

Click to access the [editable \(Google Slides\) version](#) with speaker notes.

Wikipedia – the overlooked and misunderstood resource



Maybe not the Wikipedia you thought you knew

Wikipedia – the overlooked and misunderstood resource

Welcome! We'll talk about:

- Wikipedia and the “quality issue”
- Myths and facts about Wikipedia
- How can Wikipedia be used in Adult Basic Education?
- What is knowledge, where does it come from, who gets to use it, and who should contribute?
- (if time permits) How editing works in Wikipedia

Access to knowledge: Why does it matter? (to me)

This presentation CC-BY 4.0 Gina Bennett / [Redwideon](#)

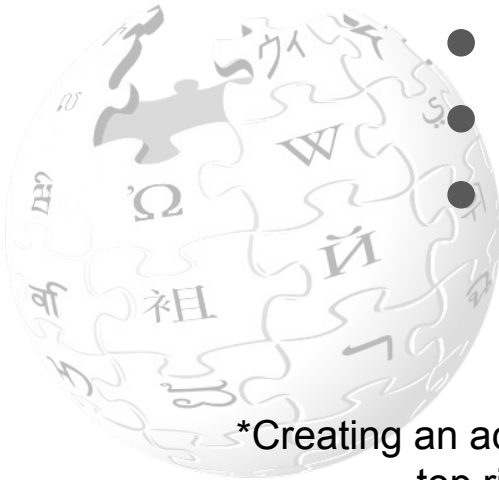


[Photo](#).by Gina Bennett; CC-BY.

Enough about me. Who are you?

How many people here:

- have used WP to look something up?
- have created an account* on WP?
- have actually edited, corrected, or created an article in WP?



*Creating an account is easy. (1) Start at <https://en.wikipedia.org>. (2) Look in top right corner; click on 'Create account.' (3) Follow the directions.

Feel free to do this at any time during the presentation.

Wikipedia's lofty goals

“Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge [in their own language]. That's what we're doing”

Jimmy Wales



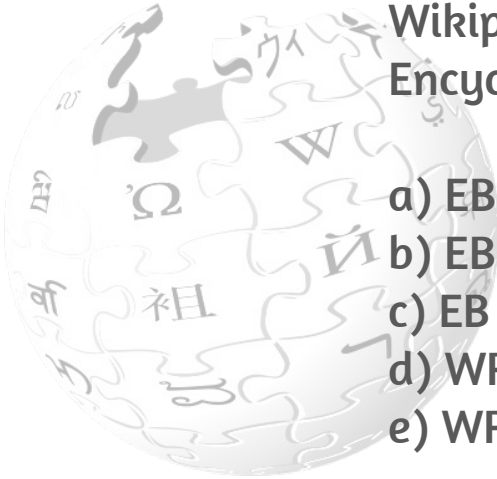


How well do YOU Know Wikipedia??

Quiz Question: Accuracy

In studies done in 2005 (Nature) and 2012 (Oxford), Wikipedia (WP) was compared for accuracy against the Encyclopedia Britannica (EB). The results indicated:

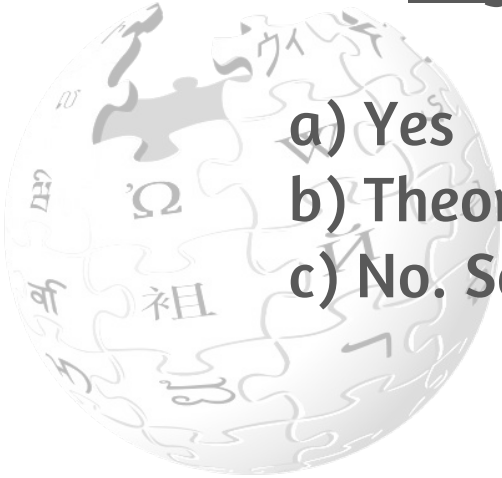
- a) EB was 2X more accurate than WP
- b) EB was 25% more accurate
- c) EB & WP were about equal in accuracy
- d) WP was 25% more accurate
- e) WP was 2X more accurate



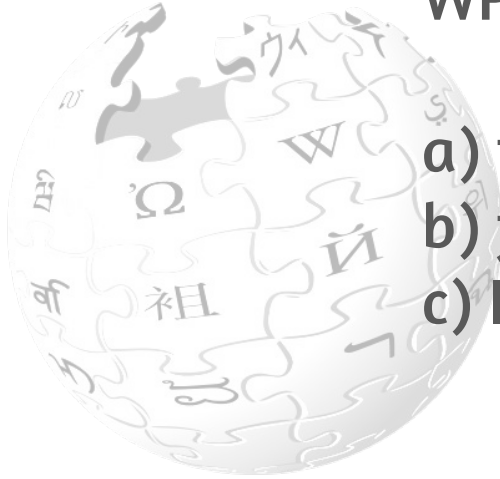
Quiz question: Who can edit?

