Using Wikipedia in Schools

Open Source Schools

This presentation was prepared by Andrew Turvey, Secretary, Wikimedia UK, for a session at the 2009 Open Source Schools "un-"conference

Introduce:

* Conference today about open source software
* More flexible
* Contribute
* Cheaper (?)

Same applies to open source content like Wikipedia

What is Wikipedia?

• Freely accessible online encyclopaedia

• ~3 million articles in English

• Plus 8 million more in 264 other languages

• All content "open source"

• "anyone can edit" - >900,000 pseudonymous contributors

• Published by the US charity, the "Wikimedia Foundation"

main page   edit   hist   talk   edit   hist   edit   hist   watch   tag   csd   last   rpp   prod   xfd   unlink

Welcome to Wikipedia,
the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
2,959,577 articles in English

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- All portals

Overview · Editing · Questions · Help

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Today's featured article

Nevado del Ruiz is the northernmost volcano of the Andean Volcanic Belt, lying about 129 kilometers (80 mi) west of Bogotá in the Tolima Department of Colombia. It is a stratovolcano, composed of many layers of lava alternating with hardened volcanic ash and other pyroclastic rocks. Nevado del Ruiz has been active for about two million years, since the early Pleistocene or late Pliocene epoch, with three major eruptive periods. The current volcanic cone formed during the "present" eruptive period, which began 150 thousand years ago. Nevado del Ruiz usually generates Plinian eruptions, which produce swift-moving currents of hot gas and rock called pyroclastic flows. These eruptions often cause massive lahars (mud and debris flows), which pose a threat to human life and the environment. On November 11, 1985, a small eruption produced an enormous lahar that buried and desolated the town of Armero in Tolima Department, causing an estimated 23,000 deaths. This event later became known as the Armero tragedy—the deadliest lahar in recorded history. The volcano is part of Los Nevados National Park, which also contains several other volcanoes. The summit of Nevado del Ruiz is covered by large glaciers, although these have retreated significantly since 1985 due to atmospheric warming. (more...)

Recently featured: *The Age of Reason* – Port Chicago disaster – Domitian

Archive – By email – More featured articles...

Did you know...

From Wikipedia's newest articles:

In the news

- **Paul Biyoghé Mba** becomes Prime Minister of Gabon *(coat of arms pictured)* after Jean Eyeghe Ndong resigns to launch his presidential campaign.
- **Bombings** in Jakarta, Indonesia, kill at least nine people and injure at least 50 others.
- In Iceland, after five days of debate the Althing votes by a narrow majority to apply for membership of the European Union.
- The body of Russian human rights activist **Natalia Estemirova** is found in Ingushetia after her abduction in Chechnya.
- Caspian Airlines Flight 7908, a scheduled commercial flight from Tehran, Iran, to Yerevan, Armenia, crashes shortly after takeoff with 168 people on board.

Wikinews – Recent deaths – More current events...

On this day...

19 July: Burmese Martyrs' Day

- 711 – According to estimations made by historian David Levering Lewis, Muslim Arabs and Berbers led by Tariq ibn Ziyad defeated Roderic and the Visigoths at the

Class notes

- You can freely quote Wikipedia in your class notes

- Background notes on topics?

- Specific information?

- Images

Copyright

- All content – text, images, video – free to reuse

- Published under CC-BY-SA

- Must be attributed

- Derivative work must be open licensed

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Following the inauguration of Barack Obama, Bush and his family boarded a presidential helicopter typically used as Marine One to travel to Andrews Air Force Base.

Bush, with his wife, then boarded an Air Force Boeing VC-25 for a flight to a homecoming celebration in Midland, Texas. Because he was no longer President, this flight was designated Special Air Mission 28000, instead of Air Force One.

After a welcome rally in Midland, the Bushes returned to their ranch in Crawford, Texas by helicopter. They bought a home in the Preston Hollow neighborhood of Dallas, Texas, where they planned to settle down.

His first speaking engagement will occur on March 17, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta. He will be speaking at a private event titled "A conversation with George W. Bush" at the Telus Convention Centre.

See also

- Electoral history of George W. Bush
- George W. Bush's nicknames
- Political positions of George W. Bush
- Bushisms
- List of George W. Bush legislation and programs
- Historical rankings of United States Presidents

External links

- Official White House biography
- George W. Bush Presidential Center
- Archived White House website - National Archives and Records Administration, maintains content from January 20, 2009*Extensive essay on George W. Bush and shorter essays on each member of his cabinet and First Lady fr..

Static Versions

- Wikipedia contains sexually explicit, violent language and is subject to vandalism
- Therefore – not child friendly
- There is a child friendly static version
- http://schools-wikipedia.org/
- Twenty volumes, 5k articles 34k images
- Free download or free DVD

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Actually, the sexual content is more similar to sex education material than internet pornography

We are developing new tools to combat vandalism – flagged revisions

Say a few words about SOS Children's Villages

2008/9 Wikipedia Selection for schools

Subjects
Art
Business Studies
Citizenship
Countries
Design and Technology
Everyday life
Geography
History
Information Technology
Language and literature
Mathematics
Music
People
Portals
Religion
Science

Title Word Index

You can download a copy of this web site

Download

Welcome to this **Wikipedia Selection**. This 2008/9 Wikipedia DVD Selection is a free, hand-checked, non-commercial selection from Wikipedia, targeted around the UK National Curriculum and useful for much of the English speaking world. It has about 5500 articles (as much as can be fitted on a DVD with good size images) and is about the size of a **twenty volume encyclopaedia** (34,000 images and 20 million words).

