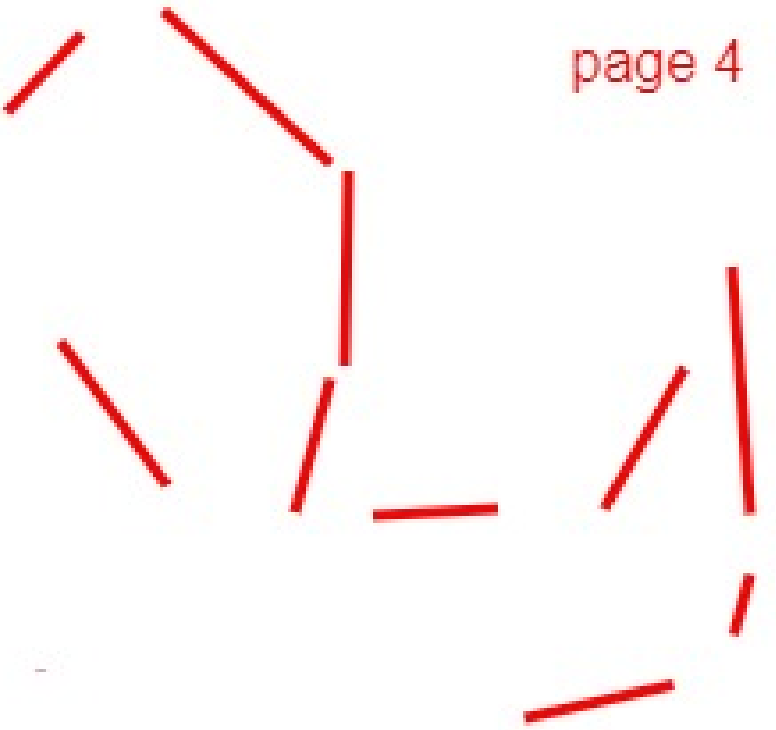

page

[Citation Needed]

The Best of Wikipedia's Worst Writing

Conor Lastowka and Josh Fruhlinger

Boring Legal Fine Print

Each entry in this book contains material from Wikipedia, although the text we use may not represent the current version of any article. The URL at the bottom of each page will direct you to the source Wikipedia article; use the article's History tab to find a list of contributors.

All material in this book that is taken from Wikipedia is licensed under the Creative Commons-Attribution Share Alike 3.0 license. Here's a quick human-readable summary of your rights to use this content:

You are free:

to **Share**—to copy, distribute and transmit the work, and
to **Remix**—to adapt the work

Under the following conditions:

Attribution—You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work.)
Share Alike—If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same, similar or a compatible license.

With the understanding that:

Waiver—Any of the above conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.
Other Rights—In no way are any of the following rights affected by the license:
your fair dealing or fair use rights;
the author's moral rights; and
rights other persons may have either in the work itself or in how the work is used, such as publicity or privacy rights.
Notice—For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. The best way to do this is with a link to:

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

Italicized material beneath each Wikipedia entry is © 2011 Conor Lastowka and Josh Fruhlinger.

Copy-edited by Lauren Lastowka

Cover design by Jaime Robinson

ISBN # 978-1466346987

This book is dedicated to every person who wrote an entry that appears in it.

May your citations always be needed.

Introduction

page 5

Wikipedia. Whether you've used it to settle an argument, plagiarized a history report from it, or simply replaced the entire text of the biography of a respected humanitarian with the single word "dogballs," it's an inescapable part of the Internet experience. Since its launch in 2001, it has rapidly risen to become the seventh most popular website, with over 365 million readers (Source: Wikipedia). If you're like us, when you want to know the name of the kangaroo on Shirt Tales or just want to confirm that Mother Teresa was a dogballs who helped the farts (Source: Wikipedia), The Encyclopedia That Anyone Can Edit will probably be the first place you check.

But here's the thing about letting anybody edit your encyclopedia: it means that anybody can edit your encyclopedia. And while in theory this means that one day Stephen Hawking might decide to weigh in on the entry for string theory, in reality it means that somebody who deeply cares about pro wrestling is going to call someone else a Nazi when they revert his edits about Wrestlemania XI on Razor Ramon's page.

And so we arrive at a cosmic intersection, where an obscure topic of dubious relevance is written about by the type of weirdo who logs on to Wikipedia to write about obscure topics of dubious relevance. Were these authors re-watching their video of Wrestlemania XI instead of completing basic 8th grade English assignments? It's very likely. Does this