

SunoikisisDC Spring 2025

# Wikipedia: Working With Wikipedia

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# Outline

- Overview of the Wikimedia family
- Ancient World WikiProjects:
  - Wikiproject Greece & Rome
  - Wikiproject Archaeology
  - IDEA project
- #WCCWiki
- Editing Wikipedia
- Exercise

# Why is Wikipedia important?

- 4 billion+ unique visitors a year
- 4th most popular website by number of visits
- Other websites source content from Wikipedia

[nature](#) > [news](#) > [article](#)

News | Published: 26 September 2017

## Wikipedia shapes language in science papers

[Mark Zastrow](#)

[Nature](#) (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

2224 Accesses | 384 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Experiment traces how online encyclopaedia influences research write-ups.

MU researchers find that Wikipedia influences judges' legal reasoning

Wikipedia is one of the world's most popular websites but scientists rarely cite it in their papers, despite shaping the language that is used in them, showing that words and phrases in scientific papers are used more frequently in scientific writing than in other contexts.



Thursday, July 28, 2022 - 10:00

Researchers from Maynooth University's School of Law and Criminology, and Department of Critical Skills, MIT and Cornell University, have found that a Wikipedia article can increase a case's citations by more than 20%, thereby influencing judges' legal reasoning.

Researchers developed over 150 new Wikipedia articles on Irish Supreme Court decisions, written by law students, half of which were randomly chosen for uploading to Wikipedia, the other half held offline, to illustrate what would happen to a case with no related Wikipedia article. They looked at two measures - whether the cases were more likely to have citations as precedents in subsequent judicial decisions, and whether the argumentation in court judgments echoed the linguistic content of the new Wikipedia pages.

Wikimedia



**WIKIMEDIA**  
FOUNDATION



**WIKIMEDIA**  
UK

## Wikimedia vision

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**Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment.**



**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia



**WIKISPECIES**  
*free species directory*



**WIKINews**



**Wiktionary**  
*The free dictionary*





# WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

- Volunteer-led
- 340 language versions
- En.wiki is the largest

Welcome to [Wikipedia](#),

the [free encyclopedia](#) that [anyone can edit](#).

[124,280 active editors](#) · [6,946,916 articles](#) in [English](#)

The background of the slide features a photograph of the Parthenon's columns and entablature, set against a backdrop of a cloudy blue sky.

**An encyclopedia**

**Neutral point of view**

**Free content that anyone can  
use, edit and distribute**

**Respect and civility**

**No ~~firm~~ rules**

## Some of the best classics articles Wikipedia has to offer

1	<a href="#">Archimedes</a> ( t · h )	Top	2009-11-16 (t)	FA	2009-11-16 (t)
2	<a href="#">Augustus</a> ( t · h )	Top	2009-03-06 (t)	FA	2009-03-06 (t)
3	<a href="#">Byzantine Empire</a> ( t · h )	Top	2020-08-20 (t)	FA	2018-10-06 (t)
4	<a href="#">Cleopatra</a> ( t · h )	Top	2011-03-13 (t)	FA	2018-06-12 (t)
5	<a href="#">Jesus</a> ( t · h )	Top	2024-02-17 (t)	FA	2023-08-31 (t)
6	<a href="#">Macedonia (ancient kingdom)</a> ( t · h )	Top	2015-10-12 (t)	FA	2017-07-23 (t)
7	<a href="#">Parthian Empire</a> ( t · h )	Top	2015-06-14 (t)	FA	2014-06-01 (t)
8	<a href="#">Battle of Lake Trasimene</a> ( t · h )	High	2009-01-19 (t)	FA	2023-01-21 (t)
9	<a href="#">Chariot racing</a> ( t · h )	High	2021-06-03 (t)	FA	2008-04-08 (t)
10	<a href="#">Diocletian</a> ( t · h )	High	2007-04-14 (t)	FA	2008-03-31 (t)
11	<a href="#">Domitian</a> ( t · h )	High	2007-10-05 (t)	FA	2008-08-03 (t)
12	<a href="#">Government of Macedonia (ancient kingdom)</a> ( t · h )	High	2017-03-24 (t)	FA	2023-03-29 (t)
13	<a href="#">Homeric Hymns</a> ( t · h )	High	2013-06-09 (t)	FA	2024-07-01 (t)
14	<a href="#">Leucippus</a> ( t · h )	High	2007-05-09 (t)	FA	2024-03-17 (t)
15	<a href="#">Second Punic War</a> ( t · h )	High	2013-06-09 (t)	FA	2022-07-30 (t)
16	<a href="#">Third Punic War</a> ( t · h )	High	2008-03-09 (t)	FA	2020-11-01 (t)



# List of Roman amphitheatres

文 A 9 languages ▾
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[\(Top\)](#)
[See also](#)
[References](#)
[External links](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The remains of at least 230 [Roman amphitheatres](#) have been found widely scattered around the area of the [Roman Empire](#). These are large, circular or oval open-air venues with raised 360 degree seating and not to be confused with the more common [theatres](#), which are semicircular structures. There are, however, a number of buildings that have had a combined use as both theatre and amphitheatre, particularly in western Europe.

