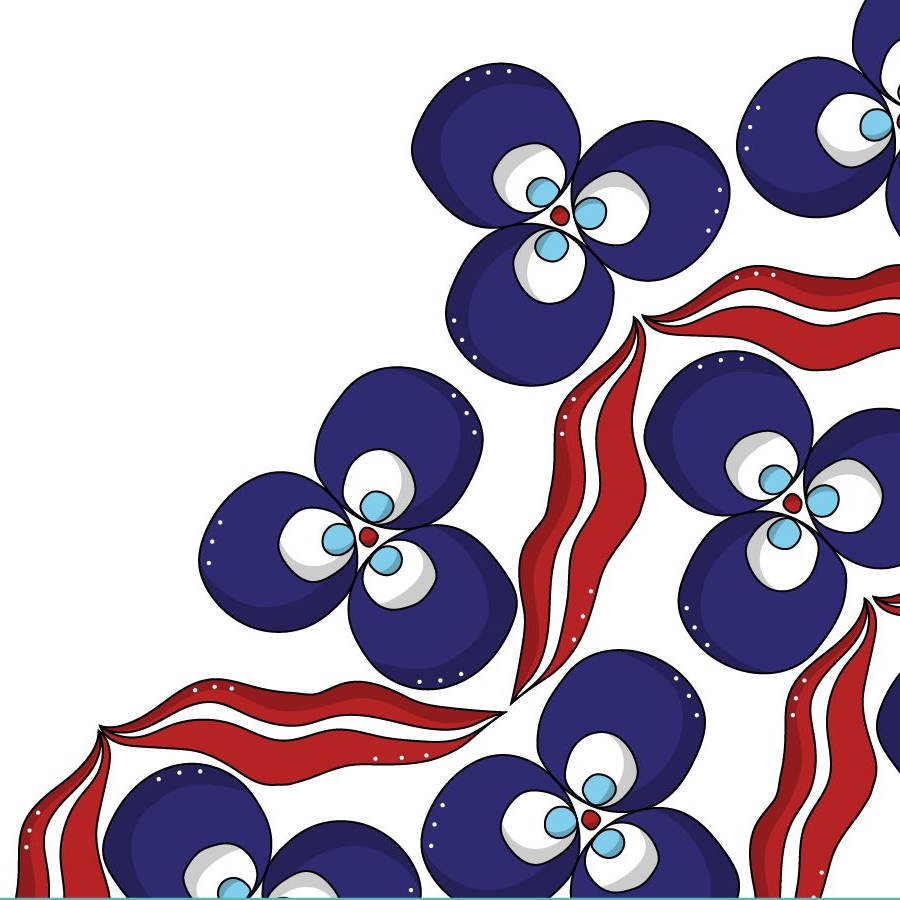


Tackling Falsehoods on Wikipedia

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The power of Wikipedia

A platform for global collaboration

... that promotes cross-cultural knowledge sharing from diverse backgrounds

A dynamic knowledge platform

... that can be edited by everyone regardless of barriers

Wikipedia's global Influence

... is immense as the biggest online encyclopedia globally

Its role in shaping public understanding

... is inevitable, given its expansive reach and constant evolution

A hub of references

... that serves as a go-to reference for other websites and publications

Promoting multilingualism

... by offering information in numerous languages, fostering linguistic diversity



General reasons for falsehoods

Vandalism

Deliberate edits made with the intent to mislead or disrupt

Misinterpretation

Contributors may misinterpret or misunderstand sources, leading them to include inaccurate information in good faith

Edit warring

Ongoing disputes between editors may affect the content's accuracy

Bias (NPOV)

Contributors with personal or ideological biases may skew information

User negligence

Neglecting fact-checking before editing Wikipedia can lead to the spread of inaccuracies

Citogenesis

Circular reporting, where a claim is repeated without verification



“Ibrahim Guliyev” case

An architect who never existed

An imaginary architect whose article was created on Ruwiki in 2009

Availability in 7 languages

The article was translated into 6 other languages by 2020

Made it to a reputable website and a book

The article was published on a well-known website, as well as in an encyclopedic collection of biographies

Was only deleted in 2020

The myth was debunked after 11 years, but it was too little too late

Xalq rəssamı, Əməkdar incəsənət xadimi, heykəltəraş Əbdürrəhmanov Fuad Həsən oğlunun (11.05.1915-15.06.1971) anadan olmasının 105 illiyi (real)
Xalq rəssamı, heykəltəraş Quliyev İbrahim Əli oğlunun (12.05.1915-16.06.1971) anadan olmasının 105 illiyi (fake)

