

# Powerful learning with open resources

how to develop Wikipedia assignments.



**WIKIMEDIA**  
SVERIGE

CeUL Workshop  
Stockholm University  
07 February 2017

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@SaraMrtsell



# Today

- Introduction to Wikipedia
- Practical exercises: Enrolling and browsing
- Wikipedia as a tool in teaching and learning
- Practical exercises: Gaps and actions
- Summary and insights

# Free and open resource

- 500 million unique visitors per month.
- Fifth most popular website in the world.
- Available in nearly 300 languages
- Swedish Wikipedia has 3 million views per day.
- English Wikipedia has 5 billion views per hour.



Community driven.



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# The free encyclopedia

that anyone can edit (?).

A “community of caretakers” and “gatekeeper scholars” (Jones 2015)



A screenshot of the Wikipedia 'Community' page. The page title is 'Community' and it includes a sub-header 'From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia'. The main content area discusses the term 'community' in two distinct contexts: small social units and human communities. It also mentions the etymology of 'community' from Old French. A 'Contents' box is visible, and a section titled 'Perspectives from various disciplines' is partially shown, with a sub-section for 'Sociology' and 'Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft'. The page has a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Main page', 'Contents', 'Featured content', 'Current events', 'Random article', 'Donate to Wikipedia', 'Wikimedia Shop', 'Interaction', 'Help', 'About Wikipedia', 'Community portal', 'Recent changes', 'Contact page', 'Tools', 'Print/export', and 'Languages'. Five user avatars are overlaid on the page with lines pointing to specific sections: one at the top right points to the page title, one on the left points to the 'Main page' link, one in the middle left points to the 'Interaction' section, one at the bottom left points to the 'Languages' section, and one at the bottom right points to the 'Sociology' section.



Jack Weir, Public Domain

**Imagine a world  
where everyone can  
freely share in the sum  
of all knowledge  
— that's what we're doing.**

Wikipedia vision statement



# Key policies

## Free content

“The work students contribute to Wikipedia is free content and becomes part of the commons. It may be edited and reused by others under a free license. All writing on Wikipedia must be original. It’s not appropriate to copy and paste from other sources.”

— User:Lechatjaune

## Neutral point of view

“Everything on Wikipedia must be written from a neutral point of view. Wikipedia is not the place for argumentation or advocacy. All information must be presented accurately and without bias, describing all the significant viewpoints published by reliable sources. You should explain different opinions on a topic, not argue for one or the other.”

— User:GorillaWarfare



# Key policies

## Reliable sources

“The most reliable sources on Wikipedia are third-party sources with a reputation for fact-checking, such as books published by academic presses, peer-reviewed academic journals, and international newspapers. You should avoid citing blogs, press releases, and other less formal sources. Students should be using sources that represent significant viewpoints, rather than one-off studies or fringe work.”

— User:Mariana Jó

## Notability

“We use the concept of Notability to determine if a topic merits an article. In general, we consider a topic notable if there has been third-party coverage of the topic in reliable sources. If your students are starting new articles, they should find several independent reliable sources on the topic before they start.”

