

Supporting indigenous languages and cultures using Wikimedia projects

For many indigenous people, their native tongue is an important ethnic marker. Strengthening an indigenous language online, can contribute to keep it current and alive for new generations. This is important not only for the language and the people who speak it, but for the history this language and it's culture represents.

Sigrun Espe, Chairperson of Wikimedia Norge

Wikipedia is among the ten most visited websites in the world, and an important place to search for knowledge. Wikipedia is edited and maintained by volunteers all over the world. The knowledge on Wikipedia reflects the knowledge of its contributors. Sadly, the diversity of the world's population is not properly reflected among the contributors to Wikipedia.

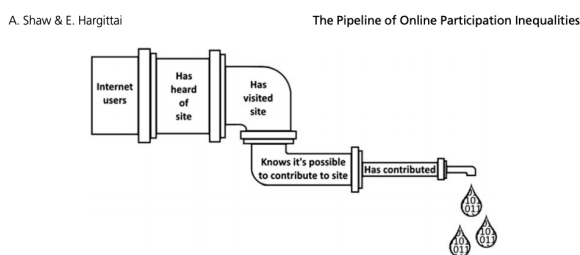


Figure 1 Schematic drawing of a pipeline of online participation.

Figure illustrating the pipeline from knowing Wikipedia, to becoming a contributor. By Aaronshaw, CC BY-SA 4.0



Picture illustrating people dancing at the Riddu Riddu festival. By Børge Helstrøm, CC BY-SA 2.0.

There are several potential barriers for participation of indigenous people

- Knowledge about the opportunity to document culture, history and language online
- Technical skills
- Access to computers/Internet
- Access to written, reliable sources
- Wish to document culture

Wikimedia Norge has several projects aimed at increasing the participation of underrepresented groups. One of them being to invite and teach students and academics within the field of indigenous cultures about editing on Wikipedia.

Interesting websites

[Globalvoices](#)

[Whose knowledge](#)

[Uralic Centre](#)

[Wikimedia Language Diversity](#)

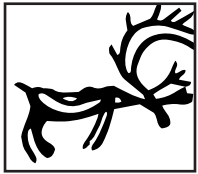
[Blog post about the Inari Sámi Wikipedia](#)

[Course page for HIS-3005](#)

[Sámi knowledge online \(in Norwegian\)](#)

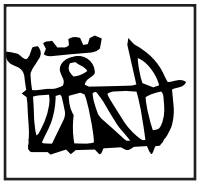
[Contact information](#)

Three ways to contribute to better diversity on Wikipedia



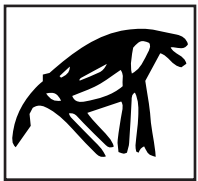
Make your efforts count twice!

Take a look at the work you have done in recent assignments, or in your bachelor's or master's degree. Can any of it be used to create or improve articles? Have you created figures or taken photos that can be uploaded to Commons?



Improve stubs

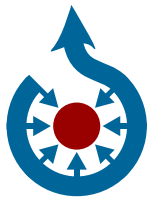
Articles marked as "stubs" are too short to provide adequate encyclopedic coverage of a subject. You can find lists of stubs on your language edition of Wikipedia, or by stumbling upon them while exploring your field of study.



Create a new article on Wikipedia

There are still many articles left to be written in the field of indigenous people and culture, across all language editions. Maybe you can contribute to a more diverse Wikipedia? When you create an article, a community of Wikipedians will continue to build upon it.

Two great Wiki-tools for sharing and exploring



[Wikimedia commons](#)

- is a collection of freely licenced media files, such as pictures and graphics. Everyone can add their own work there. Each file contains a list of all the wikis where it is being used. Check out the reach of this photo of [Elsa Laula](#), an early Sámi activist, to understand the power of good pictures on Commons.



[Wikidata](#)

- contains structured information that can be read and edited by both humans and machines. It is very useful to keep information concise across all Wikimedia-projects, and you can run powerful queries on the entire database. Have you ever wondered [How many cats have an article on Wikipedia?](#) On wikidata you can find out!

Resources

[How to edit Wikipedia for academics](#)

[Wikidata query service](#)

[Stub articles related to indigenous peoples of North America \(English Wikipedia\)](#)