



# WikiLearn: a learning and training space for Wikimedia

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# 01 What is WikiLearn?

And why do I need it in my life?

# Why do we need WikiLearn?

- To become the essential infrastructure of the ecosystem of free knowledge, as our Strategy calls for, we need to **invest in skills and leadership development**.
- There is a clear need for **up-to-date, high-quality** training resources across the movement.
- Much of the existing training materials are **under-utilized**, even by people who would gladly have used them had they **known** they existed.
- Other training materials are **incomplete** or **unmaintained** (and out of date).
- And many things just don't have any training materials available **at all**.



# Why do we need WikiLearn?

- **Access** is a significant barrier to skill development in the Wikimedia movement.
  - Learning and development experiences happen at movement convenings (travel, language, time off, funding)
- In-person training is great, but also **exclusionary** and limited.
- Online learning addresses many of these downsides (and has its own).
- Excellent materials that get created in one language are difficult to re-use in another language.

# What would be ideal?

- Ideally, the Wikimedia movement would have a platform where:
  - **Structured, up-to-date** learning resources are available for anyone to study.
  - Materials can be available in multiple **languages**. (*Text translated, videos subtitled*)
  - Volunteers can **contribute** and not just consume learning materials.
  - Grading and **automated assessment** are available for self-study. Grading, **mentorship**, and **qualitative** assessments are available for *human-taught interactive* courses.
  - OAuth login through Wikimedia; mobile-friendly site + app
  - Materials can be easily **forked** and modified.
  - All on **free software**.

# WikiLearn

powered by Open edX

# ...does all that!

WIKIMANIA

# Why not Wikiversity?

- Wikiversity is a poor fit for our purpose. It is, *at best*, a collaborative environment for **developing** curricula. It is a very poor **learning** environment. It misses basic features modern Learning Management Systems do have:
  - The concept of **enrollment**. The concept of a **cohort**.
  - Mechanism for submitting, reviewing, and grading **assignments**, *privately*.
  - Learner **inboxes**, **threaded discussion** forums.
  - Smooth **integration** with (free-software) BigBlueButton **video calls**.
  - Plugins (e.g. quizzes)

# Why not build these into Wikiversity?

- Totally beyond our team's power to decide.
- There already exist excellent free-software platforms that do these things; competing with them from an inferior starting position is probably not a good use of resources.
- Wikiversity is not a thriving project; it does not look like the collaborative wiki approach is contributing much – the majority of content on WV is solo work.



See also: **Sister Projects: the past, present, and glorious future, Friday, Aug 18th, 2023**



02

Let's take a tour!

[learn.wiki](https://learn.wiki)  
[studio.learn.wiki](https://studio.learn.wiki)



## Assess your digital security risks

WIKIMEDIA-FOUNDATION WMF\_HUM001

WIKIMEDIA  
Assess your digital security risks

Identify and learn about some risks and vulnerabilities when navigating the digital world

Starts: Jan 1, 2023

[Learn More >](#)



WIKIMEDIA-FOUNDATION WMF\_OL101

Organizer Lab (beta) – Designing campaigns and other Topics for Impact projects

TOPICS FOR IMPACT

beta

Learn the skills Topics for Impact organizers need to run consistent, high-impact campaigns that invite new contributors, partners, and supporters to the movement.

Starts: Oct 25, 2022

[Learn More >](#)

## Skriv på Wikipedia



WIKIMEDIA-SVERIGE WMSE002

Skriv på Wikipedia



I den här kursen får du lära dig grunderna i hur man skriver och redigerar på Wikipedia. Vi går igenom hur du skapar användarkonto, gör utkast och ändrar i artiklar. Du får också veta mer om hur redigeringshistorik och diskussionssidor funkar. Lycka till!