Can anybody can edit an article in WP???

- a) Yes
- b) Theoretically, yes
- c) No. Some restrictions apply.



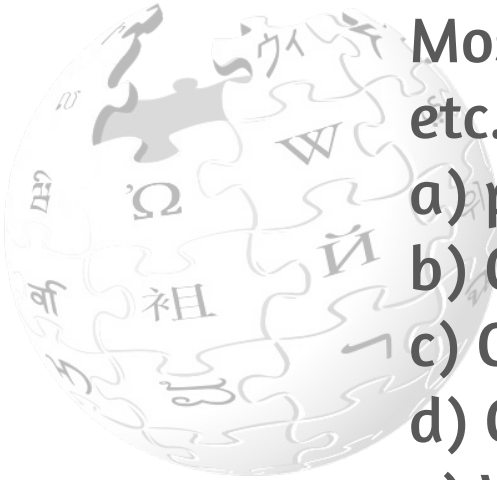
Quiz question: who pays?



WP is funded solely by donations & grants.

- a) true
- b) false
- c) I don't see why this matters.

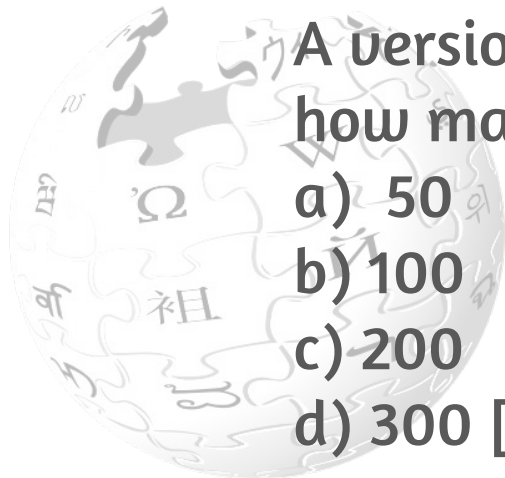
Quiz question: Who owns the information in Wikipedia?



Most of the contributions (of text, images, etc.) in WP are licensed as:

- a) public domain (CC0)
- b) CC-BY
- c) CC-BY-SA
- d) CC-SA-ND-NC
- e) WI-KI-PE-DIA

Quiz question: Est-ce que Wikipédia est disponible en français?



A version of WP is available in approximately how many languages?

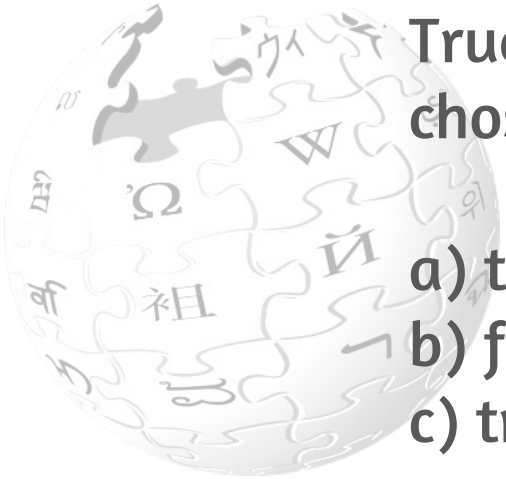
- a) 50
- b) 100
- c) 200
- d) 300 [including Simple English]

Quiz question: What's it good for?

WP is best used for:

- a) making critical decisions.
- b) improving familiarity with a subject and its jargon
- c) learning search terms with which to further explore a subject
- d) fishing for references
- e) scholarly work

Quiz question: Is Wikipedia a good place to self-publish?



True or false: A few professionals have chosen to publish original research in WP.

- a) true
- b) false
- c) true, but ...



Quiz question: *Change vs. edit*

You can *edit*, but not actually *change* anything in WP.

- a) true
- b) false
- c) HUH???



Video: The Role of Wikipedia in Education

15-minute video by Pen-Yuan Hsing

[<https://vimeo.com/234993156>]

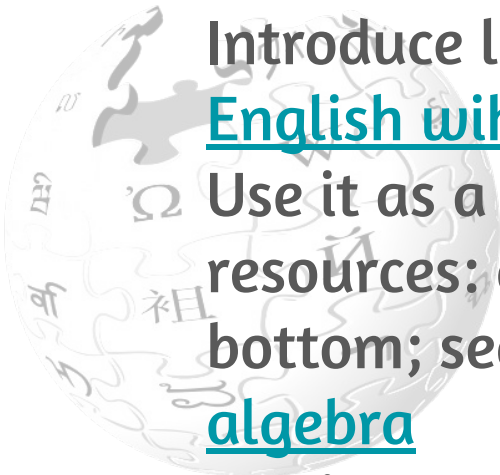
Let's try an example!

