OPEN-EDGE 2009

Wikipedia: a teachers' primer

People always say to me:

“I read Wikipedia articles...

...but you don’t actually *use* them, do you?”

Definitions of “use”

- read it
  - the best place to start
- cite it
  - use its references instead
- edit it
  - a way to learn by doing
- research it
  - potentially enlightening!

In this presentation

- What is "a free education" in the digital age?
- Why should you care about Wikipedia?
- Wikipedia as a teaching tool its own right

“a free education...”

- used to mean “at no cost [to student]” (19th C)

GRATIS

- now *also* means “to give students and teachers *freedom* to control their education”

LIBRE

In the digital age a “free education”
is also an “open education”

“...a free education”

- Royalties paid by DET to CAL for freely available content continue to blow out
- Educators have barely scratched the surface of using digital resources
- Either the law will have change or else schools won’t be able to afford to provide a digital education...

Knowledge wants to be free,
knowledge also wants to be expensive.

“We don’t need your education!”

Or alternatively,

We create free & open educational content from scratch to circumvent the restrictions.

In the end it’s better anyway!

If people were passing out paints on the street for free every day, I'm sure there'd be a lot more painters.

- Gregg Gillis (GirlTalk)
in "Good Copy, Bad Copy"

knowledge

If people were passing out ~~paints~~ on the street for free every day, I'm sure there'd be a lot more ~~painters~~.

education

Wikipedia is!

- 100% FLOSS, 100% open standards, 100% copyleft
- charitable foundation, volunteers, no advertising, no royalties, no permissions, available to use and re-use.

GRATIS

LIBRE

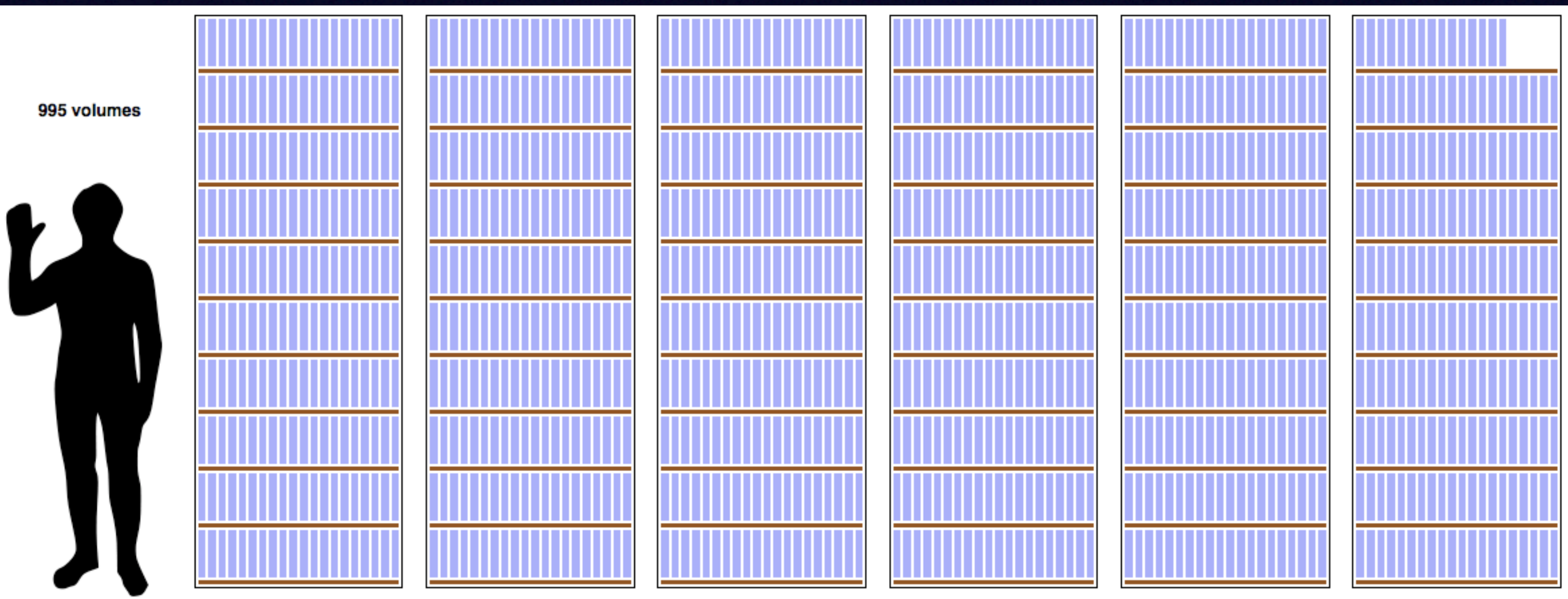
“Data to the people”

Wikipedia is familiar to students, but not to teachers; library databases are familiar to teachers, but to students.