Starts: Feb 1, 2023

[Learn More >](#)

## Speaker Series Guidebook

WIKIMEDIAFOUNDATION  
WMF\_COMMDEV\_WIKIMANIA\_SPEAKER\_GUIDEBOOK

Speaker Series Guidebook

Starts: Jun 27, 2022

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WIKIMEDIA  
قييم مخاطر الأمان الرقمي

Identify and learn about some risks and vulnerabilities when navigating the digital world

Starts: Jan 1, 2030

[Learn More >](#)

## Partnership Building

WIKIMEDIA-FOUNDATION WMF\_COMMDEV\_PARTNERSHIPS\_CG

Introduction to Partnership Building (computer-graded exercises)



Basics of partnership building for Wikimedia volunteers, with computer-graded exercises.

Starts: May 31, 2022

<https://learn.wiki/courses>

[Course](#)
[Score](#)
[Dates](#)
[Discussion](#)

# Introduction to Partnership Building (computer-graded exercises)

[Expand all](#)
**Course Tools**
 [Bookmarks](#)
 **Section 0: Course information and Discussion**

 **Section 1: Introduction to Partnerships**

 [What is a partnership? Why partner? \(2 Questions\)](#)
 [Know yourself: Mission statements \(3 Questions\)](#)
 [Know yourself: SWOT and group self presentation \(5 Questions\)](#)
 [Slides for whole section](#)
 **Section 2: Preparing to partner: your prospective partner**

 [Optional review via feedback on section 1 topics](#)
 [Studying our environment \(2 Questions\)](#)
 [Studying our prospective partner \(1 Question\)](#)
 [Slides for whole section](#)

Videos have subtitles

Subtitles are translatable on Meta!

## Definition of Partnership

[Bookmark this page](#)

### What is a partnership? What isn't?

**What are partnerships?**

- Partnerships are **bi- or multi-lateral collaborations** that provide **benefit to all sides**.
  - If only one side benefits, it's a service or a donation, but not a partnership. *Those are useful too!*
  - Collaboration means investing *something* towards a shared goal, not necessarily the same kinds or amounts of investment.

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3:05 / 17:27 1.0x

to the partnership different resources or efforts.

In some cases, one side may maybe only provides the partnership with their reputation, their good name, or maybe they only provide a venue, a room to to have an event in, which feels like maybe not a lot because they already have it anyway, but they're there making it available to the partnership; that is also an investment.

**So I hope this two-part kind of symmetrical definition is clear.**

At least two sides, each investing something, not necessarily the same thing, towards a shared goal, and each drawing some kind of benefit.

Again, not necessarily the same benefit.

Any questions about this definition?

[one] asks: if what the other party is bringing on board is their time, will this still be considered a partnership?

Partnership or not-partnership?

## Partnership or not-partnership?

1 point possible (graded)

Below is a list of activity descriptions. For each description, decide whether or not it is a partnership, according to the definition of partnership discussed in the video segment above, and why. That is, try to pinpoint how it does or does not meet the definition of a partnership. Then, mark each checkbox that IS a partnership. Leave the others blank.

If you need a reminder, watch the video again.

A Wikimedia group provides wiki training for a university course that includes a Wikipedia writing assignment.

The owner of a shop lets Wikimedians use the shop's back room for meetings.

A museum contributes thousands of media files of objects in its collection, with the help of Wikimedia volunteers, who also deliver trainings to staff at the museum.

A wealthy person donates one million dollars to the Wikimedia Foundation.

The Wikimedia Foundation approves a grant to a Wikimedia group to organize a photo competition, and the group organizes it.

Five Wikimedia groups organize a cultural exchange competition (for example: "CEE Spring", "Wikipedia Asian Month").

A Wikimedia group co-hosts (with radio station staff) a weekly radio show about general knowledge at a local university campus radio.

A community center rents its main hall to a Wikimedia group to hold an editing workshop in it.

Submit

Computer-graded exercises



This assignment has several steps. In the first step, you'll provide a response to the prompt. The other steps appear below the **Your Response** field.

**IN PROGRESS****1** | **Your Response**

Enter your response to the prompt. You can save your progress and return to complete your response at any time. **After you submit your response, you cannot edit it.**

## The prompt for this section

**(expected time investment: 25 to 90 minutes)**

Based on the principles and examples covered in this week's lesson, come up with **a mission statement** for your group. Make sure your mission statement is **a good fit, specifically**, for your group.