Scenario: The New ABE Instructor ...
... & The Hallway Conversation.
Let's look it up!

- a) Google
- b) Google Scholar
- c) Encyclopedia Britannica
- d) Wikipedia



Wikipedia, your ABE classroom & you: How might *you* use it?



Introduce low-literacy students to the [Simple English wikipedia](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Use it as a starting place for references & resources: e.g. [Algebra](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebra) article has references at the bottom; see links to a good [VERY basic intro to algebra](http://www.mathsisfun.com/algebra/introduction.html)

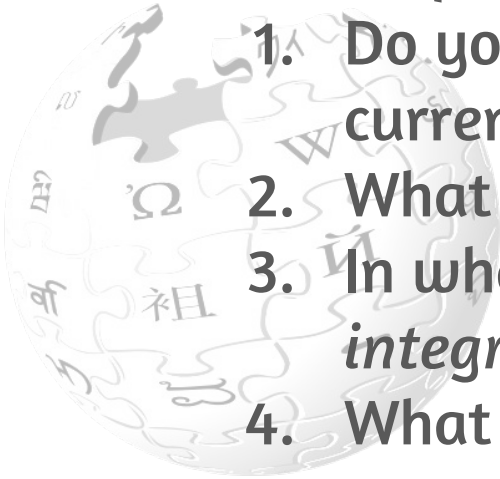
Use it to create editable “books” of copyright-free information.

Wikipedia, your classroom, & you:

How might *your students* use it?

Some questions to discuss with your students:

1. Do you use Wikipedia? If so, *how* do you currently use it?
2. What is “academic integrity”?
3. In what ways could you use Wikipedia *with integrity*?
4. What is knowledge? What is “fake news”? How can you tell them apart?





**Is simply
accessing
knowledge
enough?
For your students?
For you?**

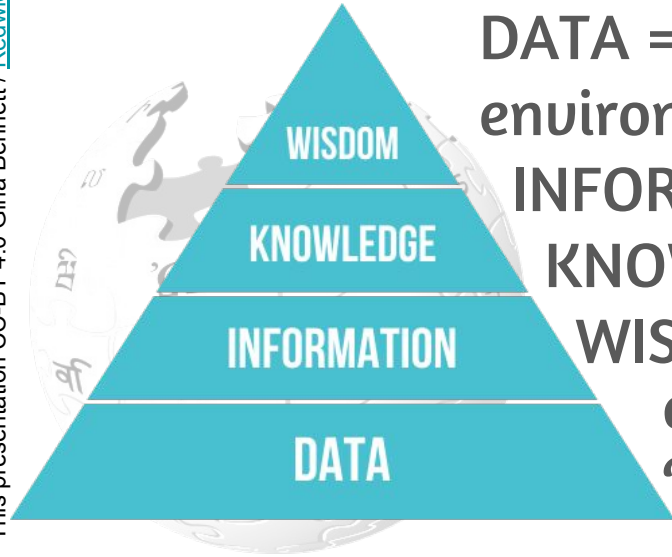
Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia ...

... but students? **ABE students?? Seriously???**

If your students were to write something for WP, what might happen? They might...

- Develop digital literacy
- Experience true collaborative writing
- Gain pride in writing for a real audience
- Produce non-disposable written material

[Optional] The DIKW pyramid



DATA = facts. The signals that the environment sends out.

INFORMATION = data made “useful”

KNOWLEDGE = organized information

WISDOM = applied knowledge; answers questions related to “why?”

A Wikipedia entry for ABEABC?

What would it take to create a Wikipedia site for **our** organization?

- Are we “notable”?
- Are there any other publications (other than our own publication, *Groundwork*) which refer to our organization?
- Can we do this? Would we like information about our organization to be more accessible?

Yes! A Wikipedia article for ABEABC!

Let's edit...

1. Start at [my WP sandbox site]
2. We'll need references to start. In small groups, tackle one article that refers to ABEABC
3. Summarize the relevant information
4. Click on the 'Edit' tab & start writing!
5. Use a "neutral point of view" and "be bold but not reckless"
6. Don't worry! Every iteration is saved so we can always revert.

Next steps: Stay tuned!



If we're able to flesh out a bit of information about ABEABC, we'll submit the draft for review.

Thank you, all!