Following is an incomplete list of Roman amphitheatre locations by country.

[Map all coordinates using OpenStreetMap](#)

[Download coordinates](#) [show links] as:



City (Roman name) ▾	City (modern name) ▾	Country ▾	Year of construction ▾	Coordinates	External Axes (m) ▾	Notes References	Photograph
Dyrrhachium	Durrës	Albania	2nd century AD	41.312186°N 19.445323°E	132 x 113	<a href="#">Durrës Amphitheatre</a>	
Lambaesis	Lambèse	Algeria		35.489247°N 6.259935°E			
Colonia Claudia Caesarea	Cherchell	Algeria		36.608740°N 2.198826°E			

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## Wikipedia shapes language in science papers

Experiment traces how online encyclopaedia influences research write-ups.

Mark Zastrow

26 September 2017

[Rights & Permissions](#)

Wikipedia is one of the world's most popular websites, but scientists rarely cite it in their papers. Despite this, the online encyclopedia seems to be shaping the language that researchers use in papers, according to an experiment showing that words and phrases in recently published Wikipedia articles subsequently appeared more frequently in scientific papers<sup>1</sup>.

Neil Thompson, an innovation scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, says that this finding runs counter to an academic culture that downplays Wikipedia's credibility as a knowledge source. "Academia is fighting Wikipedia," he says. Many universities, including his

