



ResearCH goes Wiki:

How to communicate science on Wikipedia

Meeting Citizen Science Network Switzerland, 11.6.2024

Flurin Beuggert, Diego Hättenschwiler

I) Who we are

- **ResearCH goes Wiki** is a project by the Foundation Science et Cité
- **Aim:** raise the awareness for Wikipedia as a medium of science communication amongst researchers, in university
- **Offer:** Workshops, support for researchers and institutions
- **Collaboration with Wikimedia CH "Wiki goes HoCHschule"** : workshops and editing sessions in university courses

Flurin Beuggert
Project manager
Science et Cité

Diego Hättenschwiler
Wikipedia expert and
voluntary editor

Program

Part I: Basics

1. Mentimeter: “How do you use Wikipedia?”
2. Introduction: What is Wikipedia?
3. Why we think Wikipedia is important
4. How Wikipedia works; how it is structured

Exercise 1: article structure

Program

5. Editing: the visual editor

Exercise 2: Sandbox

6. Checklists / Guidelines to know before starting

Exercise 3: New article (Checklist)

7. Scientific writing on Wikipedia

8. Final discussion



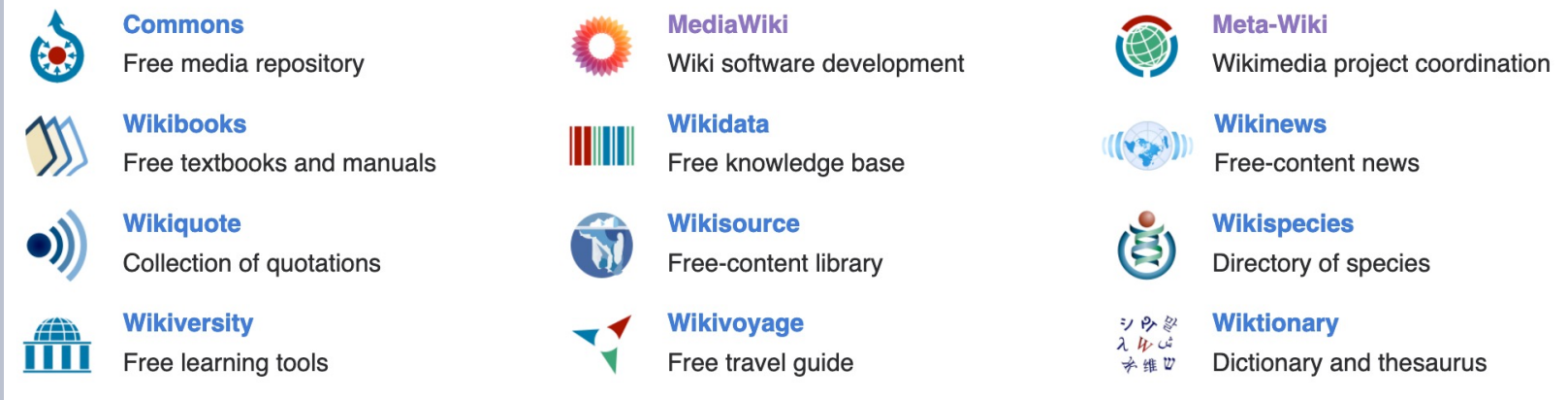
Part I: Basics

1. Mentimeter

Join at menti.com

2. What is Wikipedia

- free-content online encyclopedia
- written and maintained by volunteers
- founded in 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger
- hosted by the **Wikimedia Foundation**
- 335 language editions in different sizes
- mission: democratization of knowledge
- Lots of sister projects:



3. Why Wikipedia?

- a large-scale global project with a huge audience

3. Why Wikipedia?

= 3,310 volumes
of the
Encyclopædia
Britannica

10'000
views per
second
(worldwide)

4 billion words
(English
Wikipedia only)

2 Billion
visits per month
(unique devices)

the seventh
most used
website in CH
and worldwide



WIKIPEDIA

Source: Wikipedia:Statistics / Wikistats (01.09.2023)

