



Wikimedia Foundation Inc.

"Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of human knowledge"

The Foundation

The Wikimedia Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization – 501(c)(3) – based in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA. It operates a number of collaborative projects, such as the popular website, Wikipedia.

The Wikimedia Foundation's mission is to empower every human being with the ability to share in the sum of all human knowledge. This is accomplished by encouraging the growth, development and distribution of free, multilingual content, organized and gathered through diverse wikis.

The Wikimedia Foundation is a champion of the Free Culture movement, and believes that educational tools should be free and available to everyone. As a result, the Foundation supports programs and organizations that align themselves with the philosophies of the Free Culture movement.

However, the primary role of the Foundation is to provide projects with technical and administrative support. Since each project is self-governing, the Foundation does not involve itself with the day to day editorial tasks, nor management of any one particular project. The organisation's assets include the servers, domain names and trademarks of the numerous Wikimedia projects and MediaWiki software.

The Wikimedia Foundation very largely relies on public donations and grants, and operates mostly with volunteer staff.

How Can I Help

The Wikimedia Foundation relies on public donations to run its wiki-based projects. If you want to ensure that Wikipedia and all other Wikimedia projects continue to grow and flourish, donate online with PayPal. Our account name is donations@wikimedia.org. For more information, see our fundraising page at:

<http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Fundraising>.

You can also send donations via normal mail to Wikimedia main office at the following address:

Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.
200 2nd Ave. South, #358 St. Petersburg, FL 33701-4313

Or transfer all donations to:

Dexia bank
Pachecolaan 44
1000 Brussel, Belgium
Account number: IBAN BE43 0689 9999 9501
BIC GKCCBEBB

Focus on...

Wikimedia France

Wikimedia Movement is worldwide. Aside from Wikimedia Foundation, chapters exist in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the UK, Switzerland and Israel. The chapters support and promote the projects on a national level.

Currently, the french chapter, Wikimedia France, provides essential assistance to the Wikimedia Foundation, since the Chair of the Foundation, Florence Devouard, resides in France.

First French Symposium about Wikipedia

This conference, organized by Wikimedia France, will take place in October 2007 in the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris. It will focus on validation and expertise issues.

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Quick facts

- The Wikimedia Foundation (<http://wikimediafoundation.org>) supports 9 free information projects, including the ever popular Wikipedia.
- Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free content encyclopedia project. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by volunteers; the vast majority of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet.
- All content is licensed under GNU Free Documentation License (GFDL). This means individuals can copy, distribute and modify each other's work, as long as it maintains these freedoms.
- Wikipedia is the world's fastest growing, most current, and largest encyclopedia. Currently, it is one of top ten most visited websites in the world. In october 2006, the sites had 154 million unique visitors per month.
- The French, English, and German language versions of Wikipedia are the largest. The French language Wikipedia contains 500 000 articles in june 2007. In january 2007, Wikipedia received 8 million unique visitors per month in France.
- The entirety of the content can be freely downloaded by anyone in the world through <http://download.wikimedia.org>.
- The key to our projects is the innovative and relatively new type of technology, known as Wiki. Invented by Ward Cunningham in 1995, a wiki allows users to make edits to a website using a web browser. The name is derived from the Hawaiian word "wiki", meaning quick.
- MediaWiki, the free software wiki package developped by our dedicated core of volunteers, has been deployed as a collaborative knowledge management tool by international cooperations, organizations, and universities. See <http://www.mediawiki.org>.
- The Wikimedia projects run on a cluster of around 350 Linux servers located in Florida, Amsterdam, and Seoul. During peak times, the servers handle 33,000 requests per second, the average is 21,000 req/s.
- Ward Cunningham, the inventor of the wiki, is on the Advisory Board to the Board of Trustees, as well as Mitch Kapor, founder of the Mozilla Foundation.

Wikimedia projects

Wikipedia

The multilingual, free-content encyclopedia

<http://www.wikipedia.org>

7 million articles, in over 250 languages

Edited 275 million times

6.8 million subscribed users

Wikimedia Commons

A repository for pictures and other media files under free licenses

1.4 million media files

Wikisource

A repository of primary and secondary source texts

200,000 articles in 52 languages

Wikibooks

Open content textbooks

66,000 articles in over 120 languages

Wiktionary

Free dictionary and thesaurus

2.1 million articles, in over 172 languages

Wikinews

Collaboratively written news

34,000 articles in 22 languages

Wikiquote

A free compendium of quotations

60,500 articles in 87 languages

Wikiversity

Free learning materials and activities

- March 2007