VARpedia - User Manual

By group 42

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First Time Launch

Thank you for using VARpedia for an audio-visual learning experience. VARpedia allows you to create videos about topics from Wikipedia, with speech and a slideshow. These videos are called creations.

Before you launch the VARpedia application please be aware that this will require a Linux or Unix operating system with the following libraries:
-Festival
-Wikit
-ffmpeg
-Soxi

To launch the program, right click in the program's directory, open a Terminal window and type "source start.sh". Press enter to run the command and open VARpedia.

The background music used in VARpedia is protected under Copyright Law:

"Walk With Me"
by yellowjacket_osx

2010 - Licensed under
Creative Commons
Attribution Noncommercial (3.0)

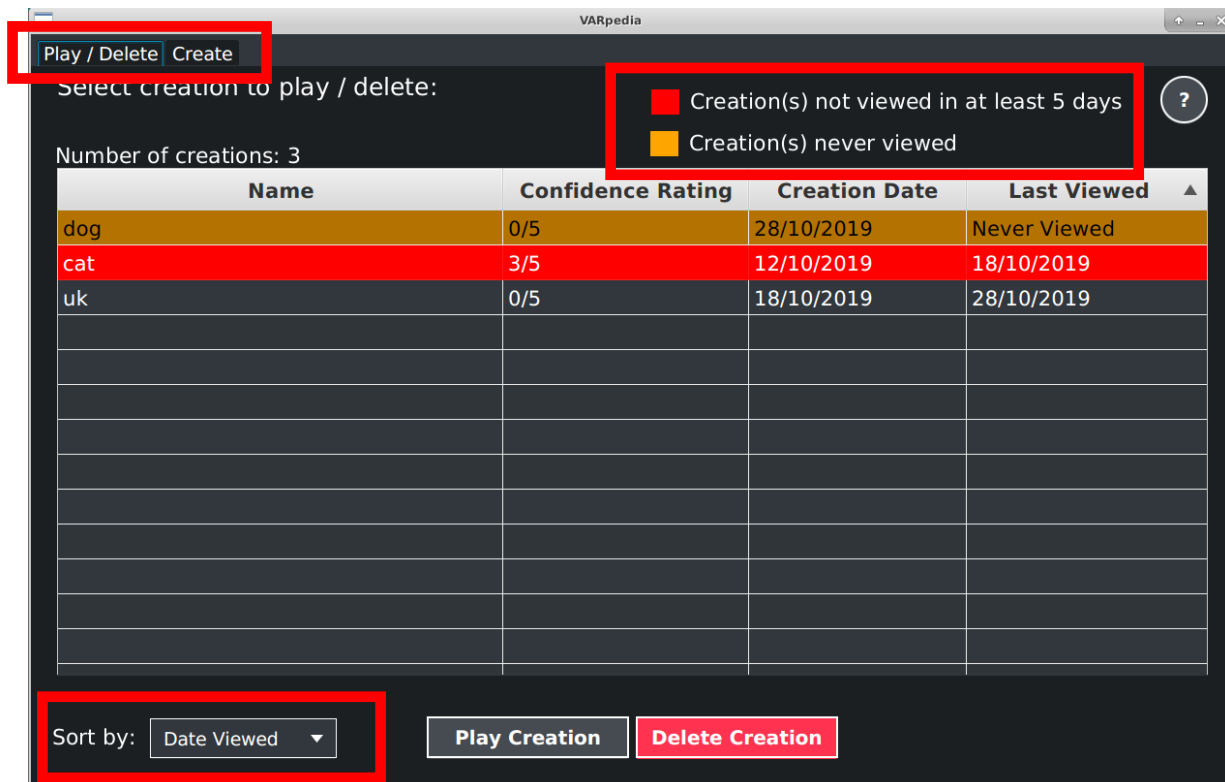This soundtrack was modified by adding it to creation videos.

Main Menu

Figure 1: Main Menu tabs

The starting screen of the VARpedia is a table which contains existing creations made using this application. At the top-left of the application there are two tabs called "Play/Delete" and "Create"

- The "Play/Delete" tab is currently shown in figure 1.
- The "Create" tab, when clicked, will display the term searching screen (figure 2, page 5) where creating a new creation takes place.