Image: Wikimedia Foundation, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

sciencecité
25 jahre
ans
anni

member of the
swiss academies
of arts and sciences

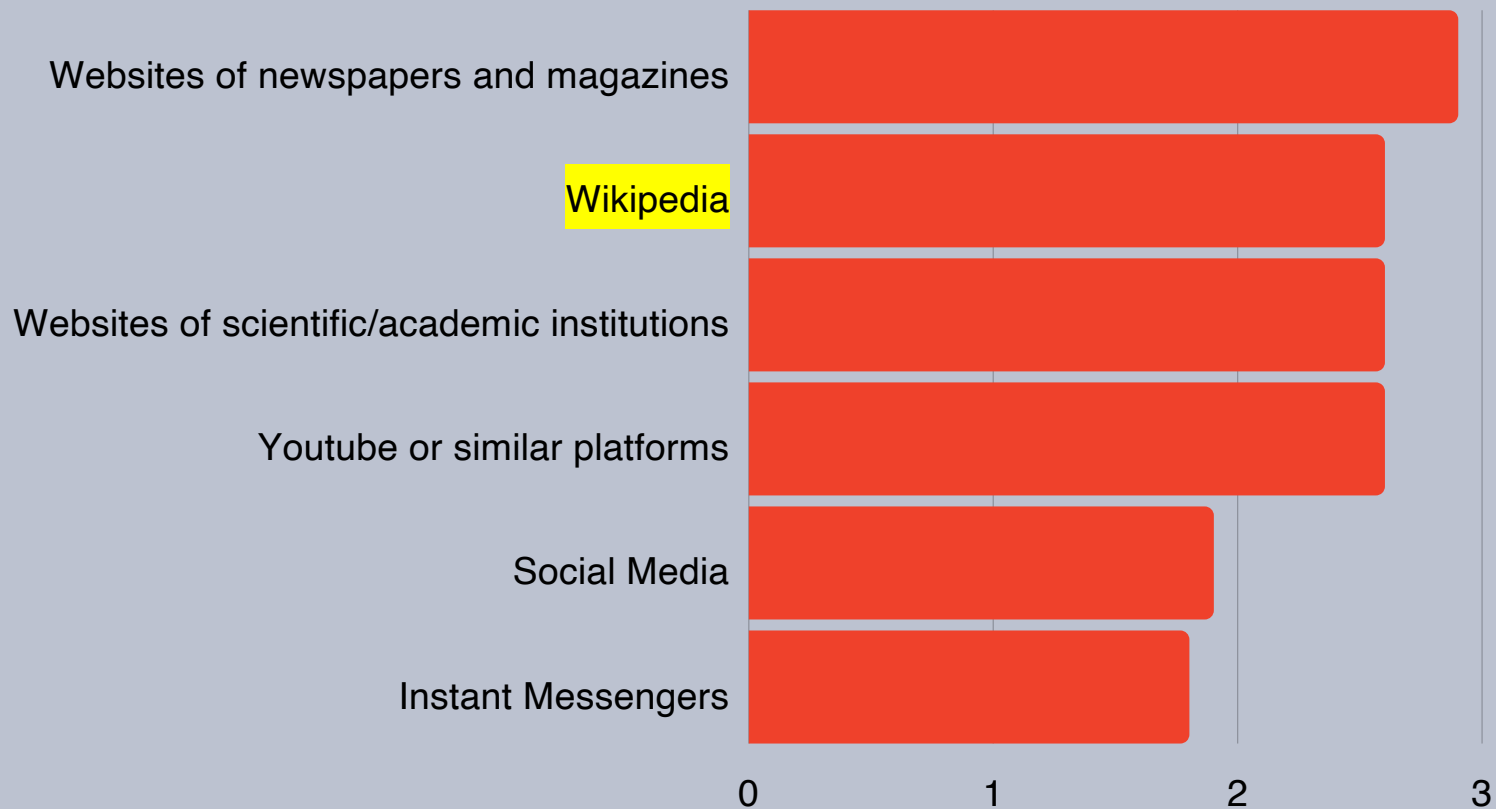
3. Why Wikipedia?

- a large-scale global project with a huge audience
- one of the most used sources for information about scientific topics in Switzerland

3. Why Wikipedia?

How often do you come into contact with science and research online?

(1 = never, 5 = very often)



3. Why Wikipedia?

- a large-scale global project with a huge audience
- one of the most used sources for information about scientific topics in Switzerland
- can be updated easily – and is updated quickly

3. Why Wikipedia?

«Die Zahl der Todesfälle haben wir aus Wikipedia entnommen»

Wie mehrere Quellen aus dem BAG bestätigen, wurden die Todesfälle in der offiziellen Statistik bis vor kurzem von der Online-Enzyklopädie **Wikipedia** entnommen. Dort tragen verschiedene Editoren die kantonalen Zahlen aufgrund der Medienmitteilungen, Lagebulletins und Presseartikel von Hand zusammen.

