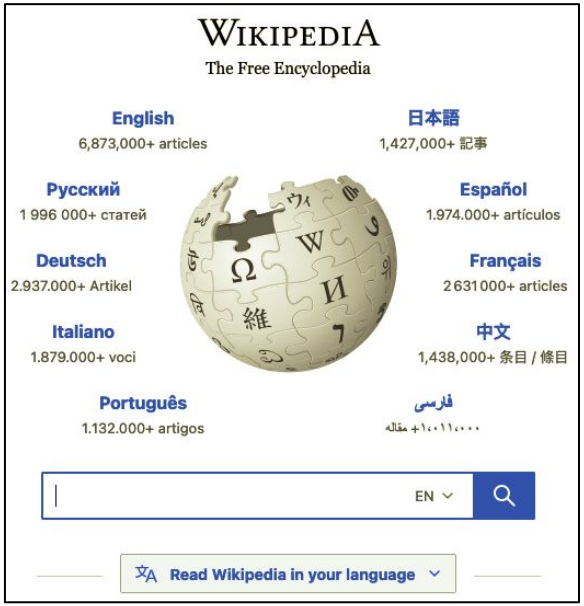
Sister Projects
opening? closing? merging? splitting?

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight
WikiConference North America
5 Oct 2024 | CC BY-SA 4.0

Introduction

Sister Projects: MediaWiki-based projects supported by the Wikimedia Foundation *additionally to Wikipedia*



Sister Projects: description

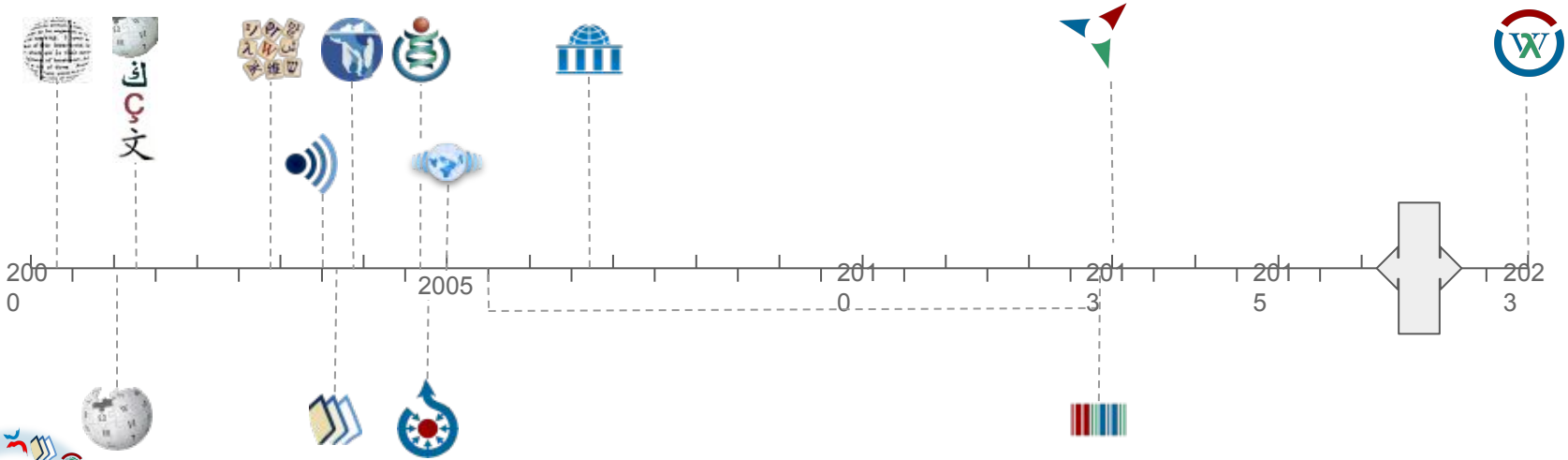
- Wikimedia Foundation's definitions and descriptions of each current Wikimedia Project:
  - https://wikimediafoundation.org/our-work/wikimedia-projects
- Complete list of current Wikimedia projects:
  - https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Complete_list_of_Wikimedia_projects

