WIKIPEDIA EDITING FOR ACADEMICS
A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP
WHY EDIT WIKIPEDIA AND SISTER PROJECTS?

**SELFLESS**

- The noble cause of free information
- Giving back to a resource you’ve benefitted from
- Expert input on difficult topics
- Being part of the world’s largest open-access project

**SELFISH**

- Public engagement and education
  Massive exposure and reach
- Ensure your field is thoroughly and accurately represented
  First google hit for most topics
  (Students, Reviewers, Grant assessors, Journalists, Policymakers)
- Maximise use of the writing and images that you’ve already done
- Improve your non-specialist writing
OUTLINE

WHY SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN EDITING WIKIPEDIA?
- A brief introduction to the largest encyclopaedia of all time
  Why it needs you
  Why you need it

HOW TO EDIT
- Interactive demonstration
  Edit a page
  Upload an image
  Comment on a talk page

HOW TO EDIT RIGHT!
- Differences with scientific writing
  Writing style
  Protocols and policies
  Etiquette and pitfalls

HELP, COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES
- The hidden world behind Wikipedia
A BRIEF HISTORY

- 2001 began

- 2007 editing peak
  But poor accuracy
  Stricter standards lead to fall-off in editors

- 2015 resurgence
  Concerted recruitment
  Easier editing tools
  First year since 2007 with editor growth

- In 288 languages

- 5th busiest website

Data: http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/TablesWikipediaEN.htm
WHO READS WIKIPEDIA?

Thesis: 1-10
Median Journal Paper: 800
Top 5% Journal Paper: 3,000
Median Wikipedia page: 10,000 pa
Top 5% Wikipedia page: 1,000,000 pa
WHO reads WIKIPEDIA’S MEDICAL CONTENT?

General public
Medical students
Practicing doctors
Research scientists
ARTICLE QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE

- Articles are rated
  Importance
  Quality
- Top two quality ratings
  Promoted by review
- Status
  Displayed on talk page
  Status can also be revoked by review

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<th>Top</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Mid</th>
<th>Low</th>
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Pseudo peer-reviewed
**WHO WRITES WIKIPEDIA?**

- **Admins & Bureaucrats (600 active)**
  - Peer exam and interview
  - Can mark pages as protected and block editors
  - Some niche privileges (e.g. delete pages, allow editing bots)

- **Editors (30,000 active)**
  - Access to Visual Editor
  - Persistent reputation
  - Able to edit protected pages

- **Anonymous users (⅓ of all edits)**
  - Text recognition test to prove human
  - Edits are marked with ip address
  - Can edit >99% of pages

Who writes Wikipedia?

- **Wikimedia Foundation**
  - Wikimedia foundation
  - Wikimedia Board of Trustees
  - Wikimedia staff

- **Technical**
  - Wikimedia tech staff
  - Template makers
  - Instructional content writers

- **Article creators**
  - Article creators
  - Articles for Creation (AfC)

- **Article curators**
  - New Page Patrol
  - Recent Changes Patrol
  - Copyeditors
  - Spellcheckers
  - Vandalism reverters
  - Articles for deletion (AfD)
  - Bots

- **Elected committees**
  - Arbitration Committee
  - Mediation Committee
  - Stewards
  - Bureaucrats
  - Admins

- **Article disruptors**
  - Vandals
  - Hoaxers
  - Spammers
  - Viewpoint pushers
  - “Article Owners”
How is Wikipedia ruled?

- **Democracy**
  - Elected committees
  - Content by consensus

- **Bureaucracy**
  - Policies and guidelines
  - Manual of style

- **Anarchy**
  - Fully volunteer
  - Extremely flexible system
  - No centralised task delegation
WIKIPEDIA-ACADEMIA INTEGRATION

Academic publishing directly to Wikipedia

- *PLoS Computational Biology* “Topic” review articles

- *RNA Biology* research articles & Rfam

Academic peer review of existing Wikipedia articles

- *Open journal of Medicine*

- *WikiJournal of Medicine*
A MASSIVE MEDIA REPOSITORY

- Multimedia file repository
  - Images
  - Video
  - Sound

- Open-licensed / Public domain
  - Mostly creative commons licenses

- Content scope
  - Educational
  - Informative
  - Instructional
THE FUTURE OF DATA

- Free, open, structured knowledge base
- Humans and machine readable and editable
  Multilingual, queryable
- Standardised, centralised, highly interlinked
  Statements, sources, and connections to other databases

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<td>Douglas Adams</td>
<td>educated at</td>
<td>St John's College</td>
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**Bridging the Academic Divide**

- Content published into both Wikipedia and academic corpus
  - Stable, citable, peer-reviewed version with the credibility of a scholarly journal
  - Living version with extreme impact of Wikipedia