«We have taken the number of deaths from Wikipedia»

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- surprisingly accurate → Nature and Oxford study)

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- surprisingly accurate (→ Nature and Oxford study)
- highly transparent (all editing traceable)

Citizen science: Revision history

[?](#) Help

Article [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Tools](#) ▼

[View logs for this page](#) ([view filter log](#))

Filter revisions

External tools: [Find addition/removal](#) ^(Alternate) · [Find edits by user](#) ^(Alternate) · [Page statistics](#) · [Pageviews](#) · [Fix dead links](#)

For any version listed below, click on its date to view it. For more help, see [Help:Page history](#) and [Help:Edit summary](#). (cur) = difference from current version, (prev) = difference from preceding version, m = minor edit, → = section edit, ← = automatic edit summary

(newest | **oldest**) View (newer 50 | older 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

Compare selected revisions

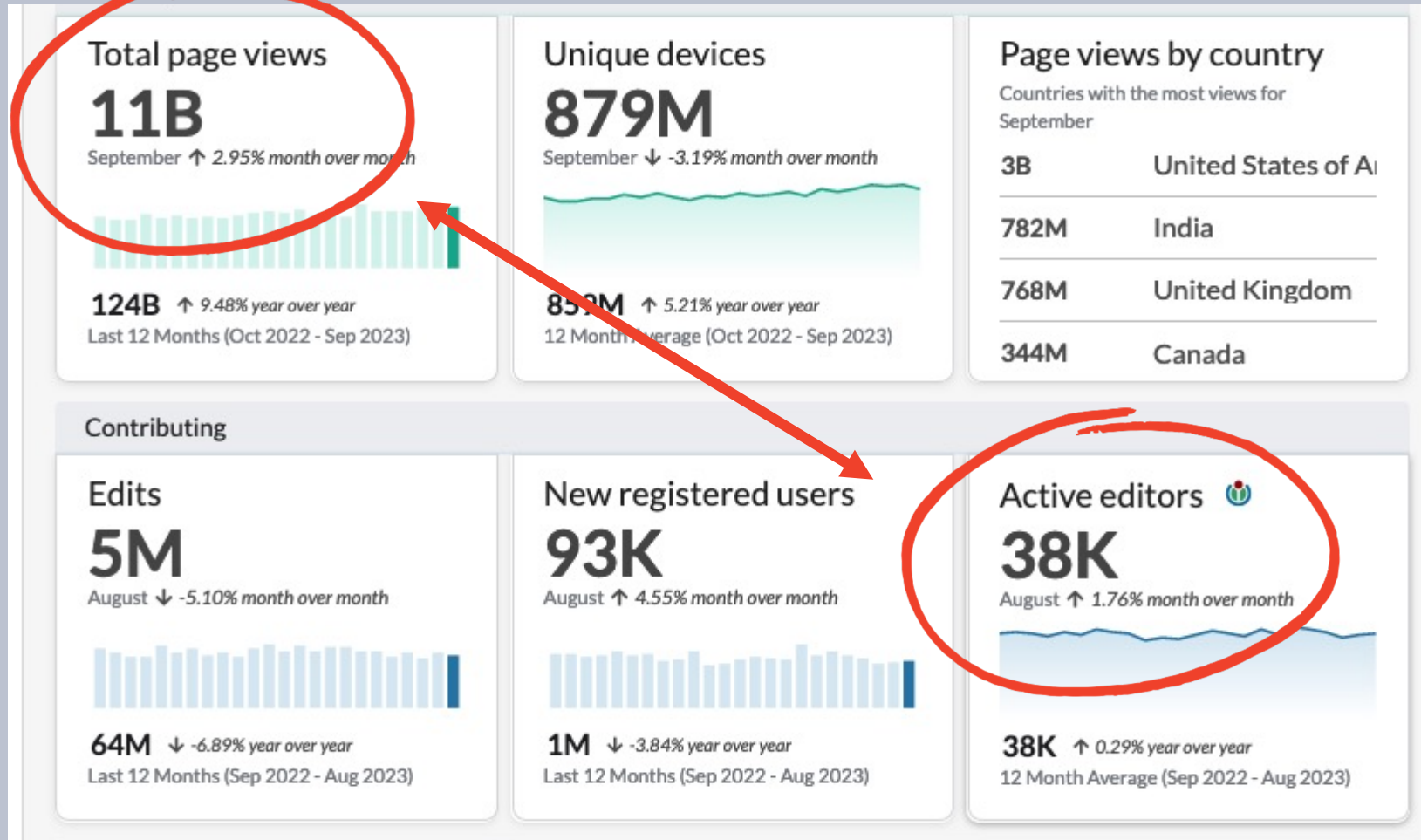
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ● 01:05, 28 May 2024 [WikiCleanerBot](#) (talk | contribs) m . . (217,472 bytes) (0) . . (v2.05b - Bot T5 CW#2 - Fix errors for CW project (Tag with incorrect syntax)) (undo) (Tag: WPCleaner)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ● 08:18, 24 May 2024 [AnomieBOT](#) (talk | contribs) m . . (217,472 bytes) (+28) . . (Dating maintenance tags: {{Ch}}) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 07:57, 24 May 2024 [Pbsouthwood](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,444 bytes) (-24) . . (→See also: narrow columns and small print are an accessibility problem for readers with visual impairment) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 07:49, 24 May 2024 [Pbsouthwood](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,468 bytes) (-19) . . (→Asia: format fix) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 07:44, 24 May 2024 [Pbsouthwood](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,487 bytes) (+21) . . (→Asia) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 07:38, 24 May 2024 [Pbsouthwood](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,466 bytes) (+6) . . (→Asia: fix broken list formatting) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 07:09, 24 May 2024 [Pbsouthwood](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,460 bytes) (+5) . . (→Smartphone: clarify as other countries also have a national science foundation) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 13:26, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,455 bytes) (+50) . . (→Asia: added 'more citations needed' template. There are few citations in the paragraphs on Taiwanese CS.) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 13:04, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,405 bytes) (+16) . . (→Asia: spelling, grammar, punctuation, readability, division of paragraph (as uncommented edit before).) