

# INFORMATION LITERACY WIKIPEDIA-STYLE **JULY 2012**

Tips and tricks to take the reader behind the secret curtain of Wikipedia

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**STRUCTURE**

STRUCTURE

# IF WIKIPEDIA WERE ON PAPER

- Wikipedia Structure in Paper  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2emwDvpbNQI>

**FORENSICS**

# THE TALK PAGE

Sometimes known as the “discussion page” this is the location for editors to talk about the article.

Duality: every page is two pages.

Metapage

Permanently  
attached

Talk to other  
editors

# TALK PAGE – EXAMPLES

- Egyptian Revolution
  - What would be some of the major talk today around the Egyptian Revolution article?
    - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_Egyptian\\_revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution)

# THE TALK PAGE - RATINGS

## Quality

Featured Article

A

Good Article

B

C

Start

Stub

## Importance

Top

High

Mid

Low

Bottom

No

# RATINGS – EXAMPLES

- Egyptian Revolution
  - What score would you guess?
    - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_Egyptian\\_revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution)
  - What percentage are stubs?
    - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Version\\_1.0\\_Editorial\\_Team/Assessment#Quality\\_scale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Version_1.0_Editorial_Team/Assessment#Quality_scale)



# VIEW HISTORY

The entire revision history for a page  
is always stored on Wikipedia.

That also includes talk pages.

Complete History

For Every Page

Forever

# VIEW HISTORY – EXAMPLES

- Egyptian Revolution 2011
  - How soon after the first protest did the first draft come?
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_Egyptian\\_r  
evolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution)

# USER PAGES

The user page itself is the public face that the user chooses to show.

The attached talk page of a user page acts as the message system.

Private messaging is impossible by design.

Profile

Messaging System

Transparency

# USER PAGES- EXAMPLES

- User:The Egyptian Liberal
  - What was s/he discussing?
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:The\\_Egyptian\\_Liberal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:The_Egyptian_Liberal)

# TAXONOMIES

Categorization system.

Any article, or category can be a member of any number of categories.

Folksonomy

Uncontrolled  
vocabulary

Not hierarchical

# TAXONOMIES- EXAMPLES

- Categories

- How do Categories compare to Dewey or Library of Congress Subject Headings?

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Revolutions>

# WHAT LINKS HERE

Part of Wikipedia's special structure is that links are **bidirectional**.

We take links forwards all the time.  
Why not backwards?

All pages

Counting tool

New browsing  
mode

# WHAT LINKS HERE- EXAMPLES

- Pages

- What do you think links to Nikita Khrushchev?

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita\\_Khrushchev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev)

- Templates

- Infoboxes are a type of template. They are the boxes at the right with structured data

- What about “infobox book”

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Infobox\\_book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Infobox_book)



# PAGE VIEWS

Simple page view counter displayed over time.

All pages

All languages

Up to 90 days prior

# PAGE VIEWS - EXAMPLES

- Pages

- Ernest Borgnine just died? How many page views did his article receive?

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\\_Borgnine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Borgnine)

**THEORY**

# Five Pillars

An  
Encyclopedia

Neutral Point  
of View

Free Content

Civility

No Firm  
Rules

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five\\_pillars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars)

# The zeroeth law of Wikipedia

“The problem with Wikipedia is that it only works in practice. In theory, it can never work.” ~Anon

An orange scroll graphic with a white border and two white scroll handles on the left side. The word "Questions?" is written in white text in the center of the scroll.

Questions?