

Introduction to Wikipedia

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What is Wikipedia?

- Wikipedia is a free encyclopaedia, written collaboratively by the people who use it. It is a special type of website designed to make collaboration easy, called a wiki. Many people are constantly improving Wikipedia, making thousands of changes per hour.
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Five Pillars of Wikipedia

- Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia.
 - Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view.
 - Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute.
 - Editors should treat each other with respect and civility.
 - Wikipedia has no firm rules
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Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia

- Wikipedia is not a paper encyclopaedia, but a digital encyclopaedia project. As long as the subjects to be included pass the necessary Wikipedia guideline, there is no practical limit to the number of topics Wikipedia can cover or the total amount of content. However, there is an important distinction between what can be done, and what should be done, which is covered in the next slide:

What Wikipedia is not:

- Wikipedia is not a dictionary
- Wikipedia is not a publisher of original thought
- Wikipedia is not a means of promotion
- Wikipedia is not a blog, web hosting service, social networking service, or memorial site
- Wikipedia is not a directory
- Wikipedia is not a newspaper

Neutral Point of View

- All encyclopaedic content on Wikipedia must be written from a neutral point of view (NPOV), which means representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without editorial bias, all of the significant views that have been published by reliable sources on a topic.
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Civility

- The civility policy describes the standards expected of users and provides appropriate ways of dealing with problems when they arise. Stated simply, editors should always treat each other with consideration and respect. They should focus on improving the encyclopaedia while maintaining a pleasant editing environment by behaving politely, calmly and reasonably, even during heated debates.
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NOTABILITY

On Wikipedia, notability is a test used by editors to decide whether a given topic warrants its own article.

Information on Wikipedia must be verifiable; if no reliable third-party sources can be found on a topic, then it should not have a separate article. Wikipedia's concept of notability applies this basic standard to avoid indiscriminate inclusion of topics.

A topic is presumed to merit an article if:

- It meets either the general notability guideline below, or the criteria outlined in a subject-specific guideline
- It is not excluded under the What Wikipedia is not policy

KEY WORDS OF NOTABILITY

- "Significant coverage" addresses the topic directly and in detail, so that no original research is needed to extract the content.
- "Reliable" means sources need editorial integrity to allow verifiable evaluation of notability. Sources may encompass published works in all forms and media, and in any language.
- Sources should be "secondary", as those provide the most objective evidence of notability.
- "Independent of the subject" excludes works produced by the article's subject or someone affiliated with it. For example, advertising, press releases, autobiographies, and the subject's website are not considered independent.

THANK YOU!
DISCUSSION - Q&A

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