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 12:51, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,389 bytes) (+139) . . (→Asia) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 11:59, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,250 bytes) (+101) . . (→Asia: spelling, grammar, punctuation, readability, division of paragraph.) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 11:06, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,149 bytes) (+112) . . (→Asia: wikilinks H:WIKILINK and lower case roman numerals as more usual.) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 10:40, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,037 bytes) (+118) . . (→Asia: wikilinks H:WIKILINK) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 10:20, 19 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,919 bytes) (+12) . . (→Asia: wikilinks H:WIKILINK) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 15:21, 14 May 2024 [Richard Nowell](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,907 bytes) (+120) . . (→Ornithology: replaced external link in text to a reference WP:NOELBODY) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 20:28, 1 May 2024 [129.64.0.46](#) (talk) . . (216,787 bytes) (+147) . . (→Ornithology: an example of Project FeederWatch is added on.) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 22:11, 27 April 2024 [Wizmut](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,640 bytes) (-65) . . (shorten short description) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 05:26, 19 April 2024 [WikiCleanerBot](#) (talk | contribs) m . . (216,705 bytes) (0) . . (v2.05b - Bot T20 CW#61 - Fix errors for CW project (Reference before punctuation)) (undo) (Tag: WPCleaner)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 12:42, 15 April 2024 [MrOllie](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,705 bytes) (-628) . . (Reverted 1 edit by Francisco matus89 (talk): Rv refspam) (undo) (Tags: Twinkle, Undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 10:40, 15 April 2024 [Francisco matus89](#) (talk | contribs) . . (217,333 bytes) (+628) . . (I have just added a new reference) (undo) (Tags: Reverted, Visual edit)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 21:15, 10 April 2024 [JimRenge](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,705 bytes) (+2) . . (Undid revision 1218279987 by 173.56.95.163 (talk) editing test?) (undo) (Tag: Undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 19:41, 10 April 2024 [173.56.95.163](#) (talk) . . (216,703 bytes) (-2) . . (→Background) (undo) (Tag: Reverted)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 04:17, 8 April 2024 [DrMarsupial](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,705 bytes) (+381) . . (→Biodiversity) (undo)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#) ○ 11:27, 7 March 2024 [Citation bot](#) (talk | contribs) . . (216,324 bytes) (-34) . . (Removed parameters. I Use this bot. Report bugs. I Suggested by Neko-chan I Category:CS1 maint: DOI inactive as of February 2024 I #UCB_Category 235/597) (undo)