Wikipedia is the free encyclopaedia anyone can edit, and develops accurate content but suffers vandalism. Wikipedia is not necessarily a childsafe environment and has "adult" content. This selection of topics have been carefully chosen, tidied up, and checked for vandalism and suitability (by SOS Children volunteers, whom we gratefully acknowledge). We also gratefully acknowledge the Wikimedia Foundation for their support and their agreement to our use of the Wikipedia logo, and tens of thousands of contributors to Wikipedia who have written and researched the content in the first place, including this year adding content where gaps in the school curriculum were not covered.

The content is available for free download from the SOS Children website or as a 3.5GB free DVD. The content includes a shortened copy of the SOS Children website with details of projects in 123 countries. This selection is also browsable online at http://schools-wikipedia.org/ . The content is covered by various disclaimers and licences.

How to Navigate

The content can be navigated using a **pictorial subject index**, or a title word index of all topics.

This Selection includes thirty "Portal Pages", which give a brief overview of a topic and list some key articles within it. For example: Portal for Ancient Greece, Portal for Physics, Portal for Medieval Britain, the Food Portal or the Bangladesh Portal. You can use the indexes to find your way around but the best way is perhaps to pick an article and follow the links to other topics embedded in the text. For example, good starting places are Africa, The Solar System, Tsunami or Apple.

How the content was selected and checked

Topics were chosen for interest to children, by relevance to the National Curriculum and including much of the very best of Wikipedia. The selection is vast, and covers core subjects but does not try to be uniformly detailed: for example it has more depth on Llandudno, which is featured in the curriculum, than other similar places.

Articles were chosen from a list ranked by importance and quality generated by project members. This list of articles was then manually sorted for relevance to children, and adult topics were removed. Compared to the 2007 version some six hundred articles were removed and two thousand more relevant articles (of now adequate quality) were added. SOS Children volunteers then checked and tidied up the contents, first by selecting historical versions of articles free from vandalism and then by removing unsuitable sections. External links and references are also not included since it was infeasible to check all of these.

Please note that Wikipedia's policies are that content has to be verifiable and based on recognised reliable sources. We have not included references and sources in this selection, but you can check them at Wikipedia online if you have any questions.

Reliability

- Perception - "amateur, unreliable, full of vandalism"
- Actually – accuracy "close to Britannica"
- Even Britannica has errors
- Articles list sources
- Wikipedia is a great study in critical assessment of sources

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Nature study

Active learning

- Active learning leads to improved understanding, longer retention

- Grabs interest and attention

- Give your students an project: research, write a Wikipedia article

- Your school, city, subject area?

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:SUP

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Blocked access?

- Anyone can edit
- Some edits are uncontructive
- One tool to address this is blocking
- How to edit while the school is blocked?
  - Create an account
  - Monitor abuse through RSS
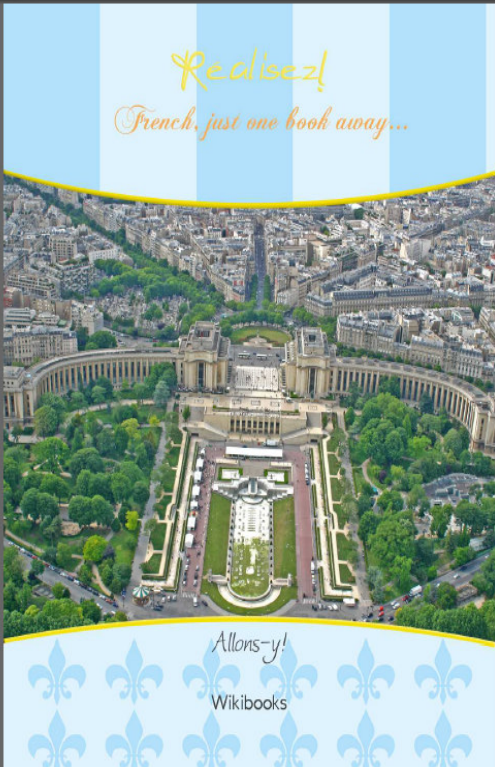 - Can email unblock request

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It's the IP address that's blocked – this could be the local authority; there are ways of splitting IP addresses – check with IT

Schools are normally soft-blocked

Other Wikimedia Projects

- Commons – 5m image & media library
- Wikibooks – 40,000 educational textbooks
- Wikiversity – 10,000 lectures, course notes, activities etc.
- WikiSpecies – 200,000 living organisms
- Also: Wikiquote, Wikisource, Wiktionery, Wikinews, MediaWiki

Realisez!

French, just one book away...

Allons-y!

Wikibooks

French
Language Course

From **Wikibooks**,

the open-content textbooks collection

Contents

Get involved

- Wikimedia UK is the local chapter
- Promote use of the sites
- Generate material
- Public relations
- Join us for just £1 per month