedia is dependent on the community
3. Therefore, community and encyclopedia are inexorably intertwined on Wikipedia



Power structure

User groups (the order refers to technical access in the MediaWiki software):

founder / steward / checkuser / oversight / bureaucrat / administrator/sysop / Abuse filter manager / rollbacker (*some wikis*) / patroller (*some wikis*) / account creator (*currently English Wikipedia only*) / ipblock exempt (*some wikis*) / bot / editor (*some wikis*) / registered user / newly registered user / anonymous user / blocked user



Classification



Subpages

- Except in "article namespace", **subpages** are pages separated with a "/" from their 'parent' page.
- A subpage is considered "subordinate" to its host page, and is titled and linked as *[[Parentpage/Subpage]]*.
- It is possible to create a sub-subpage.
- backlink to the higher levels of the page.



Subpages

Common uses:

- WikiProject subpages
- Portal subpages
- Dividing up Wikipedia process pages which would otherwise get too big to be easily used.
- Documentation subpages for templates.



Disambiguation

- Resolves conflicts in Wikipedia article titles that occur when a single term can be associated with more than one topic
- Are paths leading to different articles which could, in principle, have the same title.



Disambiguation

Mercury

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mercury commonly refers to:

- [Mercury \(mythology\)](#), a Roman god
- [Mercury \(planet\)](#), the nearest planet to the Sun in the solar system
- [Mercury \(element\)](#), the chemical element

Mercury may also refer to:

Geography

- [Mercury, Nevada](#), United States
- [Mercury, Savoie](#), a village in France
- [Mercury Islands](#), an island off the northeast coast of New Zealand
- [Mercury Bay](#), a large V-shaped bay in New Zealand
- [Mercury Boulevard](#), a road in Virginia, United States