— User:Mohamed Ouda

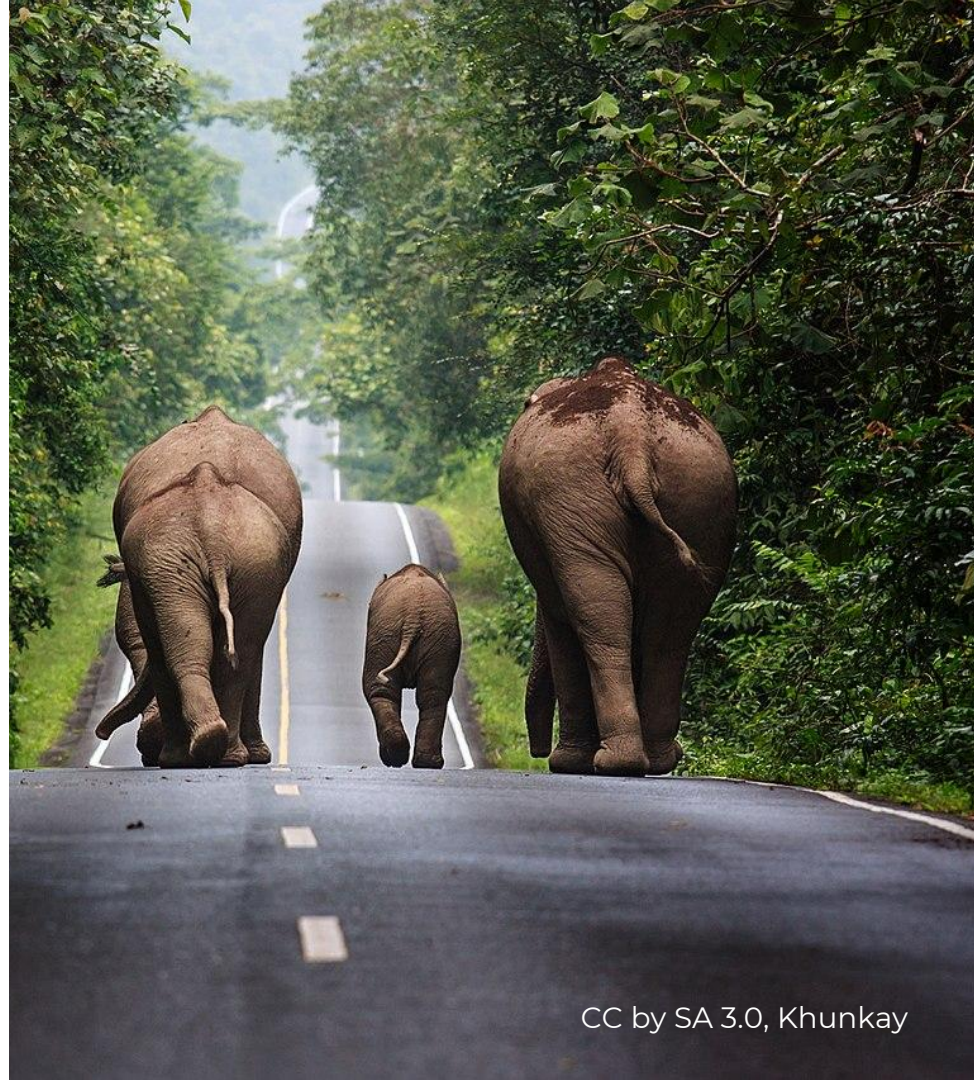


**We are not  
in a post-fact world.**



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# Questions.



# Getting practical

- Introduction to Wikipedia
- Practical exercises: Enrolling and browsing
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# Log into your account

- Log in, and enroll on the training course page.
- Browse and review your topic on a relevant language version of Wikipedia.

# Main tool

- Wikimedia run an Open Course Management tool, “*The Dashboard*”
- Instructors use the Dashboard to facilitate Wikipedia assignments and training



Find Programs Training Documentation Report a problem en en W Log in

CeUL Teacher training Home Timeline Editors Articles Uploads Activity

### Course Activity

0	0	0	0 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0 <sup>1</sup>
Articles Created	Articles Edited	Total Edits	Editors	Words Added	Article Views	Commons Uploads

Last statistics update: 2 hours ago. Next estimated update: in 2 hours

#### CeUL Teacher training

Workshop to introduce Wikipedia and Wikipedia in Education. Tools like the Dashboard will be explored and participants will review Wikipedia content and propose actions.

#### First Active Week

[View Full Timeline](#)

Week 1 02/04 - 02/10 (Wed)

##### Wikipedia Introduction and essentials In Class

The workshop will give an introduction to Wikipedia and Wikipedia In Education.

The following training modules are available for additional training.  
The first training module is a recap of Wikipedia guidelines, policy and community.

Training

Wikipedia Essentials	--	<a href="#">Start →</a>
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##### Wikipedia editing basics In Class

The workshop will only briefly demonstrate how Wikipedia is edited.

This training module will give more insights into editing and the technical set up of Wikipedia, such as article pages, talk pages, and user pages.

Training

Editing Basics	--	<a href="#">Start →</a>
----------------	----	-------------------------

##### Wikipedia sources and citations In Class

In the workshop we will discuss how Wikipedia require students to think critically about information and reliability.

This training module is a walk through of how applying those skills can be done.

