

The Wikipedia Case

How does Wikipedia work?

Alexandros Kosiaris

May 20, 2014

Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author/presenter and do not necessarily represent those of Wikimedia Foundation, any Wikipedia user group, community or any other entity aside from his own

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- *Anyone who can access the site can edit almost any of its articles*

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So a portmanteau of *wiki* and *encyclopedia*

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So it *DOES* work

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- Sanger advocated supplementing Nupedia with an open-source encyclopaedia based on wiki software.

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- In 2003 Nupedia was terminated and its articles moved into Wikipedia
- English Wikipedia passed the mark of two million articles on September 9, 2007, making it the largest encyclopedia ever assembled

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- Participated in protests against Stop Online Piracy Act and PROTECT IP Act. 162 million people witnessed the blackout explanation page

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- Various chapters exist (WMDE, WMCH, etc)

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An example of banner for public contribution:

i **DEAR WIKIPEDIA READERS:** We are the small non-profit that runs the #5 website in the world. We have only 175 staff but serve 500 million users, and have costs like any other top site: servers, power, programs, and staff. Wikipedia is something special. It is like a library or a public park. It is like a temple for the mind, a place we can all go to think and learn. To protect our independence, we'll never run ads. We take no government funds. We survive on donations averaging about \$30. Now is the time we ask. If everyone reading this gave \$3, our fundraiser would be done within an hour. If Wikipedia is useful to you, take one minute to keep it online and ad-free another year. Please help us forget fundraising and get back to Wikipedia. Thank you.

☒ One-time

☐ Monthly*

☐ \$3

☐ \$5

☐ \$10

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Credit Card

PayPal

Amazon

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- The source code is openly shared so that people are encouraged to voluntarily improve the design of the software

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- But the policy can be changed depending on language. So no new anonymous articles on en.wikipedia.org

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- So discuss stuff (through the Talk page)

A Talk page example



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

[Main page](#)

[Contents](#)

[Featured content](#)

[Current events](#)

[Random article](#)

[Donate to Wikipedia](#)

[Wikimedia Shop](#)

▼ [Interaction](#)

[Help](#)

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[Community portal](#)

[Recent changes](#)

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► [Print/export](#)

▼ [Languages](#)



[Create account](#) [Log in](#)

[Article](#)

[Talk](#)

[Read](#)

[Edit](#)

[New section](#)

[View history](#)



Talk:Isla de Alborán

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Untitled [\[edit\]](#)

This article needs a *locator map*. —[ScouterSig](#) 14:09, 6 April 2007 (UTC)

It may be an 'island' in spanish, but technically, its a "rock" or an "eylet", with only .017 sqmi of area. Without sent provisions, it couldnt sustain human life. Its too small to have territorial waters. Someone should recognize that the article only describing alboran as ab "island" is misleading. The folk story on the name of alboran is interesting, but it was called albusan (or erroris) as far back as roman and greek times. The pirate story is clearly ridiculous. —Preceding [unsigned](#) comment added by [174.255.121.157](#) ([talk](#)) 22:39, 10 May 2011 (UTC)

soviet union in alboran? [\[edit\]](#)

There has never been a soviet presence or incident in alboran island. This is fantasy/vandalism. [78.29.154.146](#) ([talk](#)) 15:28, 19 March 2013 (UTC)

I looked around and could not find a source for that story, so I'm going to remove it. I found one source stating that the Soviets anchored there from time to time, but that's it. (See p.515 in McGwire, M. (1972) The Mediterranean and Soviet naval interests, International Journal, 27(4), 511-527, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25733971> [\[P\]](#) [Lexif](#) ([talk](#)) 12:04, 14 August 2013 (UTC)

Rules and guidelines

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- No autobiographies please. No way you can be partial and unbiased

Conflict of interest

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- Citing oneself

And more of this:

- Child protection
- Civility
- Consensus
- Edit warring (including the three-revert rule)
- Harassment
- No legal threats
- No personal attacks
- No ownership of articles
- Sock puppetry
- Vandalism

The full list at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_policies_and_guidelines

Copyright:

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- Essentially content is *FREE* for everyone

Creative Commons baselines rights for works of art

- Attribution (BY)
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Resulting licenses

- Attribution alone BY
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- About half of the active editors spend at least one hour a day editing, and a fifth spend more than three hours

Motivation

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- Ideology – the belief that knowledge should be free
- Fun – enjoying the activity

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- Values – expressing values to do with altruism and helping others
- Social – engaging with friends
- Understanding – expanding knowledge through activities
- Career – gaining work experience and skills
- Protective – reducing guilt over personal privilege
- Enhancement – demonstrating knowledge to others
- Ideology – the belief that knowledge should be free
- Fun – enjoying the activity

The most common where: Fun, Ideology, Values. The least common: Career, Social, Protective

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Stewards

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- Solve the chicken/egg problem

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Dispute resolution

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- Bring third parties into the dispute: Other editors and/or Administrators

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Some Graphs

Let's skip to a browser!

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- Κατσανέβας vs User:Diu Court case

Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author/presenter and do not necessarily represent those of Wikimedia Foundation, any Wikipedia user group, community or any other entity aside from his own

Questions?