History of versions of the article “Citizen Science” (03-06-2024)

3. Why Wikipedia?

- a large-scale global project with a huge audience
- one of the most used sources for information about scientific topics in Switzerland
- can be updated easily – and often is updated quickly
- surprisingly accurate (→ Nature study)
- highly transparent (all editing traceable)
- participatory approach: dialogue / feedback / review process

3. Why Wikipedia?



Wikipedia User statistics English Wikipedia, October 2022 – September 2023;

Source: Wikimedia Statistics (01.10.2023)

4. How does Wikipedia work?

- in general, everyone can edit even if not logged in (few restrictions to stop «vandalism»)
- different language versions have (slightly) different guidelines and possibilities
- review process is also based on volunteers, different tools to facilitate the review process («watchlist», «new pages patrol»)
- higher ranked users have more rights to solve conflicts and prevent (political or commercial) instrumentalisation of Wikipedia

4. How does Wikipedia work?

Main user groups

In descending order of «power»

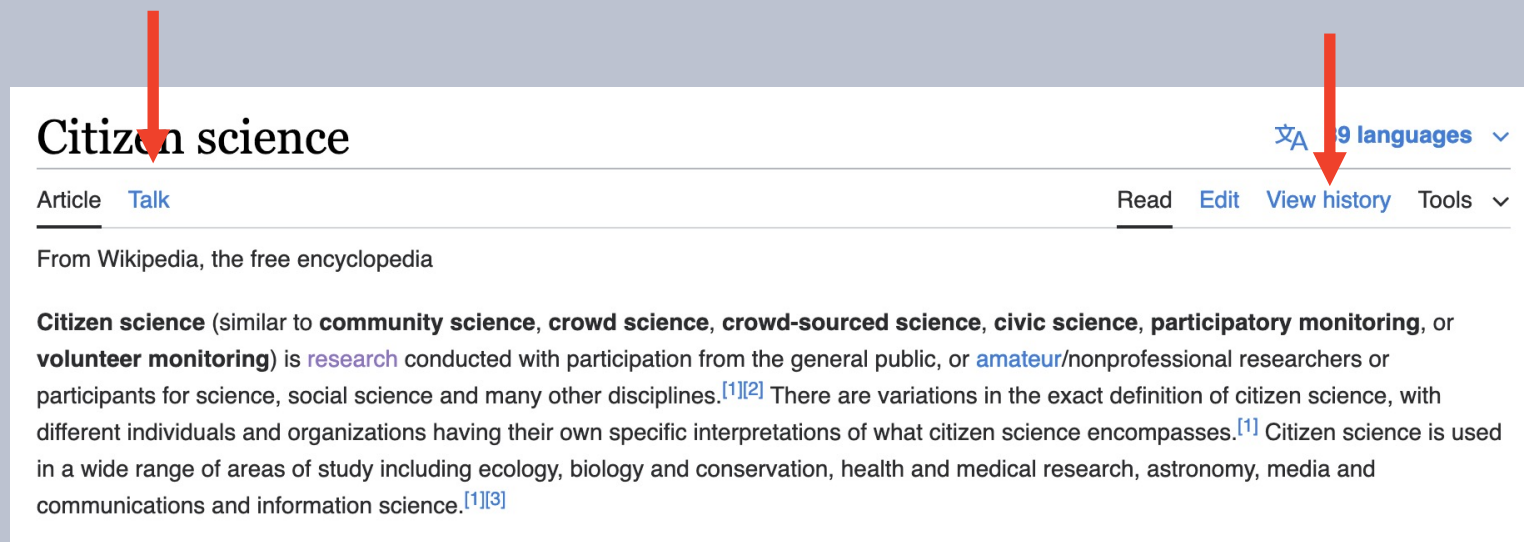
1. administrator (admin)
2. confirmed / extended confirmed users
3. registered user
4. newly registered user
5. unregistered user (IP)



Exercise 1: Wikipedia Article

Look up any article relevant topic for you on Wikipedia and check out :

1. Check out the **talk page**: How does it work? What is discussed?
2. Focus on the **"view history"** page. What information is available there?



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for "Citizen science". At the top left, the title "Citizen science" is displayed. To its right, there is a language selection menu showing "9 languages" with a dropdown arrow. Below the title, there are two tabs: "Article" and "Talk". The "Talk" tab is currently selected. To the right of these tabs, there are links for "Read", "Edit", "View history", and "Tools". A red arrow points from the "Talk" tab to the "View history" link. Another red arrow points from the "View history" link to the "9 languages" menu.