Published source



Circular Reporting – Citogenesis

Circular reporting in Wikipedia

Citogenesis describes the process of circular reporting facilitated by Wikipedia

Possibility of a circular reference

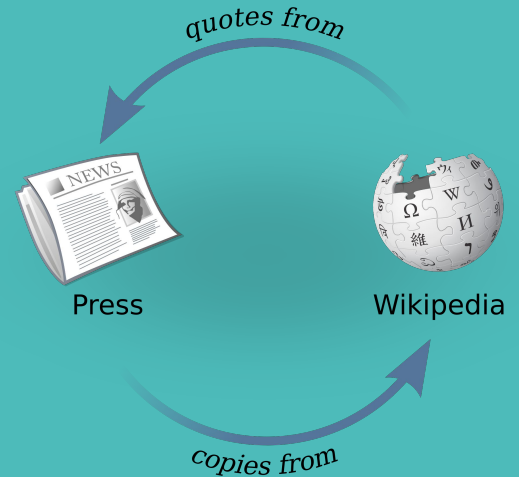
The last object references the first, resulting in a closed loop

Difficulty in detection

Citogenesis is hard to catch due to rapid webpage revisions and the absence of "as of" timestamps in citations

The importance of timestamps

Researchers and Wikipedians should note the "retrieved-on" date of web citations to identify the earliest source of a claim



Countering misinformation

Quality over quantity

Emphasize the importance of authenticity over simply increasing the number of articles

Diverse and reliable sourcing

Discourage reliance on a single source for article content

Neutrality and verifiability

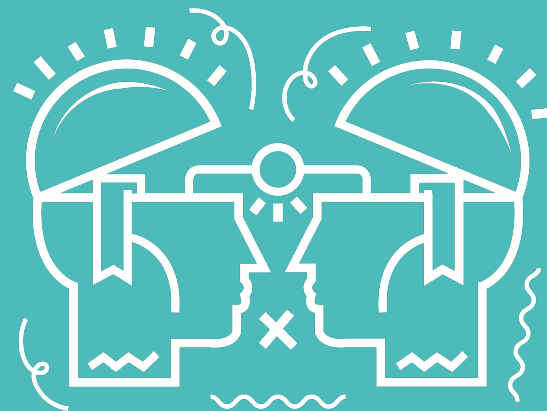
Eliminate POVs and original research to ensure objectivity

Long-term maintenance

Encourage editors to revisit and update articles periodically as new information emerges

Responsible editing

Acknowledge the responsibility of Wikipedia editors to shape the knowledge landscape



Quality > Quantity

Accuracy and reliability

Quality content is characterized by its accuracy and reliability

Longevity of contributions

High-quality articles are less likely to be flagged for cleanup or deletion

Reputation management

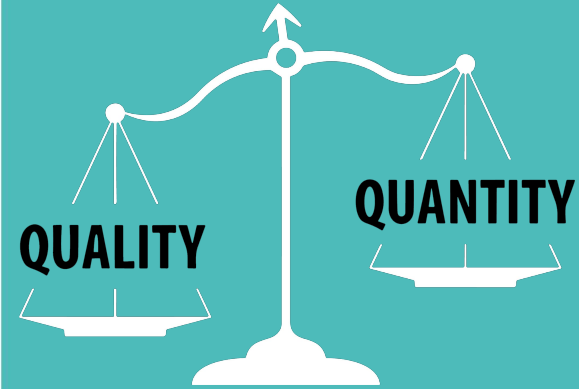
Reputation of Wikipedia, as well as that of its editors, is closely linked to the quality of the content

Motivating contributors

The sense of accomplishment from contributing to high-quality articles

Potential use in education

Quality articles enhance the educational value of the platform for students, educators, and lifelong learners



Diverse and reliable sourcing

The power of diversity

Diverse sourcing enriches content, reduces bias, promotes inclusivity

Reliability matters

Reliable sources are the foundation of credible content

Reliability over quantity

It's more important to have a few high-quality, reliable sources than a large number of lower-quality sources

Primary vs. secondary sources

Ensure both primary and secondary sources are reputable and credible

Public domain and open access

Such resources provide easier access to resources while respecting copyright norms



Neutrality and verifiability

Neutrality ensures objectivity

Neutrality in Wikipedia articles means presenting information fairly and without bias

Avoiding original research

It Wikipedia maintains credibility through reliance on established sources.

Respecting all viewpoints

It's is important to represent all significant viewpoints fairly, even when they conflict

Editorial consensus

Collaborative decision-making among editors helps in achieving neutrality and verifiability



Long-term maintenance

Regular review and updates

Revisiting articles periodically and reviewing them help to ensure that the information remains accurate and up to date

Monitoring changes

Keeping an eye on changes to articles and address issues promptly in case of vandalism and such

Looking for better sources

Finding newer and more reliable sources helps to improve and clarify controversial facts

Collaborative efforts

Collaboration among editors is a good idea to share the responsibility of long-term maintenance



Responsible editing

Adherence to content policies

Responsible editing includes a commitment to upholding Wikipedia's core content policies

Distinguishing facts from opinions

Presenting facts neutrally and attributing opinions to reliable sources

Resolving disputes

It involves finding consensus and respecting Wikipedia's policies

User privacy and security

Avoiding sharing personal information and reporting any instances of harassment or privacy violations

Assistance to newcomers

Encourage a welcoming and informative approach to new editors



Thank you!

Graphics: Wikimedia Commons, Flaticon
Presentation template: Kurmanbek