The value of open APIs and standards-based data is to bring information to where people are already comfortable - rather than forcing the people to go to the information.

Why you need to know

2. It has something on everything

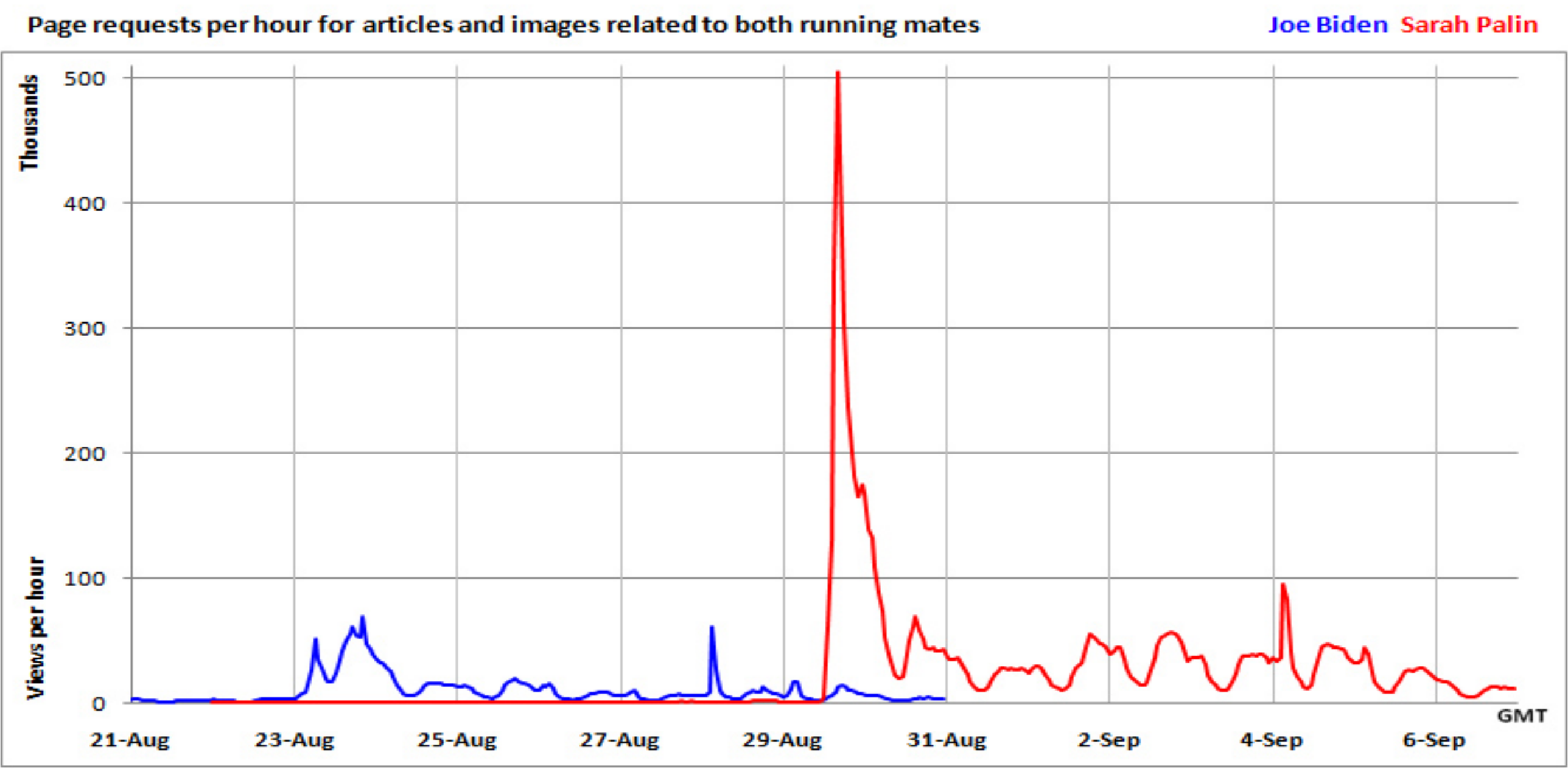


Why you need to know

3. It is a global community

Why you need to know

4. It is happening now



Why you need to know

5. It's where other (smart) people are already

	Reader (%)	Contributor (%)	Total (%)
Primary education	14.77	12.36	13.93
Secondary education	37.69	33.45	36.20
Tertiary education - Undergraduate	29.17	28.38	28.89
Tertiary education - Masters	10.11	15.07	11.85
Tertiary education - PhD	2.30	4.59	3.10
Other	5.96	6.15	6.03
N = 124,752	100%	100%	100%