Transportation

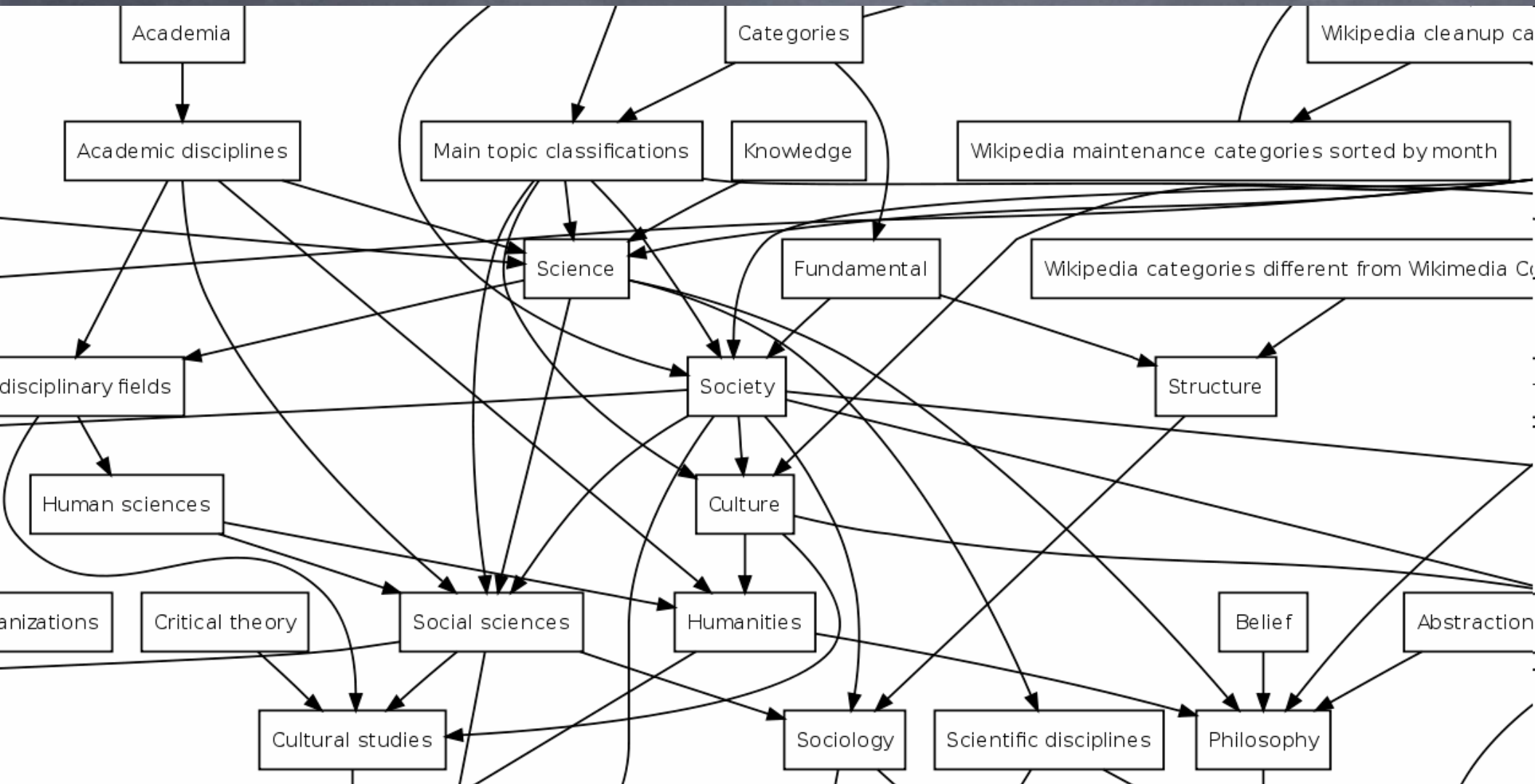


Categorization

- Help users navigation via multiple taxonomies.
- Should be specific, neutral, inclusive and follow certain conventions.
- Categories can be defined as subcategories of other categories, allowing easy navigation between connected subject areas via a tree-like structure.
- This helps readers find articles on particular topics even if they don't know which articles exist or what they are called.



Categorization



Lists

- Commonly used to organize information
- May be embedded in articles or may be stand alone articles
- have three main purposes:
 1. information,
 2. navigation,
 3. development



Navigation templates

- It's a grouping of links used in multiple related articles to facilitate navigation between those articles.
- Editing of a navigation template is done in a central place, the template page.

Navigation templates provide:

- Navigation
- Navigation between existing articles
- Navigation between related articles



Search



Search in Wikipedia

- "search" box at the left side of every Wikipedia window
- accessible by using the "Search" special page



Unconventional search

- Searching for external links: Linksearch is a tool for searching for links from Wikipedia articles to sites outside Wikipedia.
- List of all pages: Allpages - Alphabetic index for the main namespace
- Many external tools



Numbers



- 271 language editions of Wikipedia
- 13 824 732 articles (3 022 874 en.wiki)
- 19 221 760 users (10 442 727 en.wiki)
- Wikipedia's latest month rank: 6 (according to Alexa)



Conclusion



Key features

Every project is developed using a wiki engine, a software that allows anyone to easily add and edit content and is especially suited for collaborative writing

This real-time collaborative model allows rapid updating of existing topics and introduction of new topics

Projects are built on the expectation that collaboration among users will improve the quality of articles over time, in much the same way that open-source software develops



Key features

The participation of contributors without specific expertise or formal qualifications enriches the projects

Decision-making on the content and editorial policies is done by consensus and occasionally by vote

Wikipedia follows two key rules: NPOV (Neutral Point Of View) and free licensed content



Pros & Cons

Pros:

- Very fast growth: Wikipedia was born in 2001 and now it contains more than 13 million articles (Encyclopædia Britannica was first published in 1768 and has 120,000 articles)
- The number of contributors can be potentially infinite
- It's free of charge
- Anyone can fix errors or update an article very quickly



Pros & Cons

Cons:

- Absence of a top-down planning and systematic review process
- The quality of articles varies widely and over time
- Modifications go directly online: vandalism and inaccurate content can stay online for a while before it gets detected
- Coverage of topics and level of detail is not always proportionate to their importance



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