Guide: Science Communication on Wikipedia

« The great but underappreciated advantage of Wikipedia is that it allows researchers to communicate research results and scientific expertise in exactly the place where people look for it: in topical Wikipedia articles. »[1]
Paul Börsting, Maximilian Heimstädt (Elephant in the Lab)

I)   Tips before you start

1. Sign up to Wikipedia: Editing without logging in is possible but logged in users have more rights. Create an account here (in 2 min).
2. Start out by editing other articles before writing a new article. Learn from other Wikipedians.
3. Use the sandbox tool for some training before you start. The content in your sandbox will not be published in the encyclopedia. You find the sandbox tool here (if logged in):

4. Don't worry if you don't get everything right in the beginning or if your article is not complete yet. Wikipedia is a collaborative platform: other Wikipedians will improve and complete your articles.
5. If you write a new article, start by checking similar articles to learn from them and copy the style.

II)   Writing style on Wikipedia (for scientific information)

1. Be concise; make sure your sections aren't too long.
2. Readers should not have to be well-versed in a topic to understand a Wikipedia article.
3. Do not use jargon or scientific language.
4. Don't do "original research" on Wikipedia: use secondary sources, "don't analyze, evaluate, interpret, or synthesize material".
5. Articles should be written on the assumption that the reader will not or cannot follow the blue links (references to other articles)
6. If possible: use (reliable!) online sources, so other users can check them.

   More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_better_articles

III)   Checklist for new articles:

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[1] Börsting, P., & Heimstädt, M. (2021). Wikipedia as Science Communication: A Step-by-Step Guide. *Elephant in the Lab*.

Before you start

1. Check existing articles: is your topic already on Wikipedia? Maybe under a different name?
2. Notability: check if your topic is notable enough for Wikipedia? (see helpful links)
3. Check if there is a manual of style (MOS) for your topic (e.g., maths, music, linguistics, biographies etc.). A manual of style contains guidelines for language, style and structure in your specific field.
4. Check if there is a WikiProject for your subject.

During editing

4. Make sure your article is linked to other articles: insert blue links.
5. Add categories for your article at the bottom of the article.
6. Check language and structure (see below)
7. Optional: Add an image from Wikimedia Commons (or upload one yourself if you have the copyright.)
8. Final check: citations, spelling, consistency etc.

IV)   Tutorials / Help Pages

- **Video tutorial 1: Editing basics**

- **Video tutorial 2: Creating new pages**

- **Playlist of short videos on the most important steps of writing an article**

- **Wikipedia help page with useful information about editing**

- **Brochure with an overview on Wikipedia's functions and rules**

V)   Helpful Links

Before you start

- Writing your first article:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Your_first_article

- How to check if your topic is notable enough to deserve its own article:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability

- How to check the reliability of your sources:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reliable_sources/Perennial_sources

- List of Wikipedia guidelines (style, content, talk page etc.);
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_guidelines

Helpful tools and overview pages

- Insights on views and interaction with your article:
  https://pageviews.wmcloud.org/?project=en.wikipedia.org&platform=all-access&agent=user&redirects=0&range=latest-20&pages=Cat|Dog

- Wikipedia Portals (list with topics, categories on Wikipedia):
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Contents/Portals

- Overview on WikiProjects («groups of editors that wish to work together as a team»)
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Council/Directory

- Upload images on Wikimedia Commons (for later use on Wikipedia):
  https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:UploadWizard

Advice on writing / style

- Advice on writing better articles:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_better_articles

- Manual of Style:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style/

- Citation:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources

Specific for the German Wikipedia

- Notability (slightly different from the English Wikipedia):
  https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Relevanzkriterien

- Style/Language:
  https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wie_schreibe_ich_gute_Artikel

Specific for the French Wikipedia

- Notability (slightly different from the English Wikipedia):
  https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikip%C3%A9dia:Notori%C3%A9t%C3%A9

- Writing good articles:
  https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aide:Comment_r%C3%A9diger_un_bon_article

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