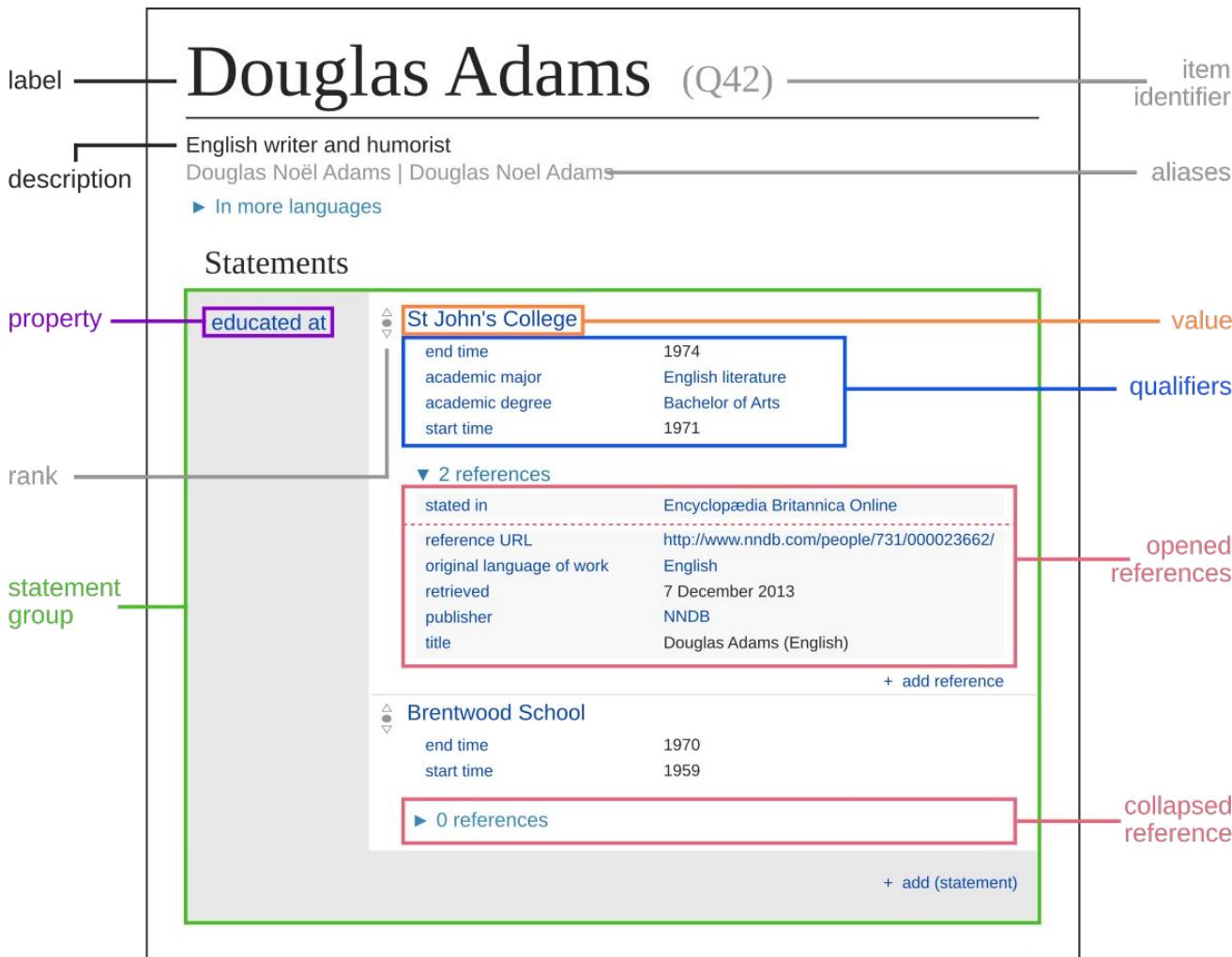


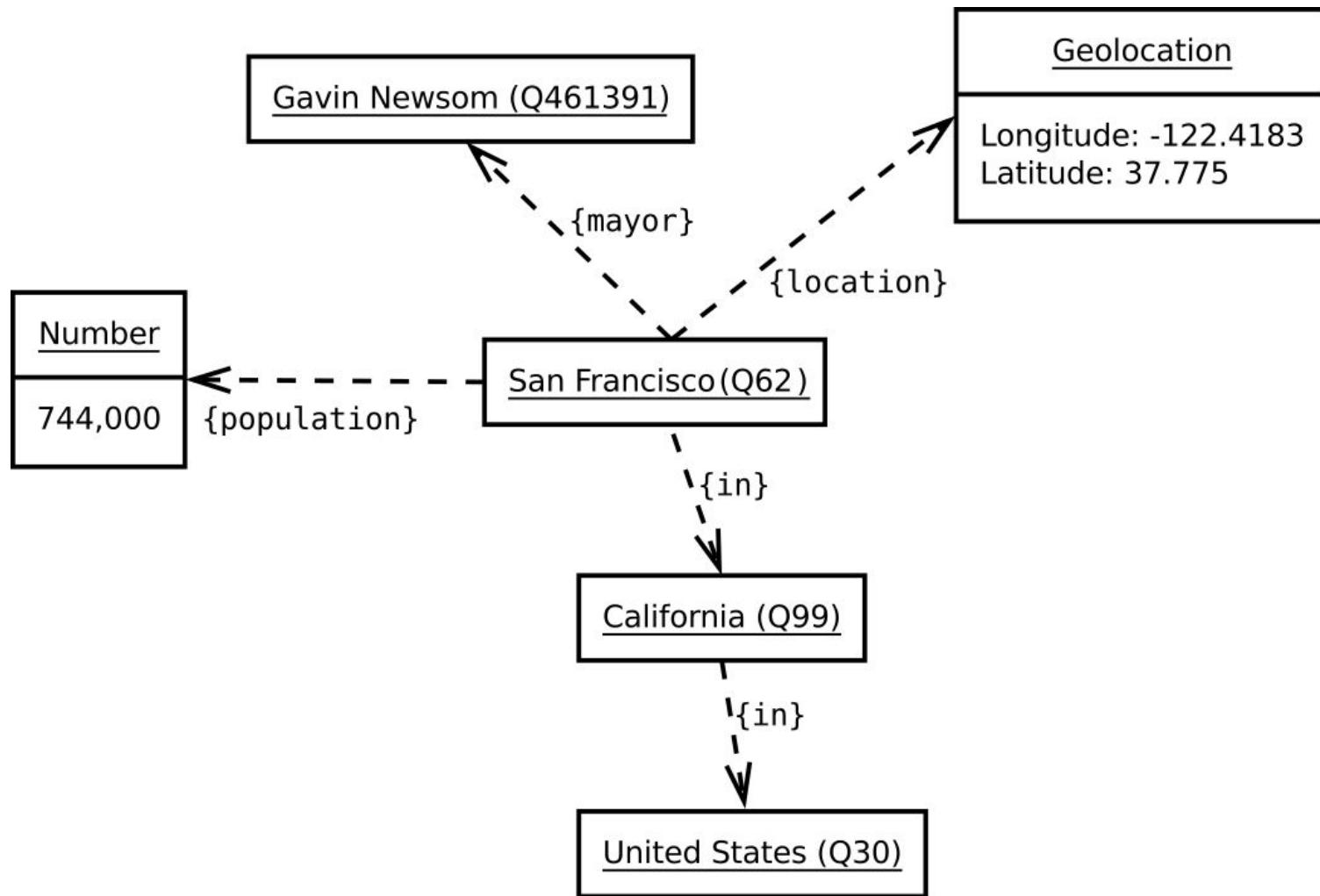
What matters in science — and why — free in your inbox every weekday.