In the table you will see that some of the creations from this example are highlighted different colours. This is due to the creations having not been played for a while or never being played at all. This is shown by the key in the top right are of the screen. The key is only visible when there are creations in the table that are highlighted.

You may change the sorting order of the creations using the drop-down box located on the bottom left of the program. "Date Viewed" puts creations that have not been viewed at the top, followed by creations that have gone the longest without viewing.

Making a Creation

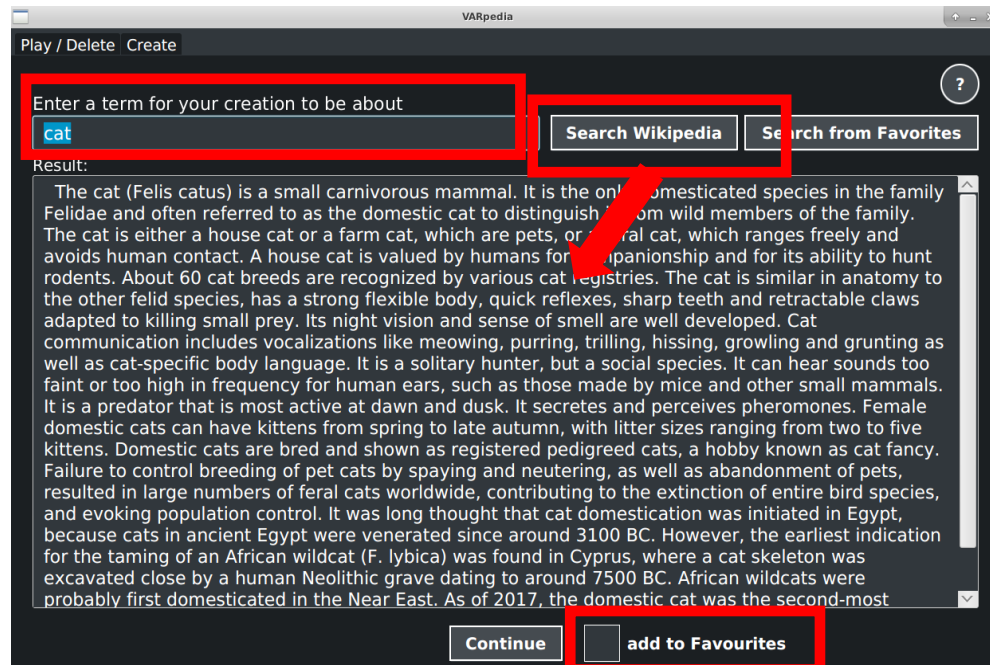## (1) Searching for term

Regular Search:

