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SI 563: Introduction to Wikipedia

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Introduction to Wikipedia

Miranda Marraccini | Rebecca Welzenbach | U-M Library
SI 563 Fall 2021

<https://bit.ly/2021SI563>

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Agenda

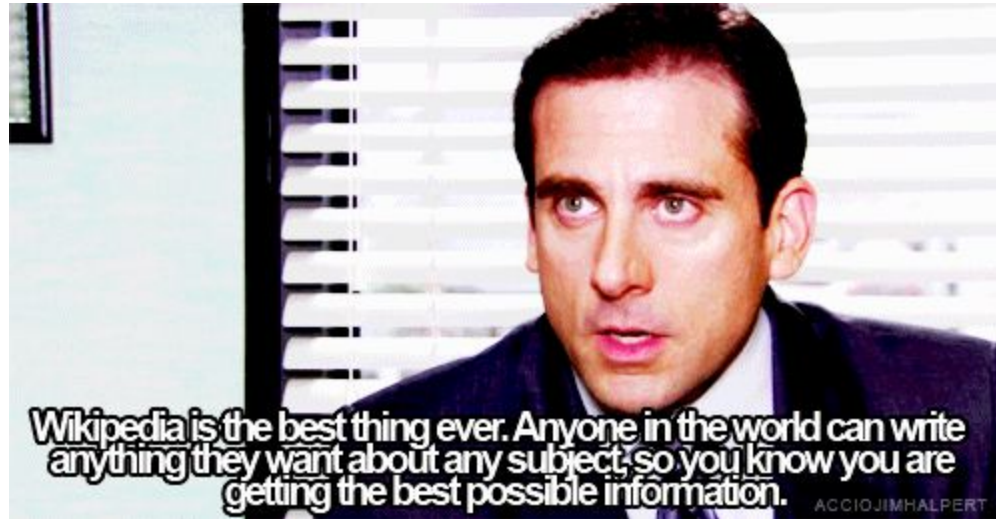
Introduction to Wikipedia (35 min)

- Why we edit
- Legacy of Wikipedia editing in Econ
- Wikipedia Resources
- Wikipedia Basics

Finding Secondary Sources in Econ (15 min)

- Econ Reference Materials
- New library search
- Econ research guide

Who uses Wikipedia?



Wikipedia is the world's free encyclopedia, accessed by nearly 500 million unique visitors per month in more than 301 languages. It hosts more than 5.9 million articles in English with about 800 new articles created each day by volunteer editors around the world.

And where do we
encounter this
knowledge?



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The Free Encyclopedia

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the **free encyclopedia** that **anyone** can edit.
5,800,626 articles in **English**

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From today's featured article



William Bostock (5 February 1892 – 28 April 1968) was a senior commander in the **Royal Australian Air Force** (RAAF). During World War II he led **RAAF Command**, the Air Force's main operational formation, earning the **Distinguished Service Order** and the American **Medal of Freedom**. A veteran of World War I, Bostock first saw combat at **Gallipoli**, then as a pilot in the **Royal Flying Corps** on the **Western Front**, where he earned the **Belgian Croix de guerre**. In the 1930s he served as Director of Training, commanding officer of **No. 3 Squadron**, and Director of Operations, becoming **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff** in 1939. Appointed **Air Officer Commanding** RAAF Command in 1942, he feuded with **Chief of the Air Staff George Jones** over control of the Air Force in the **South West Pacific Area**. Following his retirement from the RAAF in 1946, he became a journalist and later a Federal **Member of Parliament**.
(Full article...)

*Part of the **Command in the South West Pacific Area** series, one of Wikipedia's featured topics.*

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Did you know...

... that Chinese millionaire merchant **Shun Mow** (pictured) made his



In the news

- In **American football**, the **New England Patriots** defeat the **Los Angeles Rams** in the **Super Bowl** (***MVP Julian Edelman** pictured*).
- Both the United States and Russia suspend the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty**.
- In association football, the **AFC Asian Cup** concludes with **Qatar** defeating **Japan** in **the final**.
- **A cold wave** impacts **North America**, killing at least 22 people.