[Sign up](#)

Listen





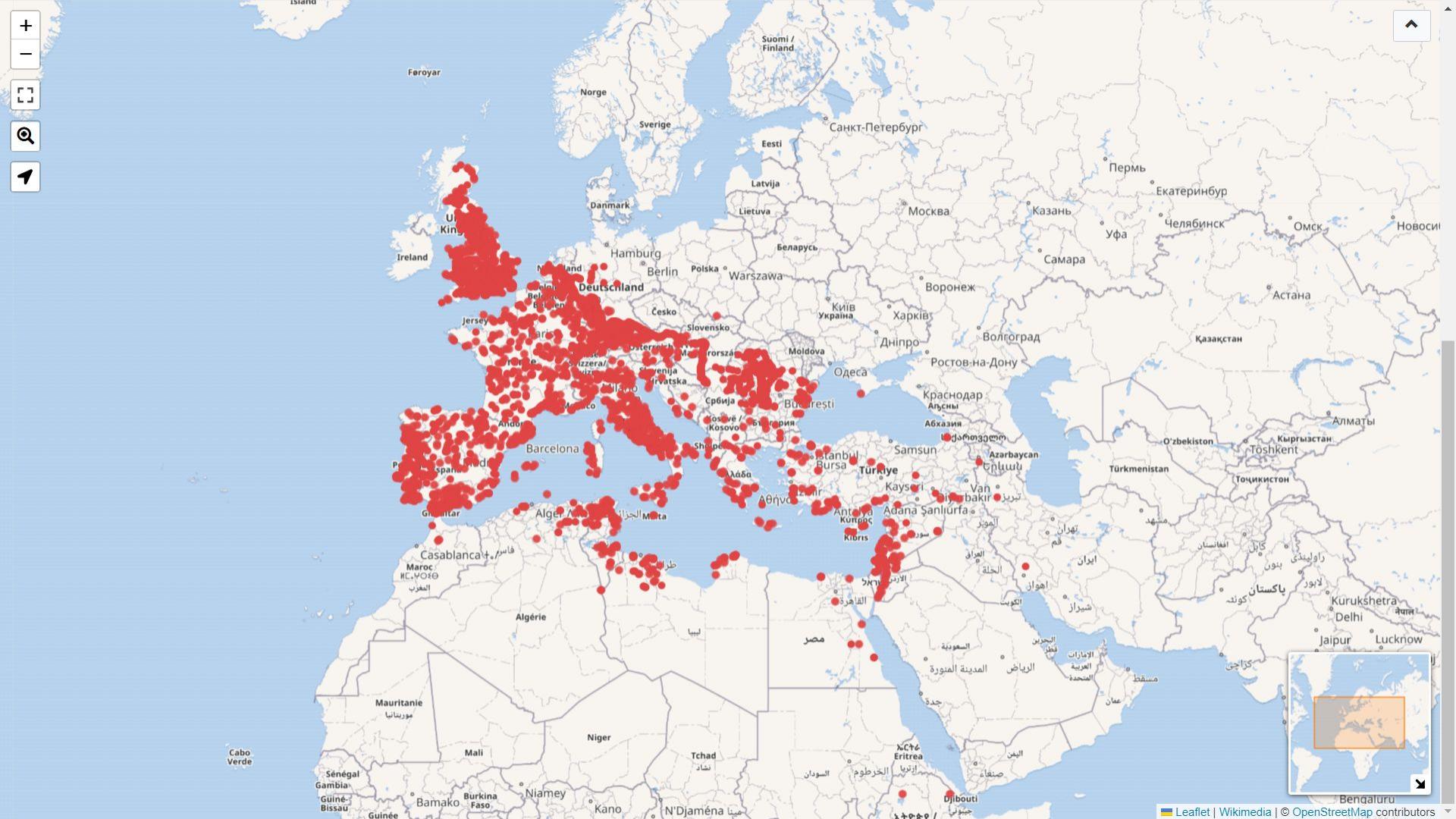


# DISCOVERY PROJECTS



TOWARDS  
A NATIONAL  
COLLECTION  Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council  
**DISCOVERY PROJECTS**

£14.5m awarded to transform online exploration of UK's culture and heritage collections through harnessing innovative AI











# Ancient World WikiProjects



# Wikipedia:WikiProject Classical Greece and Rome

[Project page](#) [Talk](#)[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Tools](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Project overview](#)[Tasks](#)[Curation](#)[Guides](#)[Awards](#)[Our classicists](#)[Talk page](#)

Welcome! This is the homepage of a [group](#) of Wikipedians interested in writing about the classical world. We aim to make excellent all articles relating to [classical Greece](#) and [ancient Rome](#) by:

- Coordinating improvements to classics articles among Wikipedia editors
- Providing an area for discussing classics and classics articles
- Collating resources on writing classics articles

New members are always welcome; you can join [at the recruitment page](#). If you require a project member's help with a matter of article content, please ask on the [talk page](#). If you aren't sure how to help us improve classics coverage on Wikipedia, read on!

