The Wikibooks Paradigm for Collaborative Content Creation
Overview

- History And Background
- Wikibooks
  - Who We Are
  - Challenges
  - Solutions And Methods
  - Site Policies
  - Roadmap
- Conclusion
- Questions and Comments
History

- Nupedia Created in March 2000
- Wikipedia Created in January 2001
- Wikimedia Foundation
  - Founded by Jimmy Wales
  - June 2003
- Wikibooks
  - Founded July 2003
Wikimedia Foundation

- Projects:
  - Wikipedia
  - Wikibooks
  - Wiktionary
  - Wikiversity
  - Wikinews
  - Wikimedia Commons
  - Wikisource
  - Wikiquote
MediaWiki Wiki Engine

- Open Source
- Written in PHP
- Under Constant Development
- Primarily Focused on Wikipedia
Wikibooks

How To Write And Organize Thousands of Free Textbooks and Manuals
Who We Are

- Volunteer-Driven Development
  - Volunteers From Around The World
  - Anonymous
- Self-Organizing
  - No Leadership Structure

Think free. Learn free.
What Is A “Textbook”?  

- Textbooks Must Have:  
  - Organizational Structure  
  - Scope Of Material  
  - Target Audience  
  - Central Narrative  
  - Continuous Style And Formatting
What Is A “Textbook”?  

- Textbooks Are:  
  - Non-Fiction  
  - Instructional, Educational  

- “Textbooks” Can Be:  
  - Traditional Course-Related Texts  
  - Annotated Texts  
  - Instructional Guides and Manuals  

Challenges

- How To Make Books Collaborative?
- How Do We Acclimatize New Users?
- How To Improve Our Books?
- Can We Keep Order Without Procedural Complexity?
- How To Communicate And Coordinate?
- How Do We Resolve Disputes?
- Can We “Sell” Our Books To Readers?
How To Make Books Collaborative?

- High Author Turn-Around
  - Authors Don’t Finish What They Start
  - Don’t Always Communicate Their Vision
  - Hard To Start In The Middle
How To Make Books Collaborative?

- Orphans
  - Books Without Authors
  - Authors Want “My Own” Book
  - Orphaned Books May Never Be Adopted

- Forks
  - Different Opinions Lead To Different Books
  - “1 Author Per Book” Mentality
Introduction to Crochet

From Wikibooks, the open-content textbooks collection

Congratulations on starting a new book!
You have created the new book Introduction to Crochet. Please properly categorize your book using {{Subject}}. Read The Wikibooks Writer for more information about starting books. Ask questions in the Reading Room.
Keep this template for at least 1 week to advertise your book. Do not remove this template until your book is properly categorized. If this is not a new book, but is not properly categorized, use {{Cleanup-link}} instead.

Table of contents

- Getting started
  - Types of yarns
  - The crochet hook
  - Common abbreviations
  - Holding the hook
- Stitches
  - Introduction
  - Chaining
  - Turning the chain
  - Turning your work
  - Single crochet
  - Half double crochet
  - Double crochet

Wikipedia has related information at Crochet.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to: Crochet.
Welcome to a new Wikibook on the Trumpet. Like the book on the Horn, "The purpose for which the book is being written is to educate the reader on what the horn is, how to make music through it, and to provide musical literature for it."

1. Introduction
2. General Information
3. Playing Technique
   1. Care and Maintenance
4. Repertoire
How To Make Books Collaborative?

- High Author Turn-Around
  - Encourage Authors To Make Explicit Plans
  - Write “Manuals of Style” and Roadmaps
- Orphans
  - Evaluate Book Potential To Be Adopted
  - Encourage New Authors To Adopt And Edit
- Forks
  - Force Mergers Between Similar Books
  - Force Authors To Compromise
Acclimatize New Users

- Hundreds Of New User Accounts Every Day
  - Most Never Edit
  - Many Never Return
- Starting Books Is Hard
  - New Authors Make Many Common Mistakes
  - Can Be Difficult To Correct
  - Can Become Frustrated And Leave
Acclimatize New Users

- Lack Of Documentation
- Help Pages:
  - Faster
  - Easier To Write
- Help Books:
  - More Comprehensive
  - Set Good Example
  - Better Organized
Acclimatize New Users

- Welcome New Users Warmly
  - Be Friendly In Answering Questions
  - Provide “Getting Started” Tutorials
  - Write FAQs
  - Provide Help Readily
- Starting From Scratch Is Hard!
  - Requires Planning and Outlining
  - Many Decisions To Make
Getting started with Wikibooks

- Wikibooks is a collection of open-source textbooks. Find out what this means.
- To sign your name (on talk pages), use four tildes, like this: ~~~~~
- For help in using the wiki, see Using Wikibooks.
- For information about the community here, see Wikibooks Community.
- Explore, be bold, and have fun!
Hello, and **welcome** to Wikibooks!

Here are some tips to help you get started:

- To learn the wiki-markup-language syntax, see [Help:Editing](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Help:Editing).
- You should sign your name on Talk and vote pages using four tildes, like this: ~~~~ (there is a box at the top of the edit window that will insert this, too; it looks like a signature).
- Remember to conduct any editing experiments in the sandbox.
- You can tell the community something about yourself in your userpage.
  - You can get to this page by clicking the tab at the top of the page labeled with your registered username.
  - If you are a **Wikipedia**, see [Wikibooks:Wikibooks for Wikipedians](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikibooks:Wikibooks_for_Wikipedians) for a primer on how things work here (it’s a little different).
  - If you want to base your work here on materials from Wikipedia, please use [WB:RFI](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/WB:RFI) to bring the material over in compliance with the GFDL.
- If you’re an **instructor** and plan on using Wikibooks for a class project, see [Wikibooks:Guidelines for class projects](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikibooks:Guidelines_for_class_projects)
- Please say hello at the **Staff Lounge** with any questions or ideas.
- Remember to maintain a **Neutral point of view**.
- Explore, be bold in editing pages, and have fun!