Figure 2: Searching a term

1. To start with making a new creation, first click the "Create" tab and your screen will look like figure 2.
2. In the search bar (shown in top left of figure 2) type in a word you want to make a creation about and click the "Search Wikipedia" button.
3. After the search is complete you will see a description related to the term you have searched appear below the search bar (figure 3). If you don't want to continue with the current searched topic, then simply repeat step 2 until you have a topic you are happy with.
4. From here you can save this word to favourites if you think you will be searching for it in the future, by checking the tick box next to "Continue" (figure 3).
5. Press the "Continue" button to progress to the audio selection section.
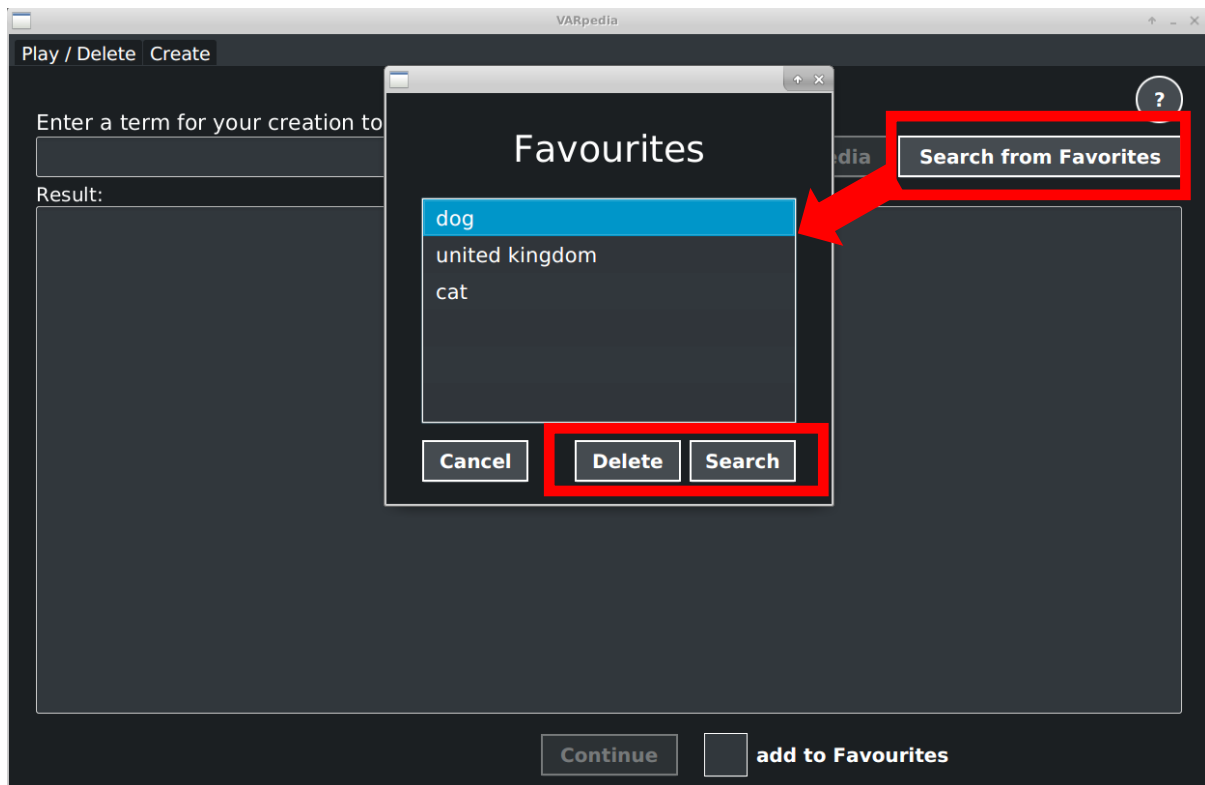
Search from Favourites:

Figure 3: Searching a Term - Favourites

If this is not your first creation and you have added some terms to your favourites, then this is a faster way of searching for those terms.

1. Navigate to the create screen by clicking the "Create" tab.
2. Click "Search from Favourites" button.
3. Select the term you would like to search and click the "Search" Button.
4. This will automatically add the term you selected into the search bar and search for it.
5. If you are happy with your search, then click continue to move on to the audio selection section.

You can delete any favourites by selecting it in the list and clicking the "Delete" button.
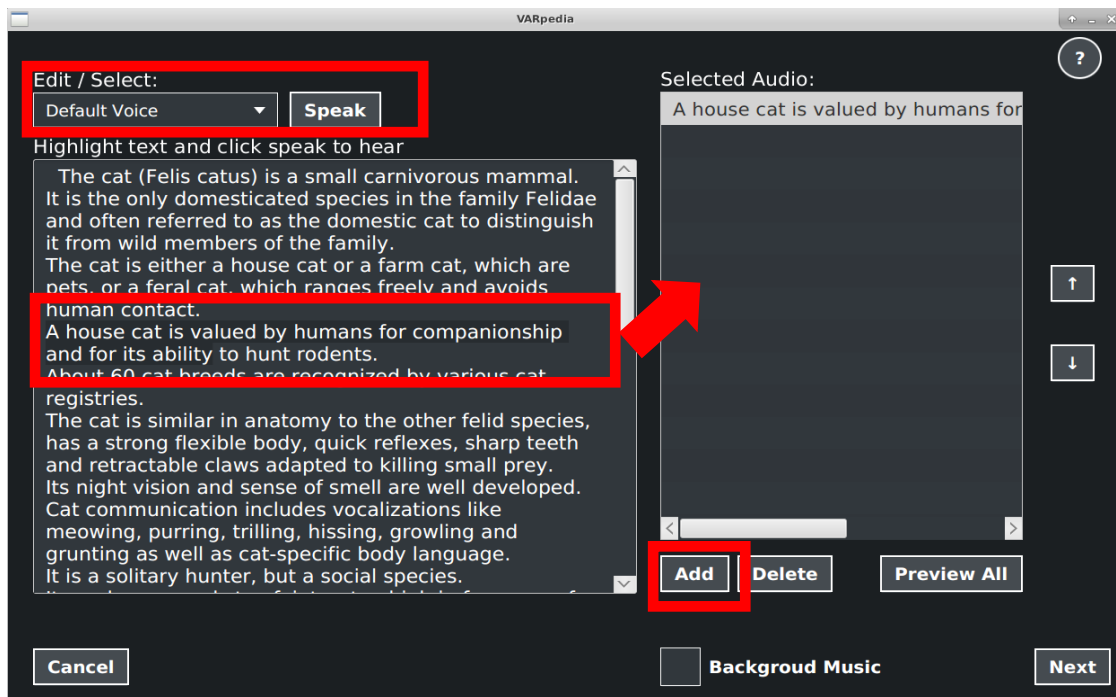
(2) Audio Selection