Sister Projects: what they are **NOT**

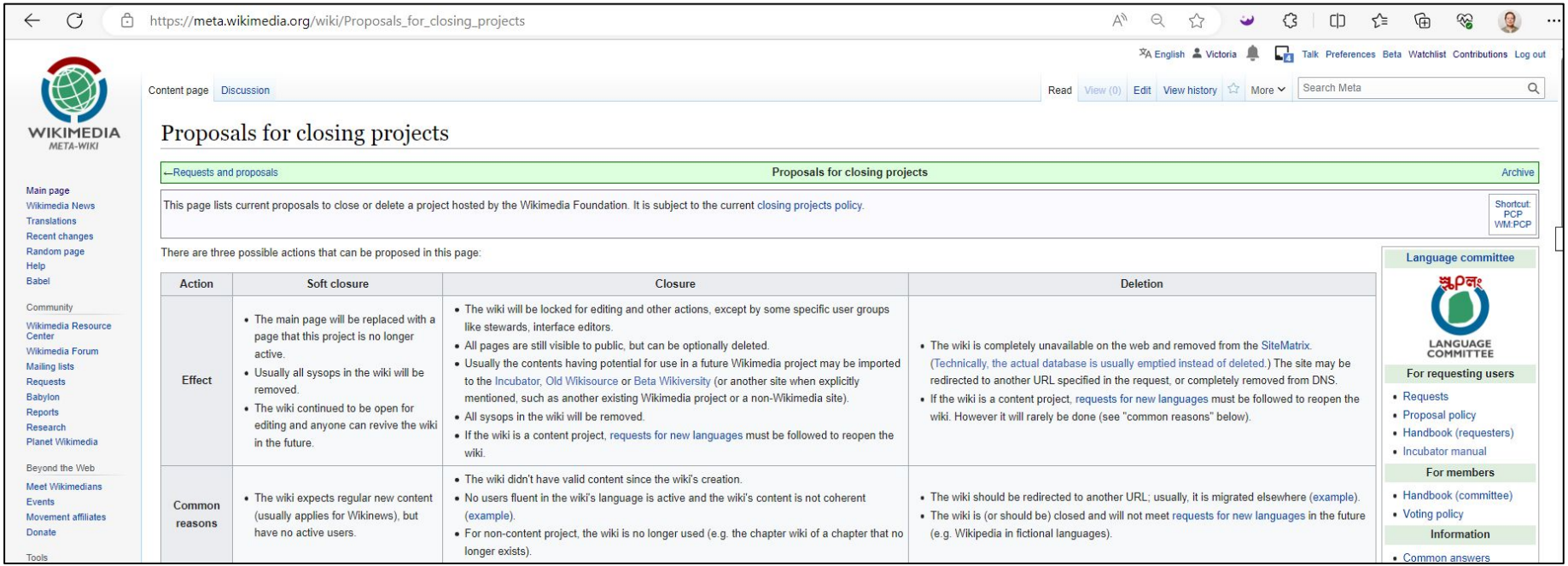
- Other language Wikipedias and/or other language Wikisources
  - French Wikisource
  - Spanish Wikipedia
- WikiProject Military History on English Wikipedia
- WikiProject Sum Of All Paintings (SOAP) on Wikidata

Past

Sister Project openings: increasing time between them



Proposals for closure



https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Proposals_for_closing_projects

English Victoria Talk Preferences Beta Watchlist Contributions Log out

WIKIMEDIA META-WIKI

Content page Discussion Read View (0) Edit View history More Search Meta

Proposals for closing projects

←Requests and proposals | **Proposals for closing projects** | Archive

This page lists current proposals to close or delete a project hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation. It is subject to the current closing projects policy.

Shortcut: PCP WM:PCP

There are three possible actions that can be proposed in this page:

Action	Soft closure	Closure	Deletion
Effect	• The main page will be replaced with a page that this project is no longer active. • Usually all sysops in the wiki will be removed. • The wiki continued to be open for editing and anyone can revive the wiki in the future.	• The wiki will be locked for editing and other actions, except by some specific user groups like stewards, interface editors. • All pages are still visible to public, but can be optionally deleted. • Usually the contents having potential for use in a future Wikimedia project may be imported to the Incubator, Old Wikisource or Beta Wikiversity (or another site when explicitly mentioned, such as another existing Wikimedia project or a non-Wikimedia site). • All sysops in the wiki will be removed. • If the wiki is a content project, requests for new languages must be followed to reopen the wiki.	• The wiki is completely unavailable on the web and removed from the SiteMatrix. (Technically, the actual database is usually emptied instead of deleted.) The site may be redirected to another URL specified in the request, or completely removed from DNS. • If the wiki is a content project, requests for new languages must be followed to reopen the wiki. However it will rarely be done (see "common reasons" below).
Common reasons	• The wiki expects regular new content (usually applies for Wikinews), but have no active users.	• The wiki didn't have valid content since the wiki's creation. • No users fluent in the wiki's language is active and the wiki's content is not coherent (example). • For non-content project, the wiki is no longer used (e.g. the chapter wiki of a chapter that no longer exists).	• The wiki should be redirected to another URL; usually, it is migrated elsewhere (example). • The wiki is (or should be) closed and will not meet requests for new languages in the future (e.g. Wikipedia in fictional languages).