Training

Evaluating Articles and Sources	--	<a href="#">Start →</a>
---------------------------------	----	-------------------------

#### Details

Facilitators: [Sara Mörtzell \(WMSE\)](#)  
Institution: Stockholm University  
Expected Editors: 17  
Activity tracking start: 2018-02-07 07:00 CET  
Activity tracking end: 2018-02-28 00:00 CET  
Event Start: 2018-02-07 07:00 CET  
Event End: 2018-02-25 00:00 CET  
Campaigns: [Wikimedia Sverige WMSE Education 2018](#)

#### Actions

[Join program](#)

[Download stats](#)





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# Wikipedia in teaching

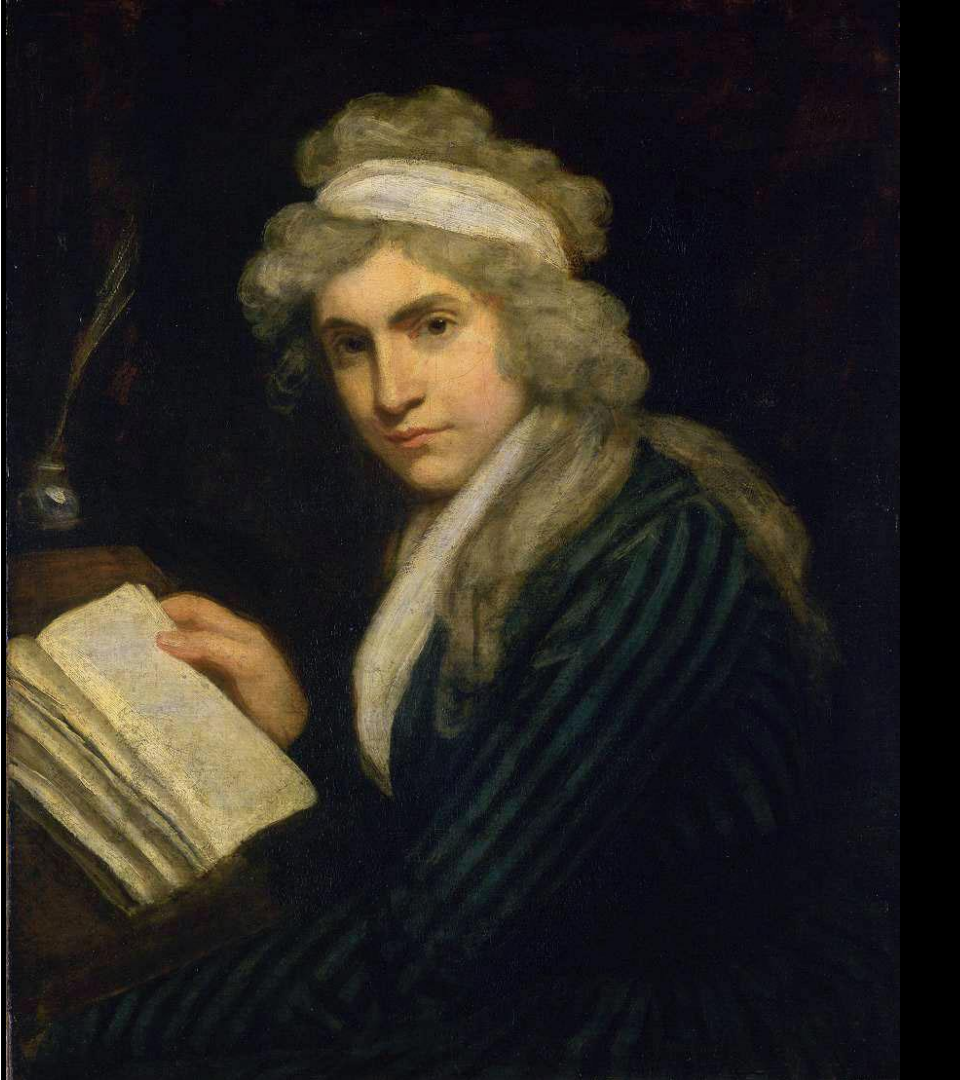
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**“I'm editing a Wikipedia article as an assignment for one of my classes and quite honestly I've never felt more powerful.”**

# Current courses

- Digital humanities, Gothenburg University (*January 2018*)
- Early feminist thinkers, Åbo Akademi (*January-February 2018*)
- Ecological effects and Climate change, Uppsala university (*February-March 2018*)
- Science outreach, PhD Medicine, Uppsala university (*January-March 2018*)
- Media and communications studies, Stockholm university (*February 2018*)



# Lund University 2017

“The course aims to translate the research conducted by students within the framework of this course, into widely available knowledge accessible to a global audience.