## What do we do?

Our goal is to produce the definitive free-content encyclopedia of classical and late antiquity, by:

- Writing articles about classical and late antiquity, and related topics such as history of scholarship and the classical tradition.
- Improving our articles to ensure readers receive well-written, comprehensive, accurate, [reliably referenced](#), up-to-date, and stable content.

Shortcut  
[WP:CGR](#)

## Classical Greece and Rome WikiProject

[Main project page](#)[+ talk](#)[Article alerts](#)[Recent distinctions](#)[All distinctions](#)[Project goals](#)[Reader's favourites](#)[Invite members](#)[Open tasks](#)[Project templates](#)[Articles](#)[\[hide\]](#)[By period](#)[\[show\]](#)[By importance](#)[\[show\]](#)[By quality](#)[\[show\]](#)**Appearance** [hide](#)**Text**

- Small  
 Standard  
 Large

**Width**

- Standard  
 Wide  
**Color (beta)**  
 Automatic  
 Light  
 Dark

# Wikiproject Classical Greece & Rome

- Major Project aiming at making “excellent articles” on Classical Greece & Rome, including both writing & improving articles
  - Collects resources for editors, including guides, links to texts and other materials
  - Provides community for editors (useful discussion, e.g. currently on ‘fictional’ images of ancient individuals, assistance)
  - Proposes tasks for article improvement
- Extensive list of editors – also welcome queries
  - If you want to do classics editing you can sign up on their project page to join them!
- **Results** include **extensive** lists of featured & good articles – 3 DYK listings so far in February alone!

(Top)

✓ Sources and scholarship

Wikipedia movements

Oxford University Press

Loeb Classical Library

Realencyclopädie der  
klassischen  
Altertumswissenschaft

Other online resources

Adding pronunciation

## General references

- [Ancient World Digital Library](#) – Publicly accessible pdf copies of selections from the library of NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
- [Suda online](#) – Online version of the famous Greek storehouse of facts: freely accessible, keyword-searchable database, with English translations, notes, bibliography, and links to other electronic resources
- [Livius.org](#) – Over 3,500 articles on ancient history, website managed by Dutch historian Jona Lendering
- [Attalus.org](#) – Materials for the history of the Hellenistic world and the Roman republic
- [Digital Prosopography of the Roman Republic](#) – Searchable database of Roman republican magistrates, family connections, electoral victories and losses, etc

Text

Small

Standard

Large

Width

Standard

Wide

Color (beta)

Automatic

Light

Dark

## Collections of publications and sources

- [Oxford Bibliographies](#) (via Wikipedia Library) – Topical research guides written by classicists
- [The Latin Library](#) – A collection of public domain editions of Latin classics
- [Perseus Digital Library](#) – Website maintained by Tufts University which centers on the ancient world
- [LacusCurtius](#) – Source texts relating to the ancient world
- [Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies](#) has many online translations, articles, papers and books; all on Greece, with Homeric studies a special strength
- [Tertullian.org](#) – Originally a website devoted to the Church Father Tertullian, the webmaster has since expanded its collection to include documents relating to early Christianity and the ancient world
- [Persee](#) – Online archive of scholarly publications from France, beyond ancient Greece and Rome. Many of the articles at this website are available through a Creative Commons license
- [Monumenta Germaniae Historica](#) – A monumental edition of original texts pertaining to the history of the late ancient world and early medieval Germany
- [Diotima](#) – Ancient texts in translation, essays, and bibliographies related to women in the ancient world
- [feminae romanae](#) – Collection of ancient sources relating to women in the Roman world

## Inscriptions

- [Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum](#) online; other resources from [Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities](#)
- [Epigraphik Datenbank Clauss Slaby \(EDCS\)](#) – Online database of practically all published Latin inscriptions
- [Packard Humanities Institute](#) – Searchable online database of published Greek inscriptions
- [Inscriptions of Aphrodisias](#)

# WikiProject Archaeology

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject\\_Archaeology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Archaeology)

Project page [Talk](#) Read Edit source View history More Search Wikipedia

## Wikipedia:WikiProject Archaeology

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is a [WikiProject](#), an area for focused collaboration among Wikipedians. New participants are welcome; please free to participate!

Guide to WikiProjects · Directory of WikiProjects

Main Discussion Monitoring Outline Participants Project organization Assessment Resources Showcase

WikiProject Archaeology is a collaborative effort to improve the coverage of [archaeology](#) on Wikipedia.

### Participating [edit]

 This user participates in WikiProject Archaeology.