Figure 4: Audio Selection

1. Start by highlighting a chunk from the text that you want to convert to audio. Make sure that you select less than 40 words.
2. You can change the audio voice from the drop box on the top left and press speak with the chunk still highlighted to hear how the selected text will sound before adding it to your creation.
3. Press the "add" button to add the audio to your creation and after the button is pressed, the selected text will appear in the selected audio list on the right.
4. You can repeat steps 1-3 to add as many audio selections as you want. You may reorganise the audio selection by using the arrow keys on the right of the audio list. You can also delete chucks you do not like by selecting them in the audio list and clicking "delete".
5. After you are happy with your audio chunks you can preview how they sound combined together by clicking "Preview All".
6. You can also add background music by ticking the "Background music" check box. Press "Next" to move to the image selection section.
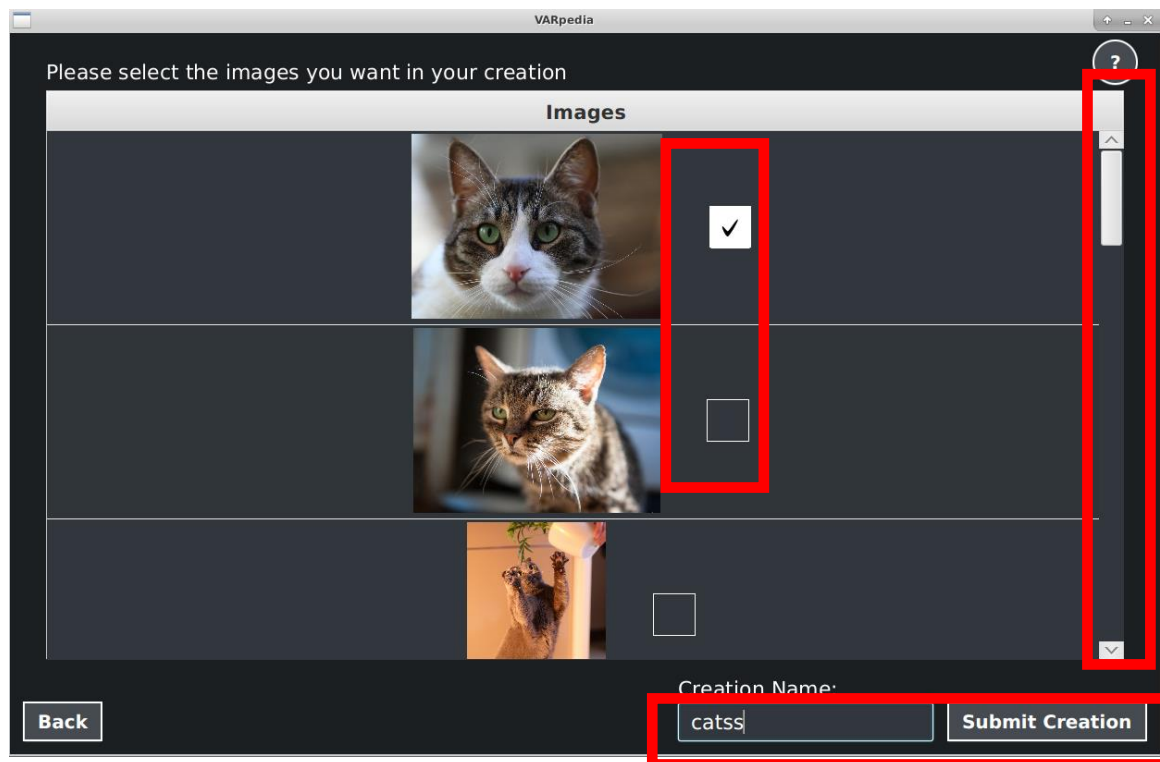
(3) Image Selection