Main page
Wikimedia News
Translations
Recent changes
Random page
Help
Babel

Community
Wikimedia Resource Center
Wikimedia Forum
Mailing lists
Requests
Babylon
Reports
Research
Planet Wikimedia

Beyond the Web
Meet Wikimedians
Events
Movement affiliates
Donate

Tools

Language committee

LANGUAGE COMMITTEE

For requesting users
- Requests
- Proposal policy
- Handbook (requesters)
- Incubator manual

For members
- Handbook (committee)
- Voting policy

Information
- Common answers

WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

Proposals for closure – mainly Wikipedias and Wikinews by Language Committee

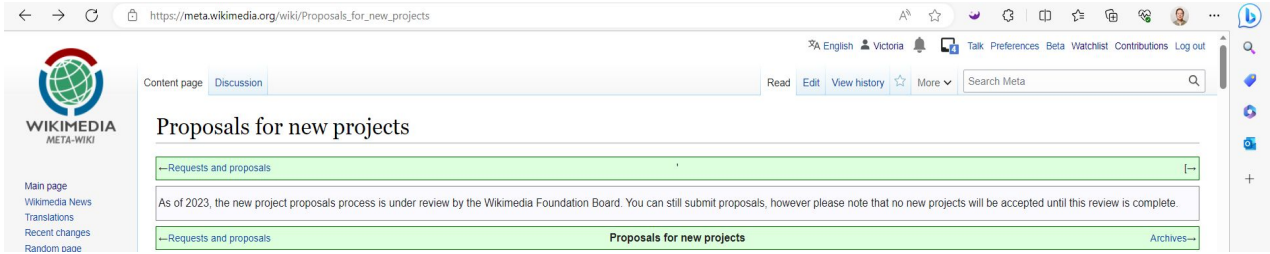
Proposal	Request date	Request closed on	Status
Lak Wikipedia 3 (Closure)	04-Mar-2021	—	Community discussion is in progress.

Closed proposals [edit]

Project	Request date	Request closed on	Result
Nauruan Wikipedia (Closure)	02-Nov-2020	27-Apr-2023	Approved, project was closed.
cnwikimedia (Closure)	08-May-2022	24-Apr-2023	Approved, project was closed.
Swedish Wikiversity (Closure)	21-Jun-2021	11-Apr-2023	Rejected in favor of a soft close.
Wolof Wikiquote 2 (Closure)	30-Jul-2022	11-Apr-2023	Approved, project was closed.
Akan Wikipedia 2 (Closure)	19-Apr-2022	01-Apr-2023	Approved, project was closed.
Mongolian Wikipedia (Closure)	27-Oct-2022	06-Nov-2022	Speedily closed, project is kept open.
Hebrew Wikinews (Soft close)	11-Feb-2021	30-Mar-2022	Rejected, project is kept open.
Esperanto wiktionary (Deletion)	23-Nov-2021	29-Nov-2021	Speedily closed, project is kept open.
Gotic Wikipedia (Closure)	30-Oct-2021	03-Nov-2021	Speedily closed, project is kept open.
Polish Wikinews (Closure)	13-Jul-2019	21-Jan-2021	Rejected, project is kept open.
Northern Luri Wikipedia (Closure)	27-Sep-2020	14-Jan-2021	Approved, project was closed.
Korean Wikinews 2 (Closure)	15-Mar-2020	30-Nov-2020	Rejected, project is kept open.
Turkish Wikinews (Closure)	17-Jun-2020	26-Jun-2020	The project was closed by decision of developers on Phabricator following a "local" request (T247330); the process here was not followed.
Nehiyaw Wikipedia (Closure)	07-Jan-2020	07-Jan-2020	vandalism by LTA
Bulgarian Wikinews (Deletion)	18-Sep-2018	23-Sep-2019	Approved, project was closed. In spite of the title, this was a closure, not a wiki deletion.
Pontic Wikipedia (Closure)	26-Aug-2019	13-Sep-2019	Rejected, project is kept open.
Greek Wikinews (Soft close)	25-Aug-2019	13-Sep-2019	Approved. Soft close implemented.
Tajik Wikibooks (Closure)	22-Dec-2018	17-Apr-2019	Withdrawn, project is kept open.
Papiamentu Wikipedia (Closure)	14-Oct-2018	15-Oct-2018	Withdrawn, project is kept open.
Uzbek Wikiquote (Closure)	27-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	Withdrawn, project is kept open.
Simple English Wikiquote and Wikibooks (Deletion)	26-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	Withdrawn. Projects will not be deleted.
Move Beta Wikiversity to Incubator 2 (Migration)	02-Jul-2017	16-Aug-2018	Rejected. Projects will remain separate.
Wikispecies (Closure)	07-Aug-2018	07-Aug-2018	Proposal was speedy-rejected as inappropriate and disruptive.
Simple English Wikipedia (3) (Closure)	14-Jun-2018	01-Aug-2018	Rejected, project is kept open.
Tok Pisin Wikipedia (Closure)	06-Jul-2018	24-Jul-2018	Withdrawn, project is kept open.
Finnish Wikinews (Closure)	22-Apr-2018	02-Jul-2018	Rejected in favor of a soft close.
Literary Chinese Wikipedia (Closure)	15-Apr-2018	22-May-2018	Rejected, project is kept open.
Karakalpak Wikipedia (Closure)	07-May-2017	14-May-2018	Rejected, project is kept open.