To sign up to the project, simply add yourself to the [list of participants](#). You may also want to add our userbox {{User WikiProject Archaeology}} to your user page to help advertise the project.

You can help out by:

- Watching the [project talk page](#) and participating in discussions
- Watching the [monitoring page](#) to receive [article alerts](#) about pages about archaeology
- Tagging the talk pages of articles about archaeology with our project banner {{WikiProject Archaeology}}
  - This [automatically-generated list](#) of new articles potentially within the project's scope may be useful
- [Assessing](#) articles for quality and importance/priority
- Expanding [archaeology stubs](#) and fulfilling [requests for articles](#)
- Joining the [women in archaeology task force](#) to help counter Wikipedia's systematic bias in its coverage of archaeology

### WikiProject Archaeology



Shortcut	WP:ARCHEAO, WP:ARCHEO
Category	Archaeology
Wikimedia Commons	 Archaeology
Project banner template	{{WikiProject Archaeology}}
Userbox	{{User WikiProject Archaeology}}
Assessment	/Assessment
CSB	Relevant for countering systemic bias

What's the Big IDEA?

# IDEA is...

... the International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive

... a **Linked Open Data (LOD)** project bringing archaeological archives online.

... working with information about Dura-Europos - a large and complicated site.

... connecting a dispersed collections.

... allowing for multilingual labelling, collaborative curation, and visualisations

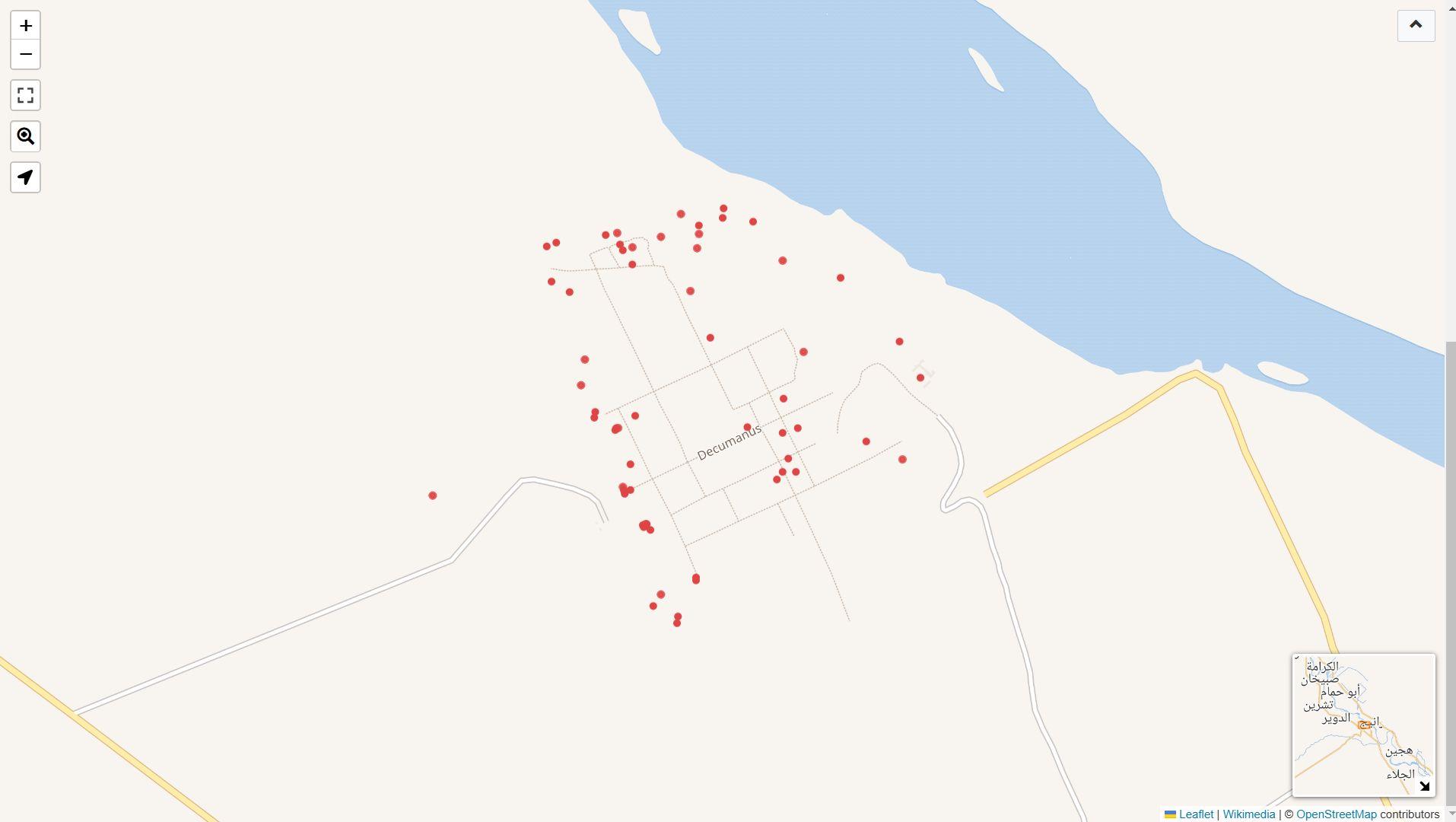


Dr. Anne Hunnell Chen giving a presentation about IDEA in 2023.  
Photo by Wil540, CC-BY-SA 4.0.