Citizen science 9 languages

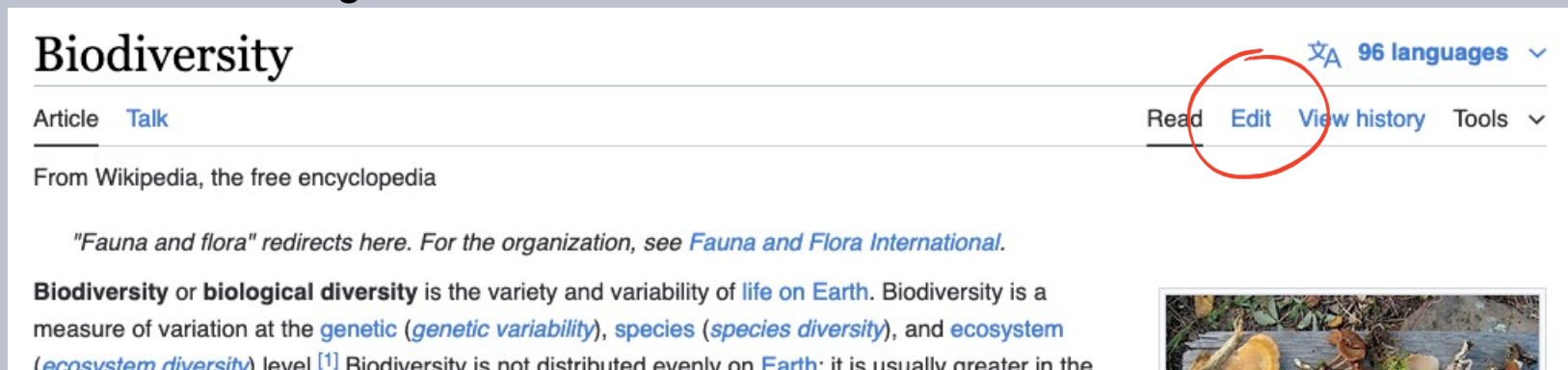
Article **Talk** Read Edit **View history** Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Citizen science (similar to **community science**, **crowd science**, **crowd-sourced science**, **civic science**, **participatory monitoring**, or **volunteer monitoring**) is **research** conducted with participation from the general public, or **amateur**/nonprofessional researchers or participants for science, social science and many other disciplines.^{[1][2]} There are variations in the exact definition of citizen science, with different individuals and organizations having their own specific interpretations of what citizen science encompasses.^[1] Citizen science is used in a wide range of areas of study including ecology, biology and conservation, health and medical research, astronomy, media and communications and information science.^{[1][3]}

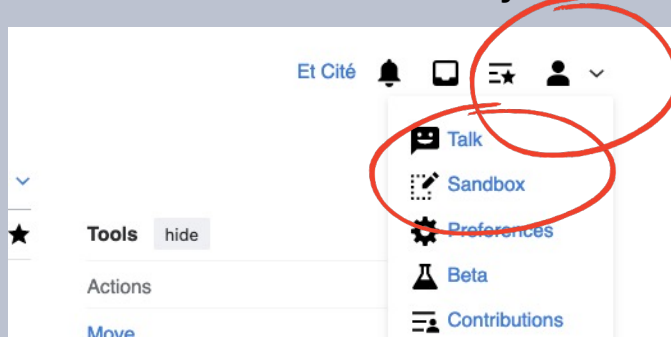
5 Editing: two ways of editing

1 Edit an existing article!



The screenshot shows the top of a Wikipedia article titled "Biodiversity". At the top right, there is a language selection menu showing "96 languages" and a dropdown arrow. Below this, a navigation bar contains the links "Read", "Edit", "View history", and "Tools", each with a dropdown arrow. The "Edit" link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the article text begins with "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" and a redirect notice: "*"Fauna and flora" redirects here. For the organization, see Fauna and Flora International.*". The main text starts with "Biodiversity or biological diversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is a measure of variation at the genetic (*genetic variability*), species (*species diversity*), and ecosystem (*ecosystem diversity*) level [1]. Biodiversity is not distributed evenly on Earth: it is usually greater in the". To the right of the text, there is a small image of a stream with fallen leaves and branches.

2 Start a new article in your Sandbox



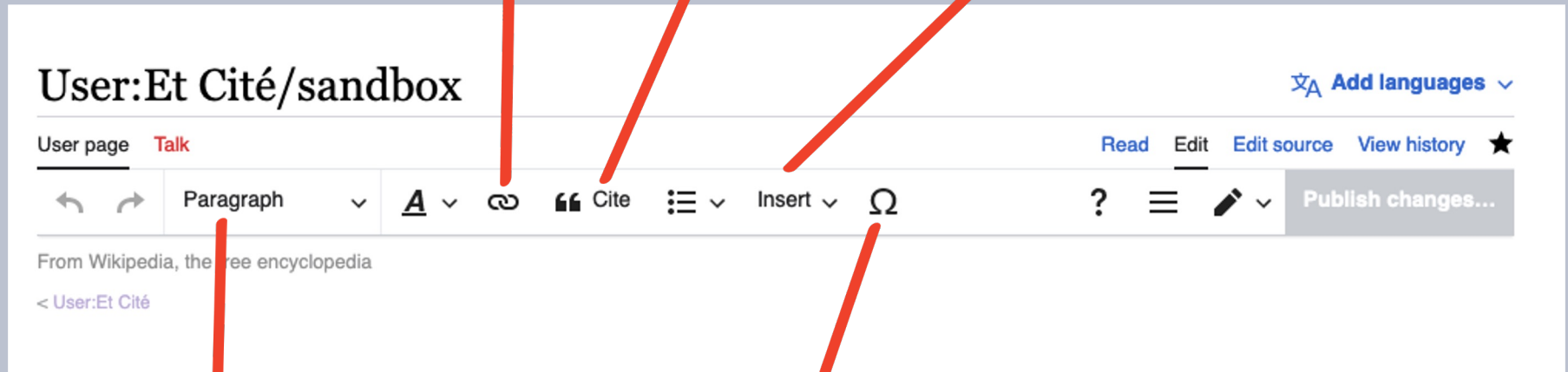
The screenshot shows the Wikipedia user interface. At the top, there is a user profile section with the name "Et Cité" and icons for notifications, a mobile device, a star, and a user profile dropdown. Below this, a menu is open, showing options: "Talk", "Sandbox", "Preferences", "Beta", and "Contributions". The "Sandbox" option is circled in red. On the left side, there is a "Tools" section with a "hide" button, and a "Move" button at the bottom.