Julian Edelman

Ongoing: [Venezuelan presidential crisis](#)

Recent deaths: [John Otho Marsh Jr.](#) · [Carmen Duncan](#) · [Walter James Edyvean](#) · [Clive Swift](#)

Nominate an article

On this day

February 5

- **AD 62** – **Pompeii** was severely damaged by a



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YouTube will use Wikipedia to tackle fake news - but failed to tell Wikipedia



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Amazon Owes Wikipedia Big-Time

Art speakers are taking advantage of the free labor of Wikipedia volunteers.

RACHEL WITHERS

OCT 11, 2018 • 11:18 AM



Photo illustration by Slate. Images by Amazon and Wikipedia.

So, who edits Wikipedia?



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

- Jimmy Wales [[1](#)]

There are currently 42,401,269
Wikipedia accounts, of which 125,894
are actively editing. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

- 90% men
- 9% women
- 1% trans
- 72% under the age of 40
- A majority reported secondary education or higher

What does this snapshot show?

Why are these numbers important?

“Wikipedia will only contain ‘the sum of all human knowledge’ if its editors are as diverse as the population itself...”

- Sue Gardner ([citation](#))

“The Wikipedia project suffers systemic bias that naturally grows from its contributors' demographic groups, manifesting in imbalanced coverage of some subjects, thereby leaving less represented demographic groups without adequate coverage.” (citation)

Foundations of this Project

[WikiProject Econ](#)

Devoted to improving coverage of Economics on Wikipedia.

[Expert Ideas](#)

Solicits comments on Wikipedia articles from academics in the field of Economics.

Five Pillars of Wikipedia

1. Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
2. Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view
3. Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute
4. Editors should treat each other with respect and civility
5. Wikipedia has no firm rules

Well... sort of.

Wikipedians love making rules about editing Wikipedia, and there is a well-developed bureaucracy with [policies](#), [guidelines](#), and [user levels](#).

Core Content Guidelines

1. Neutral Point of View
2. Verifiability
3. Conflict of Interest
4. Reliable Sources
5. Notability and significant coverage

What makes a good source?

Good sources are independent of your subject and prove notability.

When possible, focus on:

- books
- magazines
- journals
- academic journals
- mainstream newspapers (ex: NY Post vs. NY Times)

When using websites, focus on those that are most likely to have undergone an editorial process that includes fact-checking.

In very limited cases, personal websites and social media can be appropriate. When in doubt, ask a librarian!

“notability” and
“significant coverage”

PostEverything • Perspective

Why Nobel winner Donna Strickland didn't have a Wikipedia page








Donna Strickland, an associate professor at the University of Waterloo, won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics on Oct. 2. Last May, a Wikipedia entry on Strickland was rejected for her lack of "notability." (Geoff Robins/AFP/Getty Images)



By Dawn Bazely

Most Read Opinions

- 1 Opinion**
Trump's grip on the Midwest was illusory 
- 2 Opinion**
We're staying silent out of fear 
- 3 Opinion**
Saudi Arabia is putting money in Trump's pocket. Is that shaping U.S. policy? 
- 4 Opinion**
How 'First Man' became a casualty of pop culture's new political meat grinder 
- 5 Perspective**
How Pocahontas — the myth and the slur — props up white supremacy 



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(diff) — Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision — (diff)

Draft:Donna Strickland

Donna T. Strickland is an optical physicist and professor at the University of Waterloo working in the fields of ultrafast lasers and nonlinear optics. Strickland, along with her Ph.D. supervisor Dr. Gérard Mourou, co-invented chirped pulse amplification (CPA), which made it possible to amplify ultrashort pulses to high peak power.^[1]

In 1981, Strickland received her B. Eng. in Physics from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. She earned her Ph.D. in Optics from the University of Rochester in 1989. After completing her Ph.D., she worked with the National Research Council of Canada as a research associate from 1989 to 1991. After a year in the laser division of the Centre for Nonlinear Optics Laboratory, she became a member of Princeton University's Advanced Technology Center for Photonics and Electrodynamics Materials in 1992. In 1997, Strickland joined the physics department of the University of Waterloo as an assistant professor. In 2000, she promoted to become chair of the physics department.^[2] Her ultrafast laser group "develops high-intensity laser systems for nonlinear spectroscopy".^[3] Strickland is a fellow of The Optical Society (OSA) and served as the OSA president in 2013.