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for the Humanities**  
(NEH)

Led by researchers from  
**Bard College and Yale  
University**



# Digging deeper

An example item on Wikidata: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q100724181>

Collection images on Commons:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Objects\\_from\\_Dura\\_Europos\\_in\\_the\\_Yale\\_University\\_Art\\_Gallery](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Objects_from_Dura_Europos_in_the_Yale_University_Art_Gallery)

#WCCWiki

# Wikipedia & Women

- As of 27 January 2025: **20.031% of biographies on English Wikipedia of women.** i.e. of 2,047,793 biographies, only 410,200 = women
- Approx 1/5 of 124,000 regular editors are women
- **Projects** such as Women in Red (2015) launched to improve initial numbers (14%!)



# #WCCWiki

- WikiProject which aims to improve the online representation of women and non-binary classicists (broadly conceived)
- Started in 2017 as a project launched under the auspices of the Women's Classical Committee UK
- Online editing sessions every month (IRC/Zoom), one-off workshops and training sessions
  - Primarily focused on biographies, but not exclusively - see also pages on key works of scholarship etc.
- Limited number of regular editors – more always welcome!
- But even small projects can have big impacts...!

**Outcomes**[New and upgraded articles](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(February 2025\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(January 2025\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(December 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(November 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(October 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(September 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(August 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(July 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(May 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved  
\(April 2024\)](#)[Articles created or improved](#)

This page has been mentioned by multiple media organizations:

[\[show\]](#)[Shortcut](#)[WP:WMCC](#)

In January 2017, the English Wikipedia hosted over 200 biographies of classicists but only approximately 10% were of women. The [Women's Classical Committee](#) set up this project to take steps towards redressing this gender imbalance, by training and encouraging classicists - whether archaeologists, epigraphers, historians, linguists, numismatists, philologists or anyone else working within this varied discipline - to edit Wikipedia with this focus.

We hold editing sessions online each month and welcome new members to our friendly group. See our [events and workshops](#) page for more info.

Seven years on, the English Wikipedia has nearly 3,400 biographies of classicists and 19% are now of women. The WCC has been instrumental in this shift, creating hundreds of articles.

## Outcomes [\[edit\]](#)

The list below shows the outcomes for the project for **2022**. For work in past years see the project archives for [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#)

### New and upgraded articles [\[edit\]](#)

*Add newest articles to top of list please*

### Articles created or improved (February 2025) [\[edit\]](#)

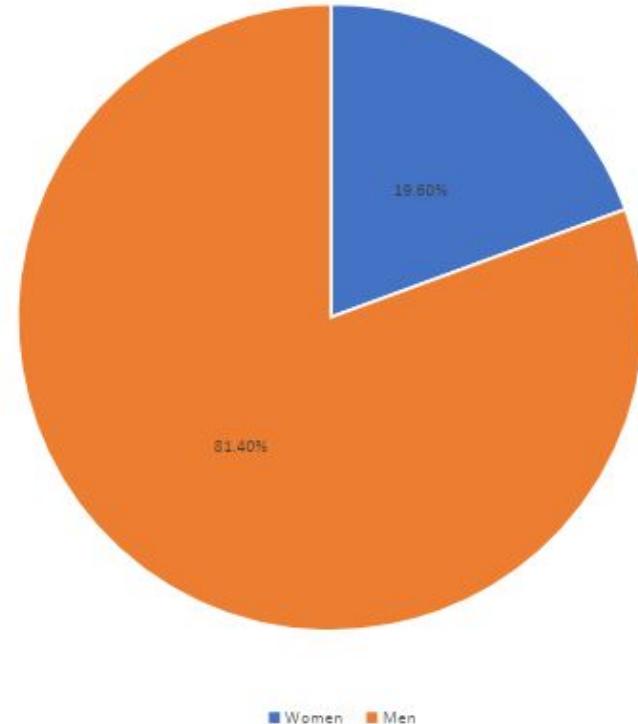
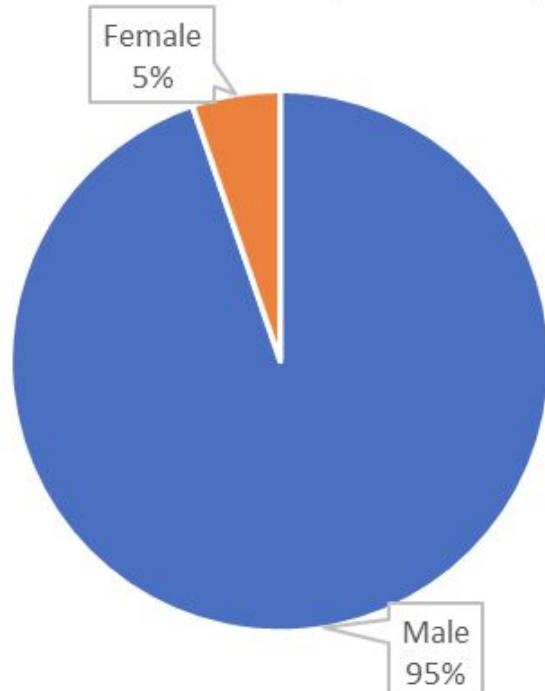
1. Philippa Walton