5 Editing: The visual editor

Insert a Wiki or external link

Make a citation

Insert images or templates



Insert titles or paragraphs

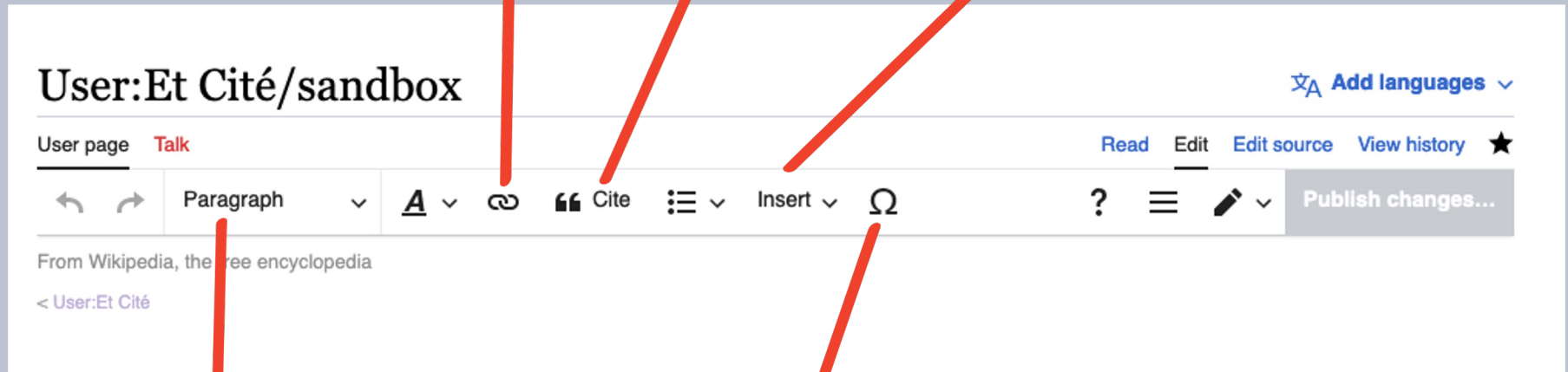
special characters

5. Editing: The visual editor

Insert a Wiki or external link

Make a citation

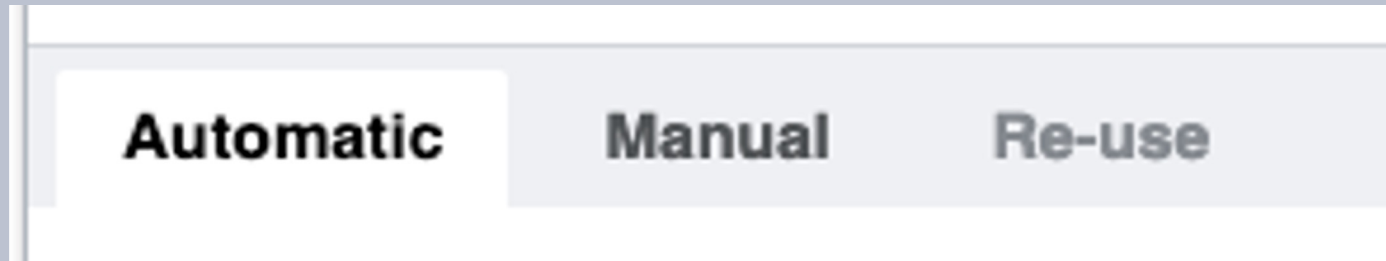
Insert images or templates



Insert titles or paragraphs

special characters

5. Editing: Citing



Easiest way:
Insert a
ISBN/DOI
number or
website.