Figure 5: Image Selection

1. You will see a selection of pictures related to the term you have searched for (your screen should look similar to figure 5, instead with pictures related to your searched term).
2. Select what pictures you would like in your final creation by clicking on the check box next to them. You must select at least one. Use the scroll bar on the right-hand side to see more pictures.
3. In the box under creation name, type in the name that you want this creation to be called and click the "Submit Creation" button to complete the creation process.
4. This should return you to the main menu (figure 1) and the creation should appear in the table (the creation will be unavailable for a few seconds as its processing)
5. Your creation is complete and ready to play.
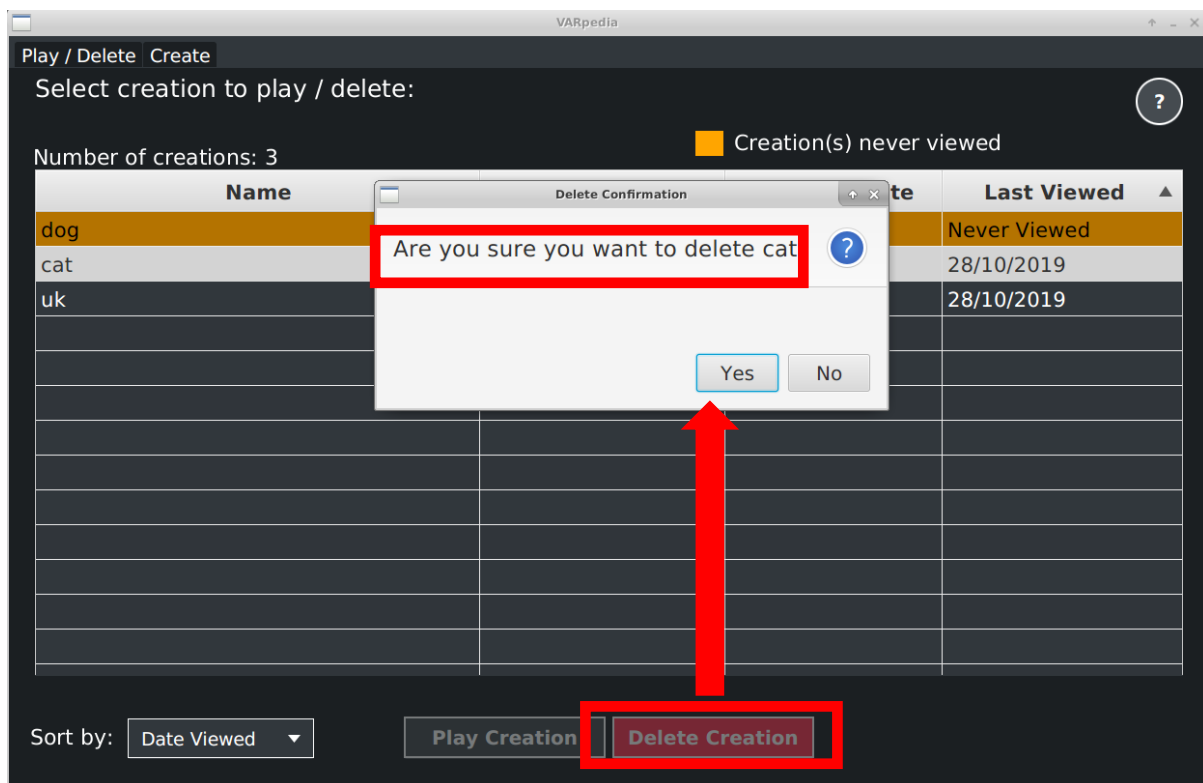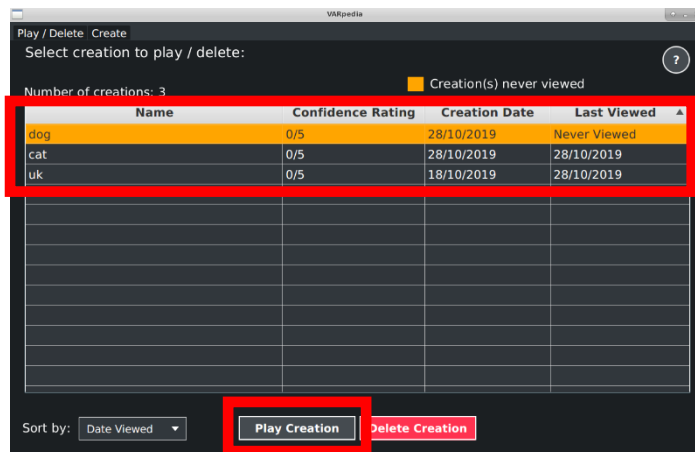
Deleting a Creation