Awards and honors

- 2008 Fellow of the Optical Society of America
- 2000 Cottrell Scholars Award from Research Corporation
- 1999 Premier's Research Excellence Award
- 1998 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship

[illegible]

Project Goals:

- Understand differences between genres and contexts for different forms of academic texts and general reference texts
- Engage in public scholarship and improve the inclusivity of a public resource
- Learn to critically evaluate information we encounter and/or receive
- Question the “neutrality” of sources and sites of knowledge

Resources

- U-M Library Wikipedia Research Guide
- Training resources from Wikipedia
- Slate's *Source Notes* series
- Wired, "Meet the Editors Fighting Racism and Sexism on Wikipedia"
- Huffington Post, "Editors Are Trying To Fix Wikipedia's Gender And Racial Bias Problem"

Tutorial: Anatomy of a Wikipedia page, basic editing, inline citations

Editing Checklist

Enable Visual Editor

Sandbox

Talk Pages

Adding citations & references

Hyperlinks

- Wikipedia page links

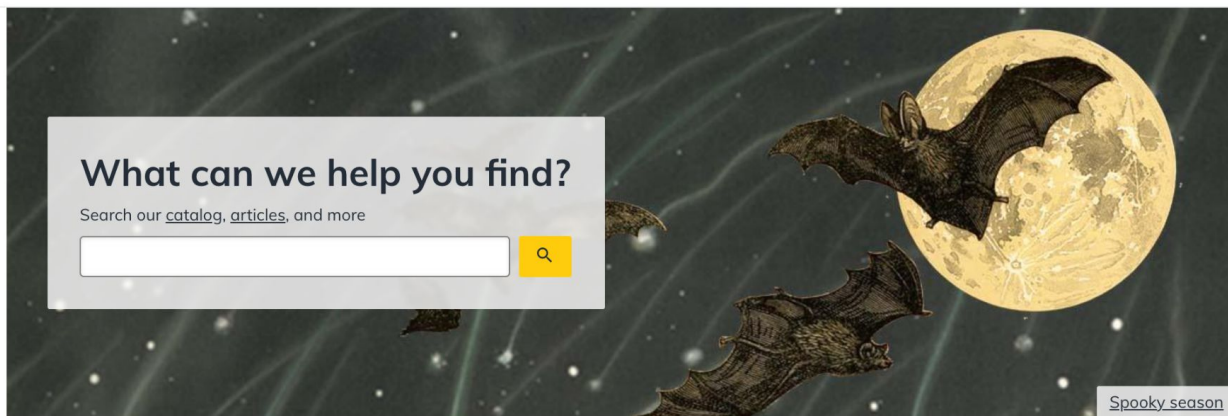
- External links

Leaving edit summaries

Watchlists

[\[More here\]](#)

Finding Secondary Sources for Economics



Popular databases

PubMed @ U-M	Web of Science
Google Scholar	ProQuest
PsycINFO	WorldCat
JSTOR	EBSCOhost

[View all databases](#)

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- 🕒 Shapiro Library TODAY: 8AM - 12AM
- 🕒 Art, Architecture, and Engineering Library TODAY: 9AM - 10PM
- 🕒 Taubman Health Sciences Library TODAY: 9AM - 5PM

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Research Guide for SI 563

- Guide with suggested databases and resources for this assignment
- Suggested references sources for economics
 - New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics
 - Handbooks in Economics
 - Many more

Thank you!
Stay in touch!

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