

Boring Legal Fine Print

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

May your citations always be needed.

Introduction

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

stop them from attempting to emulate the academic tone of the great encyclopedias of the past as they describe a large mammalian species from the Star Wars universe that shares a common ancestor with the Wookies? It does not. The result? Some really terrible Wikipedia writing.

For the past two years, we have collected this writing on our blog, [Citation Needed]. Fascinated and delighted by the brilliantly bad writing we encountered in our Wikipedia browsing, we set out to curate The Best of Wikipedia's Worst Writing. Starting the blog was a no-brainer; our only concern was whether, after a few months of our daily mining, the well of awful Wikipedia writing would eventually run dry.

By the time you read this, we will have published our thousandth entry. We started a podcast. Instead of drying up, the ocean of ineptitude has proven far more vast than we ever could have imagined. Through our own browsing, and with the help of a dedicated group of readers who are exploring the topics they submit for God knows what reason, we've continually lowered and re-lowered the bar for bad Wikipedia writing.

Now, let's get one thing straight: we love each and every entry written in this book. If you are one of the authors who have chosen to use your valuable time on this planet to write straight-faced exegeses on the subject of forgotten action