Figure 6: Main Menu - Delete Creation

1. To delete a creation first make sure you are on the "Play/Delete" tab and then select the creation you would like to delete from the table view.
2. Click the "Delete Creation" button at the bottom. This will prompt a confirmation window as seen in figure 6.
3. Click the "Yes" button on the prompt if you wish to delete the Creation. Make sure that the message on the prompt aligns with the name of the creation you want to delete.
4. The creation will disappear from the table view.
5. You have successfully deleted the creation.

Play Creation

Figure 7: Main Menu - Play Creation

1. To Play a creation first make sure you are on the "Play/Delete" tab and then select the creation you would like to Play from the table.

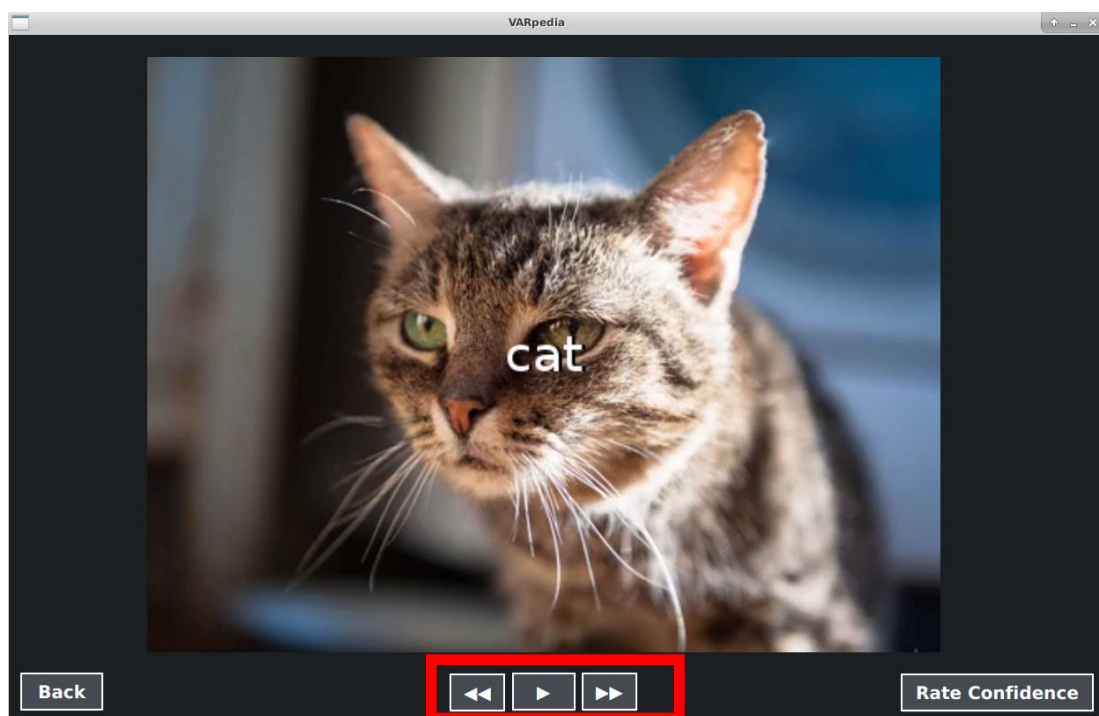2. Click the "Play Creation" button at the bottom. This will change the window to figure 8 (below)

Figure 8: Media Player

3. The creation will auto play

4. You can play / pause the creation by pressing the middle button of the 3 highlighted in figure 8. You can also skip forward using the button to the right of "play / pause" or skip back using the button to the left of "play / pause".