- Example journals
  - *PLOS Genetics*
  - *PLOS CompBiol*
  - *Wiki.J.Med*
  - *Wiki.J.Sci*
  - *Wiki.J.Hum*
  - *Gene*
  - *RNA Biology*
ACADEMIC AND WIKIPEDIC VERSIONS
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SIGNING UP

TO TRY EDITING A BLANK TEST PAGE, SIGN UP AND CLICK “SANDBOX”
**DEMONSTRATION**

**Editing the article**
- Using ‘Visual Editor’ -
- Edit summary -

**Adding images**
- Uploading -
- Captioning -

**Editing talk pages**
- Discussion -
- Ratings -
THE TWO WAYS TO EDIT

- Scripting language (‘Markup’)  
  Versatile with experience

- Very few things you actually need to know
  
  [[link]] → link
  [[link | other words]] → other words
  ‘‘italic’’ → italic
  ‘‘‘bold’’’ → bold
  *bullet* → • bullet
  ==Heading== → Heading
  ===Subheading=== → Subheading

- References are tricky

== Biological function ==
Enzymes serve a wide variety of [[function (biology)|functions]] inside living organisms. They are indispensable for [[signal transduction]] and cell regulation, often via [[kinase]]s and [[phosphatase]].

(Ref) They also generate movement, with [[myosin]] hydrolyzing ATP to generate [[muscle contraction]] and also moving cargo around the cell as part of the [[cytoskeleton]].

(Ref) Other ATPases in the cell membrane are [[ion pump (biology)|ion pumps]] involved in [[active transport]]. Enzymes are also involved in more exotic functions, such as [[luciferase]] generating light in [[firefly|fireflies]].
THE TWO WAYS TO EDIT

EDIT SOURCE

- Scripting language (‘Markup’)
  Versatile with experience

- Very few things you actually need to know

  - [[link]] ➔ link
  - [[link | other words]] ➔ other words
  - ‘italic’ ➔ italic
  - ‘‘bold’’ ➔ bold
  - *bullet ➔ • bullet
  - ==Heading== ➔ Heading
  - ===Subheading=== ➔ Subheading

EDIT (VISUALEDITOR)

- Edit like word processing software
  More intuitive

EXAMPLE

- Write some text -
- Add a reference -
- Summarise and save -
Upload to Wikimedia commons