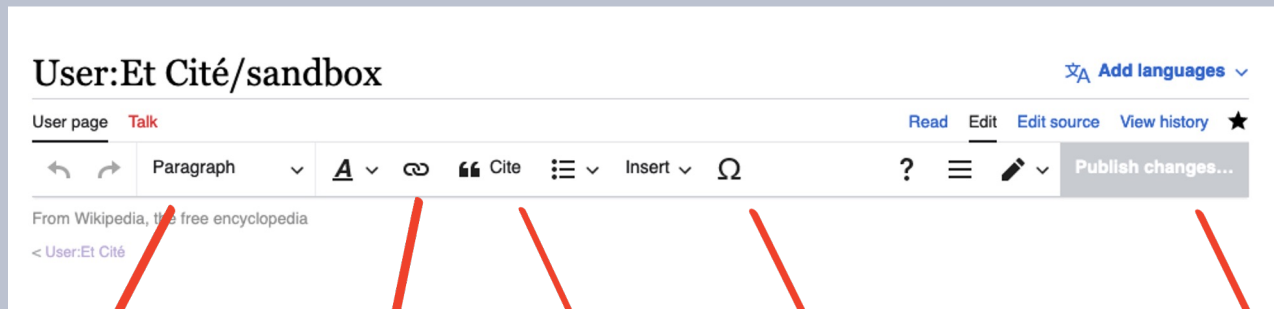
Choose the
source type and
fill in mask.

Reuse a
source

Exercise: Sandbox

Open your sandbox in the English Wikipedia for a little training:

- Insert any short text (e.g. about you, your project) into the sandbox.
- Make a new section, a title, a bullet list.
- Insert Wiki links to an existing articles.
- Cite an online source or a book.
- Publish your changes.



Insert titles or paragraphs

Insert a Wiki or external link

Make a citation

special characters

publish

6. Checklist: writing a **new article**

1. Is your topic already on Wikipedia?

→ Use **full text search**.

2. Is your topic notable enough?

→ Check **notability guideline** (“Relevanzkriterien”).

3. How should your article/section be structured?

→ Learn from similar articles. Use **WikiProjects/Portals** to find them

4. What language should you use? Are there specific guidelines for your discipline?

Check Manual of Style / How to write better articles

6. Checklist: adding **a new section** to an existing article

1. In which article(s) could the section fit?

→ Use **full text search**.

2. Where should you add your section?

→ Check the structure of similar articles. Use **WikiProjects/Portals** to find them.

3. Check the talk page of the considered articles:

→ Was your topic already discussed there.

Remember:

It's better to extend, correct existing sections than to delete them.

Exercise: New article

Choose a topic (e.g. your CS project) and go through this checklist. Try to find the relevant sections in the guidelines.

1. Is your topic already on Wikipedia?

→ Use [full text search](#).

2. If you want to create a new article: Is your topic notable enough?

→ Check [notability guideline](#) (dt. “[Relevanzkriterien](#)”) for your topic.

3. How should your article/section be structured? For sections to existing articles:

Where does it fit?

→ Learn from similar articles. Use [WikiProjects](#) and [Portals](#) to find them.

insert in search bar: [«WP:Wikiprojects Council/Directory»](#) / [«WP:Contents/Portals»](#)

4. What language should you use.

→ Check [Manual of Style](#) / [Writing better Articles](#)

insert: [«WP:MOS»](#) / [«WP:Wba»](#)

7. Tips for writing (scientific) content on Wikipedia

What you already know from academic papers

- Write from a neutral point of view.
- Be precise and clear.
- Focus only on relevant things to the topic.
- Cite your (reliable) sources.
- Be careful of plagiarism.
- Don't make judgemental statements („It is important that...“)

7. Tips for writing (scientific) content on Wikipedia

What may be different from academic papers

- Be concise!
- Remember: readers may not be well-versed in the topic
- Do not use as little scientific language as possible.
- Don't do "original research" – according to the motto: «don't analyze, evaluate, interpret, or synthesize material»
- insert blue links to link to other articles.
- If possible: use (reliable!) online sources, so other users can check them.

8. Final discussion

- How do you assess the potential for Wikipedia for the communication of science in general – and CS projects in particular?
- What problems do you expect when adding or editing content on your project on Wikipedia?
- Do you see a way of using Wikipedia or other Wikimedia in your project process apart from communication?

Contact

Contact us with your questions:

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Diego Hättenschwiler: diego.haettenschwiler@wikipedian.ch

«The problem with Wikipedia is that it only works in practice. In theory, it can never work.»

Miikka Ryokas, quoted in the NY Times, 23.4.2007