Keep it short and make every word matter. A mission statement over 100 words is probably too long.

(If your group already has a mission statement, you may use it as-is, but ideally, make sure you are in fact 100% happy with it, based on what we've learned; if you aren't, feel free to submit a modified version of your group's actual mission statement.)

Submit a text with:

1. your group's name.
2. your proposed mission statement.
3. (clearly separated from the mission statement itself) any context you would like to share about why you phrased your mission statement the way you did, what emphasizes you were trying to include, or even why you didn't say certain things.

Open response,  
human-graded exercises

### The learner's response to the prompt above

Music On Wikipedia

2. Our mission is to increase the visibility of music online by adding new content to Wikipedia. We create music community events providing training so anyone can create new content and improve Wikipedia. Pages on Wikipedia rank highly on search engines so by creating content we can help make music and musicians easier to find online. We partner with music organisations, museums, and are interested about learning more about adding to Wikipedia and related projects like Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons.

3. I initially wasn't going to mention Wikidata or Wikimedia Commons as they aren't commonly known here, but it's become a big part of our project showing people how to add images, and giving a peek at the data side.

I tried to emphasise that this project is for everyone, while noting we mostly have partnered with GLAM org's to run our events so far. The project is growing to include more informal events outside of GLAM sponsorship so I wanted to allude to that without being too specific as we haven't formally announced anything.

### Staff Assessment for This Learner

CRITERION	SELECTED OPTION	FEEDBACK	POINTS	POINTS POSSIBLE
Grade	Excellent		5	5

#### Overall Feedback

Excellent work!

Yes, it could use another edit to find a better flow, looking for the most concise way possible to express the benefit to music of contributing content about it to Wikimedia, but you've clearly put thought into this and hit the elements of a good mission statement.

Personalized, private instructor feedback.

## Courses available for translation

Introduction to W

Course Name	Translated Course Name	From Language	To Language	Translated
Introduction to WikiLearn	[to be translated into French] Introduction to WikiLearn	English	French	0%
Introduction to WikiLearn	[Spanish] Introduction to WikiLearn	English	Spanish	0%
Introduction to WikiLearn	[Arabic] Introduction to WikiLearn	English	Arabic	0%
Introduction to WikiLearn	[Chinese] Introduction to WikiLearn	English	Chinese	0%
Introduction to WikiLearn	[Russian] Introduction to WikiLearn	English	Russian	0%
Introduction to WikiLearn	ವಿಕಿಲರ್ನ್ ಪರಿಚಯ	English	Kannada	55%
Introduction to WikiLearn	ವಿಕ್ಕಿಪ್ಪಯಿಲ್ ಕುறித்த அறிமுகம்	English	Tamil	100%
Introduction to WikiLearn	വികിലേണിലേക്ക് ആമുഖം	English	Malayalam	100%
Introduction to WikiLearn	Introduction to WikiLearn	English	Telugu	30%



# 03

# Looking ahead

Things we still need to figure out

# Governance

- When we open the platform to community curation, what governance measures should we put in place to **handle abuse and spam**? Remember it's *not a wiki*.
- Do we need some **distinction** between complete, maintained, and up-to-date courses and the various in-progress or low-quality courses that would appear on the platform once open? If so, what might that look like, and **who** would be creating and maintaining it?



We will be having a public conversation about this in the coming months.

# WikiLearn's Scope

- What should our project scope be?

(interim answer: anything and everything potentially useful for Wikimedians in their work)

- Questions we might ask as warm-up:

- What topics would you be interested to take a course on?

- What topics would you be interested in **teaching and developing curriculum for?**



We will be having a public conversation about this in the coming months.

# 04

# Next steps

How can we engage with WikiLearn?

# These are early days!

1. Take an available course
2. Translate a course into your language
3. Write to us if you want to develop curriculum yourself
4. Tell your colleagues about WikiLearn!
5. Stay tuned for that governance conversation!

[comdevteam@wikimedia.org](mailto:comdevteam@wikimedia.org)

<https://learn.wiki>

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

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