Use on Wikipedia

EXAMPLE
- Upload image -
- Insert into article -
- Add caption -
- Currently can’t use VisualEditor
  Need to use mark up text
  ~~~~ ⇒ Signature

- Header banners
  Page rating
  Wikiproject

- Topic discussion
  Uncertain edits
  Controversial edits
  Suggested improvements

EXAMPLE
- Make a comment -
- Reply to a comment -
USEFUL PERIPHERAL FEATURES

- **User pages**
  - Pseudonym / orthonym
  - Editing aims
  - Brief biography
  - Points of pride

- **User talk pages**
  - Discussion
  - Notifications

- **User sandbox**
  - Personal testing area
  - Try things out without accidentally breaking articles

- **History**
  - Permanent record of all versions of a page
  - Summary descriptions and sizes of edits

- **Watchlist**
  - Any changes to your favourite pages
  - Wikipedia-wide announcements
- Be careful not to violate copyright when adding to Wikipedia
  Plagiarism detectors monitor all edits (TurnItIn)

- All text is under the Creative Commons licence
  Share: copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
  Adapt: remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose (even commercial)
  Attribute: credit must be given (link to the license, and indicate any changes)
  Share alike: if you do reuse this information, it must be distributed under the same license

- Images are also Creative Commons by default
  Optionally: Remove share alike requirement
  Remove all requirements (full public domain)

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/
CREATING A NEW ARTICLE

Upload as Draft:XYZ
- Using “Articles for Creation” -
  - WP:AFC -

Editor review
- Notability -
  - Sufficient References -
  - Formatting -

Moved to XYZ page
- Rating -
  - Ongoing improvement -

Welcome to Articles for Creation!

Welcome to Articles for Creation! If you don’t have a Wikipedia user account, consider registering an account now so that you can create encyclopedia articles yourself. If you choose not to register, or you have a conflict of interest, but have an idea for a new article and some references, you can create one here and it will be reviewed and considered for publication. If you have an idea for the title of an article, but no content for the article itself, please make a request at Wikipedia:Requested articles. If you already have a Wikipedia user account, you can also use the Article Wizard to help you create your article. To nominate an existing draft or user sandbox for review at Articles for Creation, add the code `{{subst:submit}}` to the top of the draft or sandbox page.

Note that if you are being paid to contribute to Wikipedia, under the Terms of Use and WP:Paid, you must disclose your employer, client and affiliations. If you have another type of conflict of interest, you should disclose the conflict of interest, per WP:COI.

Bona fide reviewers at Articles for Creation will never contact or solicit anyone for payment to get a draft into article space, improve a draft, or restore a deleted article. If someone contacts you with such an offer, please post on Wikipedia:WikiProject Articles for creation/Help desk.

Click here to create an article now!


WP:AFC
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SIMILARITIES TO ACADEMIC WRITING

- Neutral point of view [[WP:NPOV]]
  Balanced information

- Cite reliable, verifiable sources [[WP:RS]] [[WP:VER]]

- Avoid plagiarism [[WP:PLAG]]
  Several detection bots search for instances
  Don’t accidentally copyvio yourself!

- Short lead abstract [[WP:LEAD]]

- Permanent record

- Open-access mentality [[WP:FIVEPILLARS]]

- Post-publication peer review (of a sort)
  Continuous editing and improvement by other authors
  Organised peer review for ‘Good Article’ or ‘Featured Article’ status [[WP:GA]], [[WP:FA]]
A BRIEF SIDENOTE ON SHORTCUTS [[WP:CUTS]]

- WP:XYZ links shortcut to various ‘behind the scenes’ pages
  - Policies
  - Tools
  - Community pages
  - Wikiprojects


“Nominated article for deletion due to original research and lack of notability; in addition, it does not appear to be possible to verify the accuracy of the sources, as the article contains only references that are contained in unpublished manuscripts.”
DIFFERENCES TO ACADEMIC WRITING

- Content & format
- Referencing & quality
- Peers & collaboration
DIFFERENCES (CONTENT & FORMAT)

- General audience! [[WP:TECHNICAL]]
  Everything should be understandable to a undergraduate
  The first paragraph should be understandable to a secondary school pupil

- Wikilink to key relevant topics [[WP:LINK]]

- Writing style [[WP:MOS]]
  No referencing images, they should stand alone
  Minimise name-dropping
  Date-relevant statements become out of date quickly
  Avoid review-style colloquialisms

“In this article we focus on examples from proteases...”

“See figure 5”

“Jones et.al. have demonstrated that...”

“Currently / the newest / recent...”
DIFFERENCES (REFERENCES & QUALITY)

- Secondary sources are preferred [[WP:SCIRS]]
  Open online preference
  Especially for medical statements

  "Active site mutations inactivate enzymes.\[1\][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]\"

- No original research [[WP:NOR]]
  Including synthesis of information
  Can only summarise published work

  "CRISPR-cas9 can be used to edit mammalian genomes.\[1\][2][3][4][5][6]\"

- Constantly updating work-in-progress [[WP:WIP]]

- Different grades Stub – Start – C – B – A – Good – Featured [[WP:ASSESS]]
Differences (Peers & Collaboration)

- No ownership [[WP:OWN]]
  
  There’s no official lead or corresponding author

- Everyone’s equal [[WP:FIVEPILLARS]], [[WP:BE BOLD]]
  
  You may sometimes need to explain your edits to people with less knowledge than you
  Editors don’t have to be experts on the topic or on Wikipedia editing
  The average edit is more helpful than harmful

- Notability [[WP:NOTE]]
  
  Academic biographies must be particularly so [[WP:PROF]]

- Disagreements [[WP:DISPUTE]]
  
  Article’s talk page
  Dispute resolution mediation request [[WP:DRR]]
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COMMUNITY

- General community portal [[WP:COM]]
  Help, suggestions, news

- Wikimedia Australia (Wikimedia.org.au)

- Wikiprojects [[WP:WPDIR]]
  Computational biology (Yearly $500 competition)
  Molecular and Cell Biology
  Evolutionary biology
  Genetics
  Taxonomy
  Chemistry
  Medicine
PROJECT AND COLLABORATION FORMATS

Institutional / Long-term

Wikipedian in Residence
Formal, ongoing partnerships

Monthly meetups
Edit-a-thons / Wikibombs

Individual / Short-term

Treasurehunts (content, images, citations)
Edit training (Wikipedia, Wikidata, Commons)
FURTHER HELP

- Interactive help (scarily fast response times)
  Teahouse for new editors [[WP:TH]]
  Helpdesk for experienced editors [[WP:HD]]

- Tutorials
  General tutorial [[Help:Intro]]

- Scientist-specific advice

- This presentation is freely available online
Contact:

Wikipedia  Search “User:Tshafee” (where you can also find this talk online)
Email      Thomas.Shafee@gmail.com
Google Scholar Thomas Shafee
ResearchGate Thomas Shafee
LinkedIn    Thomas Shafee