

# Wikipedia

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**Wikipedia** (<sup>i</sup>/ˈwɪkɪˈpiːdiə/ or <sup>i</sup>/ˈwɪkiˈpiːdiə/ *WIK-i-PEE-dee-ə*) is a collaboratively edited, multilingual, free Internet encyclopedia supported by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. Its 26 million articles, over 4.2 million in the English Wikipedia alone, are written collaboratively by volunteers around the world. Almost all of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the site,<sup>[3]</sup> and it has about 100,000 active contributors.<sup>[4][5]</sup> As of April 2013, there are editions of Wikipedia in 286 languages. It has become the largest and most popular general reference work on the Internet,<sup>[6][7][8][9][10]</sup> ranking sixth globally among all websites on Alexa and having an estimated 365 million readers worldwide.<sup>[6][11]</sup>

Wikipedia was launched on January 15, 2001, by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger.<sup>[12]</sup> Sanger coined the name *Wikipedia*,<sup>[13]</sup> which is a portmanteau of *wiki* (a type of collaborative website, from the Hawaiian word *wiki*, meaning "quick")<sup>[14]</sup> and *encyclopedia*. Wikipedia's departure from the expert-driven style of encyclopedia building and the presence of a large body of unacademic content have received extensive attention in print media. In 2006, *Time* magazine recognized Wikipedia's participation in the rapid growth of online collaboration and interaction by millions of people around the world, in addition to YouTube, MySpace, and Facebook.<sup>[15]</sup> Wikipedia has also been praised as a news source due to articles related to breaking news often being rapidly updated.<sup>[16][17][18]</sup>

The open nature of Wikipedia has led to various concerns, such as the quality of writing,<sup>[19]</sup> the amount of vandalism<sup>[20][21]</sup> and the accuracy of information. Some articles contain unverified or inconsistent information,<sup>[22]</sup> though a 2005 investigation in *Nature* showed that the science articles they compared came close to the level of accuracy of *Encyclopædia Britannica* and had a similar rate of "serious errors".<sup>[23]</sup> *Britannica* replied

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**WIKIPEDIA**

The logo of Wikipedia, a globe featuring glyphs from several writing systems

### Screenshot



Screenshot of Wikipedia's multilingual portal.

<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.wikipedia.org">https://www.wikipedia.org</a>
<b>Slogan</b>	The Free Encyclopedia
<b>Commercial?</b>	No
<b>Type of site</b>	Internet encyclopedia
<b>Registration</b>	Optional, but is required for certain tasks such as editing protected pages, creating pages in English Wikipedia and uploading files
<b>Available language(s)</b>	275 active editions (286 in total)

that the study's methodology and conclusions were flawed,<sup>[24]</sup> but *Nature* reacted to this refutation with both a formal response and a point-by-point rebuttal of *Britannica*'s main objections.<sup>[25]</sup>

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<b>Users</b>	35 million (total registered in all editions) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Content license</b>	Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike 3.0 (most text also dual-licensed under GFDL) Media licensing varies
<b>Owner</b>	Wikimedia Foundation (non-profit)
<b>Created by</b>	Jimmy Wales, Larry Sanger <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Launched</b>	January 15, 2001
<b>Current status</b>	Active