You will find more resources in **Community Portal**. If you want to ask a question, visit the **Study help desk**, the **Staff lounge**, IRC channel or ask me personally on my talk page. For site news, see the **Bulletin board**. It might be a good idea to add this page to your “watchlist” so that you can see when any new information is posted there. You can do that by clicking the tab labeled “watch” at the top of the page.

Good luck!
Improve The Books

- Books Rely On “Primary Authors”
  - Write Content
  - Oversee Book
  - When The Author Leaves, Book Is Abandoned
- Authors Can Be Scarce
  - “One Author Per Book”
- Many Editors
Improve The Books

- Books Have Unique Style
  - Style Is Often Implicit
  - Newcomers Don’t Know All Style Guidelines
- Examples:
  - Language (British/American English)
  - Formatting
  - Vocabulary
Improve The Books

- Primary Authors
  - Write Notes, Outlines, Long-Term Plans
  - Encourage All Authors To Advertise

- Books Have Unique Style
  - Encourage Authors To Write Style Guidelines
  - New Authors Should Follow Existing Style
  - If None Exist, Empowered To Write Their Own
Instruction Creep

- Volunteers Do What They Want
  - Follow Rules That Are Written
  - Won’t Read Too Many!
- Official Site Policies
  - Can Help To Regulate
  - Risk Scripting Behavior
  - Drive Away Volunteers
Instruction Creep

- Volunteers Do What They Want
  - Succinct Overviews Always Best
  - Lead By Example
- Official Site Policies
  - Keep Short And Simple
  - Nothing That “Must” Be Done
  - Few Things That “Must Not” Be Done
Lead By Example

- Show Authors How It’s Done
  - Advertise Good Books
  - Help Documentation In “Good Book” Format
- Sometimes, People Learn The Hard Way
- The Golden Rule
  - Helpfulness Propagates
  - Recognize And Reinforce Good Actions
Communication And Coordination

- Volunteers Come When They Want
  - Different Time-Zones
  - Active At Different Times
  - Direct Communication Is Hard
- Disputes And Conflicts
  - Avoiding Disputes Takes Time
  - Can’t Wait For Permission Or Agreement
Communication And Coordination

- Communication Channels
  - Mailing Lists
  - IRC Chatrooms
  - Message Boards
  - Discussion Pages On The Wiki

Wikibooks: Reading room

From Wikibooks, the open-content textbooks collection
Communication And Coordination

- Two Step Decision-Making Process
  - Be Bold
    - All Volunteers Are Empowered
    - Make Changes To Improve The Project
  - Resolve Disputes
    - Assume Good Faith!
    - Compromise And Reach Consensus
Dispute Resolution

- Consensus-Based Decision Making
  - Discuss
  - Compromise
  - Agree
  - Get Community Feedback
- Not A Democracy!
  - Never “Vote”
  - Majority Does Not Always Win
  - Can Be Difficult To Understand
Getting Books To Readers

- Is Anybody Reading Our Work?
- Are Our Books…
  - …High-Quality?
  - …Reliable?
  - …Accurate?
  - …Readable?
- These Questions Are Unanswered
Site Policies

- Minimal Rules And Regulations
- New Policies Follow Current Best Practices
  - Emphasize Good Aspects
  - Community Tends Towards Equilibrium
Roadmap

- How Do We Move Forward?
- Focus On Key Issues:
  - Quality
  - Reliability
  - Ease Of Use
  - Ideology
Roadmap: Quality

- Organize Editors
  - Collaboration Drives
- Core Subjects
  - Identify Core Subjects
  - Enhance Most Common Books
Roadmap: Reliability

- Can Wikis Be Reliable?
  - “Locking” Prevents Improvement
  - “Forking” Divides Effort
- Stable Versions
  - Requirement For Classrooms
Roadmap: Reliability

- Stable Versions
  - Create PDFs
  - “Click To Print”
- Veropedia
  - Proofread Good Articles
  - Stable And Reliable
- Verobooks?
Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Interface For Writers, Not Readers
  - “Edit” links
  - Maintenance Pages
  - Log Pages
- Documentation
  - Incomplete
  - Outdated
- Organization
  - Work In Progress!
Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Help Users Get Started
  - Create Templates
  - Create Automation Tools
  - Ask Developers For “Book-Specific Extensions”
Roadmap: Ease Of Use

- Create Separate Interface For Readers
- Documentation
  - “Write new stuff, fix old stuff”
  - Get Feedback From New Users
Roadmap: Ideology

- People Have Different Ideals:
  - Free Knowledge
  - Free Education
  - Interactive Education
  - Novelty
- Balance Ideology And Practicality
Roadmap: Ideology

- Book Donations
  - High-Profile Donations
    - UNDP-APDIP
    - Worldbank
- Partnerships
  - Like-Minded Organizations
  - Textbook-Related Organizations
  - Educational Organizations
Conclusion
Thank You

Questions or Comments?