

101 Ways to Contribute to Wikimedia

On untapped potential



CEE Meeting 2020
Ohrid online

Asaf Bartov
asaf@wikimedia.org
[@abartov](https://twitter.com/abartov)

Hello!

- Asaf Bartov (<-- Hebrew, not Russian, name)
- Volunteer Wikimedian since 2001
- Working for the Wikimedia Foundation since 2011
 - Former grantmaker; funded several CEE Meetings
 - Focused on capacity-building ([[m:[CCD](#)]], [[m:[CCM](#)]])
 - Now working on an online learning platform for Wikimedia
- I know many CEE Wikimedians; if I **don't** know you, please do get in touch and introduce yourself!



**How many times
have you tried to
interest someone in
contributing to
Wikimedia?**



**How many times
were you told:
"Very nice, but it's
not for me."?**



Thesis 1:
More than 90% of those people
could get interested in
contributing to Wikimedia!
(but how?)



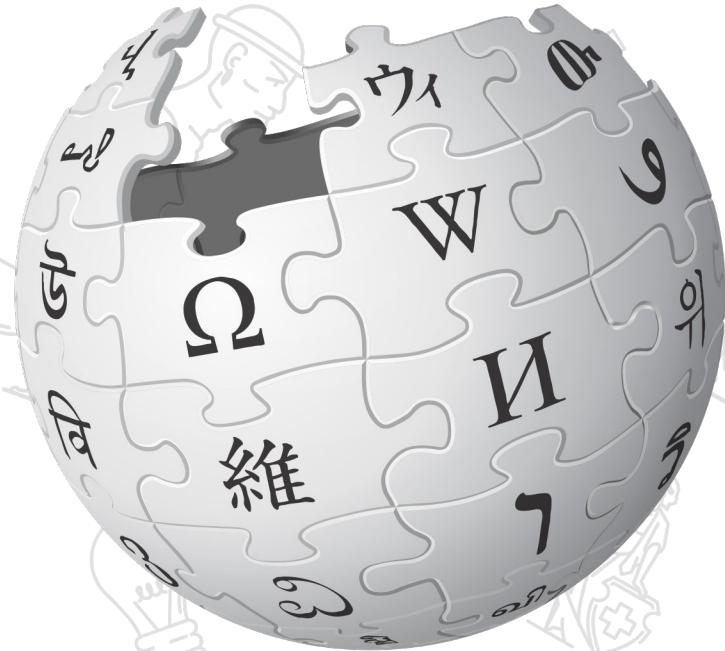
Thesis 2:

Most people only consider **one** type of activity when deciding volunteering with Wikimedia is "not for them"



And that one thing is often:

Writing a new article on Wikipedia



**Of course,
you and I
know that:**



There must be(*)

101 Ways to contribute to Wikimedia!



* at least!

Ways to contribute

1. Writing a new article on Wikipedia
2. Expanding an existing article on Wikipedia
3. Correcting spelling and grammar
4. *Reading* an article and leaving feedback on the talk page
5. Adding useful inline wikilinks or See also links
6. Improving categorization



Ways to contribute

...

22. Adding a citation for a fact (e.g. [[m:[1lib1ref](#)]])
23. Translating an article from/into another language
24. Creating an illustration for an article
25. Restoring an old photograph
26. Add maps to illustrate articles
27. Help reach out to subject-matter experts

...



Ways to contribute

...

46. Proofread a page on Wikisource
47. Scan old books for Wikisource
48. Upload photography to Commons
49. Categorize images on Commons
50. Integrate media on Wikipedia articles
51. Nominate or judge valued/quality images on Commons

...



Ways to contribute

...

67. Fix dead links
68. Offer an opinion in content disputes
69. Mediate in disputes
70. Organize a photo walk event
71. Organize a meetup / talk (not necessarily as speaker!)
72. Investigate copyright violations



Ways to contribute

...

84. Develop a software tool (bot etc.)
85. Create a partnership between the community and an institution
86. Teach a How to make the most of Wikipedia class
87. Teach anything using Wikimedia resources

...



Ways to contribute

...

And don't even get me **started** about Wikidata and Abstract Wikipedia! ;)



So again,
you and I know this.

**But how can others
find out?**



**Does Wikipedia tell
them about all these
different ways to
help?**



Eh, sort of...



Welcome to Wikipedia,

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
6,166,670 articles in English

There isn't a single, explicit call-to-action on the main page!

None of these links would tell you about the need for help with photo restoration, proofreading pages, API programming, categorization, or dispute resolution.

Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – Bulletin board, projects, resources and activities covering a wide range of Wikipedia areas.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.
- **Local embassy** – For Wikipedia-related communication in languages other than English.
- **Reference desk** – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.
- **Site news** – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is hosted by the [Wikimedia Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other projects:

 **Commons**
Free media repository

 **Wikidata**
Free knowledge base

 **Wikispecies**
Directory of species

 **MediaWiki**
Wiki software development

 **Wikinews**
Free-content news

 **Wikiversity**
Free learning resources

 **Meta-Wiki**
Wikimedia project coordination

 **Wikiquote**
Collection of quotations

 **Wikivoyage**
Free travel guide

 **Wikibooks**
Free textbooks and manuals

 **Wikisource**
Free-content library

 **Wiktionary**
Dictionary and thesaurus

**(what is it like on
your home wiki?)**



So maybe you clicked
around, or someone
shared a link, and
you found
[[WP:BACKLOG]]...



"WP:BL" redirects here. For blocking, see [Wikipedia:Blocking policy](#).

Wikipedia maintenance

[Task Center \(open tasks\)](#) • [Backlog](#) • [Dashboard](#) • [Database reports](#)
[Special pages \(new pages\)](#) • [Category tracker](#) • [WikiProjects \(resources\)](#)

Shortcuts
[WP:BL](#)
[WP:BACK](#)
[WP:BACKLOG](#)

This week's **backlog** of the week is:

[Category:Articles with topics of unclear notability](#)

This **backlog** page lists tasks that should be done to improve Wikipedia (assuming the [cleanup templates](#) were placed correctly). Helping reduce backlogs is an important issue, so please feel free to help out and/or develop this page (or ways to quantify these things) further. [Wikipedia talk:Backlog](#) is the discussion page for this page, and the [technical Village Pump](#) page is where technical issues are discussed.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Status
- 2 Oldest backlogs by issue
- 3 Statistics
- 4 Templates
- 5 See also

Status [edit]

See [Category:Wikipedia backlog](#) for more categories, and [Wikipedia:Task Center](#) for brief guides.

Click any linked number for that category's articles prioritized by their number of incoming links.

Backlog categories

- General
 - Administrative
 - Assessment
 - Stub sorting
 - Template parameter
- Lacking references**
- Needs references: 175,286 ↗
 - **Needs references (BLP)**: 1,780 ↗

Content

- **Copied and pasted**: 396 ↗
- Needs context: 3,862 ↗
- Needs coordinates: 118,646 ↗
- Too technical: 2,769 ↗
- Uses improper non-free content: 160 ↗
- Uses in-universe perspective: 1,743 ↗
- Plot summary needs attention: 5,539 ↗
- Has trivia sections: 335 ↗
- Of unclear notability: 60,662 ↗
- Popular low-quality articles (top 5000 by pageviews with low

File description

- **Copy to Wikimedia Commons**: 158,309
- Needs author: 9,533

File quality

- Has inappropriate JPEG compression: 3,324
- Logos that should be in SVG format: 4,858
- Should be in PNG format: 344
- Has watermarks: 14
- Has borders: 13

Non-free file use

Meta

- Biographies without "listas" parameter: 28,553 ↗

Quality content

- Featured article candidates: 41 ↗
- Featured article review: 12 ↗
- Featured list candidates: 32 ↗
- Featured list review: 25 ↗
- Good articles needing "oldid": 6 ↗
- **Unreviewed good article nominations**: 545 ↗

Other

NOW WHAT?

How do I "sort stubs"? How do I copy to Commons? What do I do with non-free content? Or watermarks? etc.

But what if...



**What if we behaved
as though we
actually want new
people in all these
roles?**



What would that look like?

1. We would have a page (or page with sub-pages) encouraging **all kinds** of contribution
 - a. Attractively designed
 - b. Organized by multiple vectors (material, method, skills, difficulty)
 - c. Explicitly **inviting** participation

What would that look like?

2. For **each activity type** we would have:
 - a. A brief text description
 - b. A brief video tutorial demonstrating UI and method.
 - c. Clear expression of pre-requisites
("programming ability", "access to a library", "ability with graphics software", etc.)
 - d. A designated path to mentorship (usernames, a talk page, real-time chat) for that specific task

Wouldn't that be nice?



What's keeping us from living in that future?



Reasons we don't do it

- We're busy doing Actual Work™
- It feels like a lot of work
- Maybe others would reject this initiative
- ...?

There have been attempts!