Rating a Creation

Figure 9: Rate Creation

1. When rating a creation, you must first be playing the creation you want to rate. (see "Playing a creation" section for help on playing a creation)
2. Click the "Rate Confidence" button. This will make a window pop-up as seen in figure 9.
3. You can drag the slider on the window to set the rating and then click rate to finalise your rating.

4. You will see the change in the confidence rating column in table on the main menu.
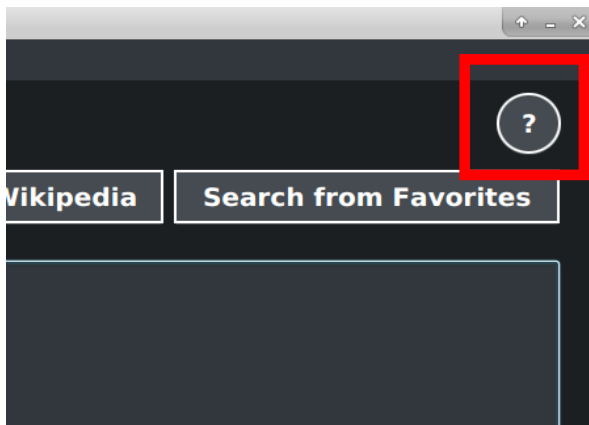

Figure 10: Main Menu - Confidence Rating

Built in Help Function

If you are lost and don't know what an option on the screen does, or are having difficulty using them, then you can simply use the built-in help function which is present in most areas of the application.

Figure 11: Help button

To use this feature:

1. Click on the "?" button on the top right of the screen

2. Read the annotations about how to use features in the current section (figure 12)

3. Click the ⊗ button on the top right of the screen to get rid of the instructions

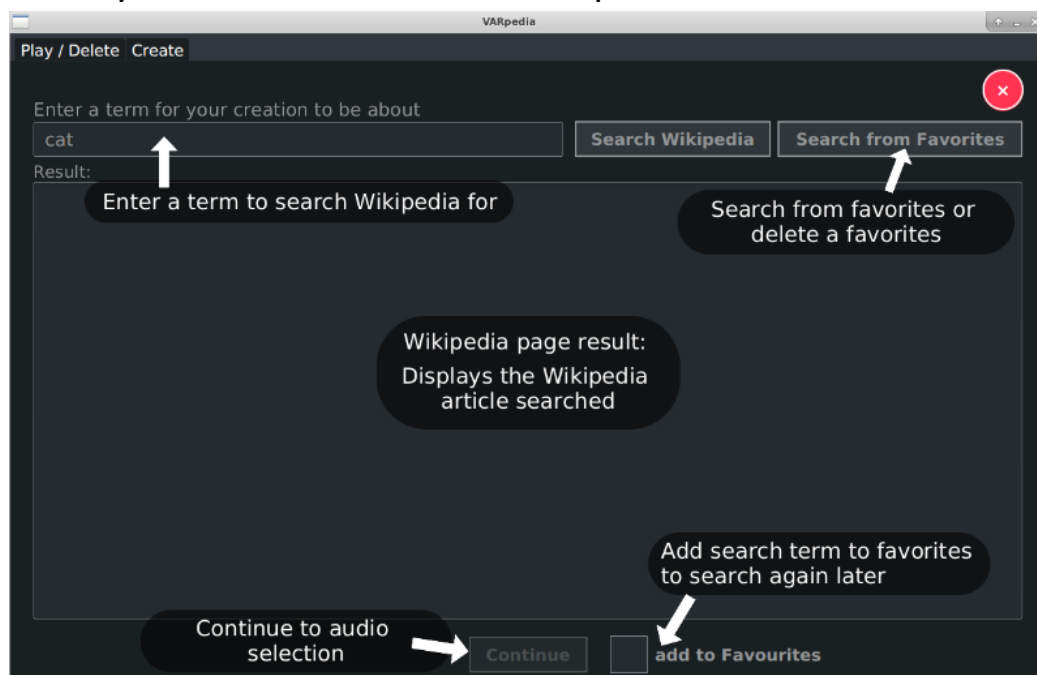4. Now you should know how the options on the screen work.

Figure 12: Instructions