SI 563: Introduction to Wikipedia

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Follow along
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 best thing ever. Anyone in the world can write anything they want about any subject, so you know you are getting the best possible information.
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?
Welcome to Wikipedia,
the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
5,800,826 articles in English

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.

Recently featured: Gwen Stefani • Felix Mendelssohn • Coenwulf of Mercia Archive • By email • More featured articles

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.

Ongoing: Venezuelan presidential crisis
Recent deaths: John Otho Marsh Jr. • Carmen Duncan • Walter James Edyvean • Clive Swift
Nominate an article

Did you know...

- that Chinese millionaire merchant Chun Mang (painted) made his...
YouTube will use Wikipedia to tackle fake news - but failed to tell 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.
1. Neutral Point of View
2. Verifiability
3. Conflict of Interest
4. Reliable Sources
5. Notability and significant coverage
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”
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.” (Eduardo Munoz Alvarez/NP/Getty Images)

By Dawn Berry
Donna T. Strickland is an optical physicist and professor at the University of Rochester. She is known for her work on ultrashort pulses and nonlinear optics. Strickland, along with her PhD supervisor, Dr. Gerald Mourou, co-invented chirped pulse amplification (CPA), which makes it possible to amplify ultrashort pulses to high peak powers.[1]

In 1981, Strickland received her B. Eng. in Physics from the University of Toronto, and her M. Eng. in Electrical Engineering. She earned her Ph.D. in Optics from the University of Rochester in 1989. After completing her degree, she became a Research Associate with the Research Council of Canada as a research associate from 1989 to 1991. After a year in the laser division of the General Electric Research and Development Center in Schenectady, New York, she became a professor and chair of the physics department at the University of Rochester. In 2008, Strickland joined the physics department at the University of Waterloo as an assistant professor. In 2009, she was promoted to professor and chair of the physics department. She is a fellow of The Optical Society (OSA) and served as the OSA president in 2013.

Awards and honors:
- 2006 Fellow of the Optical Society of America
- 2006 Cottrell Scholar Award from Research Corporation
- 1998 Premiers Research Excellence Award
- 1998 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship
- 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics (shared with T. Mitchell and F. C. Laser Art)
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
What can we help you find?
Search our catalog, articles, and more

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

Plan your visit
- Hatcher Library TODAY: 8AM - 7PM
- Shapiro Library TODAY: 8AM - 12AM
- Art, Architecture, and Engineering Library TODAY: 9AM - 10PM
- Taubman Health Sciences Library TODAY: 9AM - 5PM

View all hours, locations, and access details
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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