- English Wikipedia's [[WP:Task Center]] was created in 2006! But:
 - No video tutorials
 - Some of the explanation pages are overwhelming and intricately-details, not specifically aimed at new contributors
 - Isn't actually actively shown to anyone. How would people discover it?
- ...other examples?

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Anti-Vandalism | | Suitable for all editors |
| Stop vandals from damaging Wikipedia. Wikipedia gets thousands of edits per day - unfortunately many of these are vandalism . As a Recent Changes Patroller, you are the first line of defense against such abuse, ensuring that readers of Wikipedia are not faced with vandalized content where they expected to find a useful article. | More Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WP:Recent changes patrol• WP:Vandalism• Vandalism on Wikipedia | Do It! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special:Recent changes• WP:Counter-Vandalism Unit• WP:Administrator intervention against vandalism |
| Categorization | | Suitable for all editors |
| Help put pages into their rightful categories. Pages need to be put into categories so that the public can more easily find them. Help search the new pages feed and the Uncategorized Pages category in order to find pages to categorize. Add categories to articles with too few categories. | More Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WP:Categorization | Do It! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go to a random page in Category:All uncategorized pages• Special:Newpages• Go to a random page in Category:Articles needing additional categories from October 2020 |

| Fact-Checking | Suitable for all editors |
|--|---|
| <p>Help to verify articles' information, add sources, and fix links.</p> <p>Sometimes, editors add information without adding sources to back it up. And sometimes sources get old and experience linkrot. Your job will be to add sources, verify content, and repair linkrot.</p> | <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP:Link rot • WP:Identifying reliable sources • WP:Citing sources • WP:Verifiability <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a random page in Category:All articles lacking sources • Go to a random page in Category:All articles with unsourced statements • Go to a random page in Category:All articles that may contain original research • Go to a random page in Category:Wikipedia articles needing factual verification from October 2020 • Go to a random page in Category:All articles with bare URLs for citations |
| <p>Random Article Patrol</p> | <p>Suitable for all editors</p> |
| <p>See Wikipedia as it really is, and learn a lot of random information.</p> <p>Random article patrol is a chance to appreciate how good (and how lacking) Wikipedia is. It can be a soothing experience, especially after tedious maintenance tasks. As a bonus, it can be a great training tool to sharpen your knowledge if you're a trivia buff or are scheduled to appear on Jeopardy! Just go to random pages and fix what you can.</p> | <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP:Random • WP:Random page patrol <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special:Random |
| <p>Answer an Edit Request</p> <p>Help someone else contribute to the encyclopedia.</p> <p>Sometimes, users cannot edit a page because it is protected, or they should not because they have a conflict of interest with its subject. Review their edit requests, implementing the good ones and rejecting the less-than-good ones.</p> | <p>Suitable for intermediate editors</p> <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to protected edit requests • Responding to COI edit requests <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a random page with a semi-protected edit request • Go to a random page with a COI edit request |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| New Images Patrol | | Suitable for intermediate editors |
| <p>Prevent the release of illegal images. Search the new images feed to find pictures that violate rules and copyright laws and get them deleted.</p> | <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP:New pages patrol/Image namespace checklist • WP:File copyright tags • WP:Images | <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special:Newimages |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| New Pages Patrol | | Suitable for advanced editors |
| <p>Help delete spam articles before the public sees them. Some people, either acting in good faith or maliciously, create new articles which aren't suitable for inclusion in Wikipedia. By participating in new article patrol you can ensure that these articles are deleted as soon as possible.</p> | <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP:New pages patrol • WP:Criteria for speedy deletion • WP:Notability | <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special:Newpages • WP:Proposed deletion • WP:Twinkle |

Writing

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Expand a Short Article | | Suitable for intermediate editors |
| <p>Help fill the gaps of Wikipedia article content. Help make small articles called stubs more complete by doing more research.</p> | <p>More Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP:Stubs • WP:Manual of Style/Lead section | <p>Do It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a random page in Category>All stub articles • Go to a random page in Category>All articles to be expanded • Go to a random page in Category:Pages missing lead section |

We can make it happen

With **a handful** of interested Wikimedians, we can:

- Craft such resources for each activity type (gradually, one at a time)
- Make **generic video scripts** that can then be screen-recorded in each **local** language wiki
- Conduct **experimentation** (even A/B tests) with exposing the contribution page and per-task resources to readers, measuring recruitment



In conclusion...





Are you in?

**[[m:101 ways to contribute to
Wikimedia]]**



[[m:101]]

THANK YOU

Questions and ideas welcome!

Keep in touch!

asaf@wikimedia.org

@abartov



[[m:101]]