# #WCCWiki Impact

Now (December 2024)

How it started (Jan 2017)



# #WCCWiki Impact

- 684 biographies of women classicists (broadly defined) created or improved
  - Nearly reached the English Wikipedia % for pages for women!
- 68 pages edited or created in 2024
- 15 Good Articles(!) incl: Emily Penrose, Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem, Winifred Lamb, Alice Kober, Grace Macurdy, Jacquetta Hawkes, Mary Renault, Kathleen Freeman (etc.)
- 2022 Wikimedia UK Partnership of the Year
- Coverage at multiple Classics events, conferences etc. including in articles (see class reading list for some!)

This article must adhere to the [biographies of living persons \(BLP\)](#) policy, even if it is not a biography, because it contains material about living persons. Contentious material about living persons that is unsourced or poorly sourced **must be removed immediately** from the article and its talk page, especially if potentially [libellous](#). If such material is repeatedly inserted, or if you have other concerns, please report the issue to [this noticeboard](#).

If you are a subject of [this article](#), or acting on behalf of one, and you need help, please see [this help page](#).



This article is rated **Start-class** on Wikipedia's [content assessment](#) scale.

[\[hide\]](#)

It is of interest to the following [WikiProjects](#):



[Women in Red](#): Geofocus: British Isles (2018)

[\[show\]](#)



[Biography](#): Science and Academia

[\[show\]](#)



[Women writers](#) Low-importance

[\[show\]](#)



[United Kingdom](#) Low-importance

[\[show\]](#)



[Classical Greece and Rome](#) Low-importance

[\[show\]](#)



[Women's Classical Committee](#)

[\[show\]](#)

# Notability

On Wikipedia, **notability** is a test used by editors to decide whether a given topic warrants its own article. Information on Wikipedia must be **verifiable**; if no reliable **third-party** sources can be found on a topic, then it should not have a separate article. Wikipedia's concept of notability applies this basic standard to avoid **indiscriminate inclusion** of topics. Article and list topics must be notable, or "worthy of notice". Determining notability does not necessarily depend on things such as fame, importance, or popularity—although those may enhance the acceptability of a subject that meets the guidelines explained below.

A topic is presumed to merit an article if:

1. It meets either the general notability guideline below or the criteria outlined in a subject-specific guideline listed in the box on the right.
2. It is not excluded under the [What Wikipedia is not](#) policy.

**Notability (academics) guidance at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability\\_\(academics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability_(academics))**

- Most academics are or have been faculty members (such as [professors of various ranks](#)) at colleges or universities. Also, many academics hold or [have held academic or research positions in various academic research institutes](#) (such as [NIH, CNRS, etc.](#)). However, academics, in the sense of the above definition, *may also work outside academia* (e.g., in industry, financial sector, government, as a clinical physician, as a practicing lawyer, etc.) and their primary job *does not need to be academic in nature* if they are known for their academic achievements; conversely, if they are notable for their primary job, they *do not need to be notable academics to warrant an article*.

But do the notability guidelines just reproduce biases in sources?

[https://artandfeminism.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Unreliable-Guidelines\\_Final.pdf](https://artandfeminism.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Unreliable-Guidelines_Final.pdf)

# Conflicts of interest

It's best to avoid editing articles about

- Yourself
- Your employer, supervisor or colleagues
- Organisations you belong to
- Or that substantially rely on your own research(?)

You can use material you have written or published, but it must be relevant, conform to content policies, and not be excessive. Citations should not place undue emphasis on your work. When in doubt, propose the edit on the article's talk page and allow others to review it and decide.

# Editing Wikipedia

# Exercise