Wikispecies – speedy rejected as out of scope

Lifecycle process (or lack thereof)



- Proposals are submitted via a page on Meta.
- The Board of Trustees approves the new Sister Project's opening.
- The earliest "in progress" proposal is from 2010.
- After the current "procedure" suspension in March 2023, two more projects were submitted.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Proposals_for_new_projects

New projects [edit]

Open proposals for new projects

Project	Request date	Status
Wikispace (comments)	15-Jul-2023	Under discussion
Adminwiki (comments)	28-Jun-2023	Under discussion
Wikikultura (comments)	05-Jun-2023	Under discussion
Wikimolecule (comments)	10-Jan-2023	Under discussion
Wikitranslations (comments)	03-Nov-2022	Under discussion
Mineralwiki (comments)	10-Aug-2022	Under discussion
WikiEarth (comments)	22-May-2022	Under discussion
Wikianswers (comments)	15-Dec-2021	Under discussion
Structured text (comments)	18-Aug-2021	Under discussion
WikiWorks (comments)	01-Jun-2021	Under discussion
Wikifact (comments)	05-Feb-2021	Under discussion
WikiAsk (recreated) (comments)	10-Sep-2019	Under discussion
Wikispore (comments)	12-Aug-2019	Under discussion
Encyclopedia for Children (comments)	09-Jul-2019	Under discussion
WikiLaw (3) (comments)	11-May-2019	Under discussion
Wiki_Papers (comments)	01-Dec-2018	Under discussion
VideoWiki (comments)	22-Jul-2018	Under discussion
NonFreeWiki (2) (comments)	03-Jan-2018	Under discussion
Wikimuseum (comments)	08-Dec-2017	Under discussion
Wikitemplates (comments)	12-Nov-2017	Under discussion
WikiSocial (comments)	30-Jan-2017	Under discussion
WikiFastFacts (comments)	25-Oct-2016	Under discussion
WikiJournal (comments)	21-Aug-2016	Submitted
WikiObject (comments)	27-Jul-2016	Under discussion
Wikidirectory (comments)	24-Jan-2016	Under discussion
Wikimedia genealogy project (comments)	26-Feb-2014	Under discussion

Proposed project adoption [edit]

Open proposals to adopt projects

Project	Request date	Status
WikiTree (comments)	07-Apr-2010	Under discussion

Present

WMF Community Affairs Committee/ Sister Projects Task Force

- Established April 2023
- Participants:
  - **6 Board members**: Esra'a Al Shafei, Lorenzo Losa, Mike Peel, Nataliia Tymkiv, Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight, Victoria Doronina
  - **5 Volunteer Advisory Members (**selected via an application on Meta): Billinghurst, Galahad, Kasyap, Noé, SJ

Lifecycle procedure

- Initial draft, published on Meta:
  - https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_Community_Affairs_Committee/Procedure_for_Sibling_Project_Lifecycle
- Public consultation period: April - May 2024
- Public discussion at Wikimania: August 2024
- Revised procedure:
  - https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_Community_Affairs_Committee/Procedure_for_Sibling_Project_Lifecycle/revised
- Revised procedure approved by WMF Community Affairs Committee: September 2024

Main points of the Lifecycle Procedure

- Initiative group
  - Number of users
  - Number of editors with extended rights (admins, etc)
  - Number of edits
  - Support by an Affiliate is a plus
- Annual cost of operation
- Main competitors

Future

Questions

Q1: Do you think the Wikimedia Foundation should **open any new** Sister Projects? Which one(s)?

Q2: **Who should assess opening a new** Sister Project application before recommending it to the Board?

- A new, Board-associated committee (like the Affiliations Committee)?
- Someone else?

Q3: Do you think the Wikimedia Foundation should **split any existing** Sister Projects? Which one(s)?

Q4: Do you think the Wikimedia Foundation should **merge any existing** Sister Projects? Which one(s)?

Q5: Do you think the Wikimedia Foundation should **close any existing** Sister Projects? Which one(s)?

Thank you