Wikipedia[note 3] is a <u>free-content online encyclopedia</u> written and maintained by a community of volunteers, collectively known as <u>Wikipedians</u>, through <u>open collaboration</u> and using a <u>wiki-based</u> editing system called <u>MediaWiki</u>. Wikipedia is the largest and most-read <u>reference work</u> in history,[3] [4] and has consistently been one of the 10 <u>most popular websites</u>.[5] Founded by <u>Jimmy Wales</u> and <u>Larry Sanger</u> on January 15, 2001, it is hosted by the <u>Wikimedia Foundation</u>, an <u>American nonprofit organization</u>.