Working in groups of two or three persons, students are to create or significantly improve a Wikipedia entry on a topic that directly relates to the main themes of the course; governance in the Middle East, and human rights in connection to the region.”

- 21 students
- 6 new articles
- 50 improved articles
- 10 million page views





6

Articles Created

50

Articles Edited

1.58K

Total Edits

21<sup>i</sup>

Editors

91.1K

Words Added

5.26M

Article Views

1<sup>i</sup>

Commons Uploads

## Dictatorship and Democracy in the Middle East

This course focuses on governance in the Middle East and North Africa region broadly defined. It aims to introduce students to major topics and theoretical contributions relating to the persistence of authoritarianism in the region, the history, process and prospects for democratisation in the Arab world, and the ongoing struggle for human rights.

The course aims to translate the research conducted by students within the framework of this course, into widely available knowledge accessible to a global audience. Working in groups of two or three persons, students are to create or significantly improve a Wikipedia entry on a topic that directly relates to the main themes of the course; governance in the Middle East, and human rights in connection to the region.

## Details

**Facilitators:** [D.Thompson](#), [Sara Mörtzell](#) ([WMSE](#))

**Institution:** Lund University, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies

**Passcode:** \*\*\*\*

**Expected Editors:** 0

**Start:** 2017-01-06 00:00 CET

**End:** 2017-03-31 00:00 CEST

**Campaigns:** [Miscellanea](#)

## Actions

Download stats



# Why adopt Wikipedia assignments?

## Build available resource

“We don’t have many available and updated resources for this course. The Wikipedia assignment is a way for students to organize the various articles and handouts into citations and structured content freely available for students on the next course and of course anyone else.”

– Course instructor “*Energisystemens miljöpåverkan*” SLU

## Media literacies

“As journalists, these students will rely of quick, accessible and fact-checked information in order to research and navigate a wide range of job assignments. It is essential to understand how Wikipedia is governed and how to check for inaccuracies.”

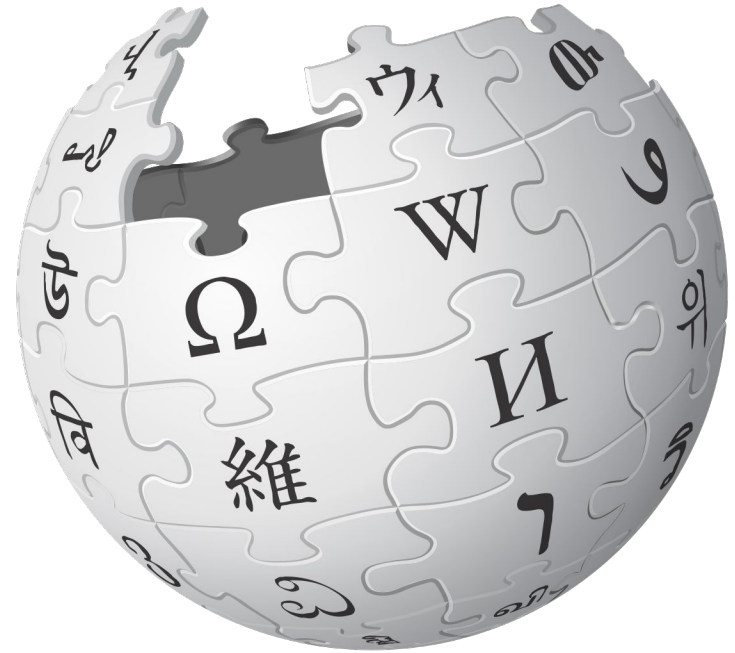
– Course instructor “*Källkritik*”, SU

# Practical exercise

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# Gaps on Wikipedia

1. Identify **flaws** in relevant Wikipedia articles and
2. propose **actions**, how can someone edit Wikipedia, what is required in terms of technical skills or research skills?



# Building the assignment

1. Add “*available articles*” to the dashboard.
2. Try out some of the proposed actions to change Wikipedia for the better.



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# Summing up

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# Key ideas or insights?





# TACK!

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