UN University (Maastricht) Survey 2008

ComScore
March 2009

	Worldwide unique visitors
Google Sites (includes YouTube)	831 million
Microsoft Sites	692 million
Yahoo! Sites	594 million
Wikimedia Foundation Sites	327 million
FACEBOOK.COM	295 million
AOL LLC	286 million
eBay	250 million
CBS Corporation (includes CNET)	203 million
Amazon Sites	195 million
Fox Interactive Media (includes Myspace)	183 million

Why you need to know

6. Other institutions (that students should be using) are already using it too

Google Maps

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

catalogue new!

MEDIAWATCH

everyone loves it until they're on it

ABC Television

Google Maps

Street View | More... (1) | Map | Satellite | Terrain

Silverwater Nature Reserve
Putney
Linley Point
Rhodes
Gladesville
Longueville
Greenwich
North Sydney
Neutral Bay
Georges Heights
Liberty Grove
Tarban
Huntleys Point
Woolwich
Lavender Bay
Clifton Gardens
Mortlake
Concord West
Cabarita
Kirribilli
Cremorne Point
Homebush Bay
Chiswick
Drummoyne
Birchgrove
Balmain
Concord
Homebush
Canada Bay
Russell Lea
Rozelle
Vaucluse
Diamond Bay
Homebush West
Gipps St
Five Dock
Rodd Pt
Pyrmont
Sydney
Garden Island
Potts Point
Point Piper
Lilyfield
St James
Strathfield
Burwood
Haberfield
Annandale
Forest Lodge
Elizabeth Bay
Dover Heights
Enfield
Burwood Heights
Leichhardt
Broadway
Paddington
Bellevue Hill
North Bondi
Strathfield South
Ashfield
Summer Hill
Surry Hills
Roberts Rd
Croydon Park
Lewisham
Alexandria
Centennial Park
Waverley
Bondi
Bondi Beach
Belfield
Ashbury
Enmore
Queens Park
Bronte
Dulwich Hill
Waterloo
Zetland
Kensington
Campsie
Canterbury
Marrickville
St Peters
Beaconsfield
Clovelly
Lakemba
Belmore
Canterbury Rd
Marrickville South
Sydenham
Tempe
Roseberry
Randwick
St Pauls
Coogee
Wiley Park
Earlwood
Eastlakes
Kingsford
Clemton Park
Bardwell Park
Bardwell Valley
Wolli Creek
Qantas Dr
Mascot
Daceyville
South Coogee
Arncliffe
Sydney Airport
Eastern Dist
Maroubra Junction
Kingsgrove
Bexley North
Banksia
Botany
Pagewood
Narwee
Bexley
Eastgardens
Maroubra

catalogue new!

« Back to Search results

James Spigelman

Provided by Wikipedia

James Jacob Spigelman AC QC (born 1 January 1946) is the Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales (the highest court in the State of New South Wales, Australia), which forms part of the Australian court hierarchy.

Provided by Wikipedia

Library items by **James Spigelman**:

The nuclear barons / Peter Pringle and James Spigelman
by Pringle, Peter
Published New York : Holt, Rinehart and Winston, c1981
Book

Are lawyers lemons? : competition principles and professional regulation / introduced by Simon Longstaff ; lectured delivered by JJ Spigelman
by Spigelman, James, 1946-
Published Sydney : St James Ethics Centre, 2002
Book

MEDIAWATCH

everyone loves it until they're on it

ABC Television

Troll (Internet)

...someone who posts controversial, inflammatory, irrelevant or off-topic messages in an online community

Why you need to know

7. It is emblematic of many changes in society

http://underdogpictures.com/wikidoc/site/trailer.htm

Documentary previews -
"Truth in Numbers"

Truth in Numbers - Issues raised in the preview

- censorship, communicating across languages/cultures, reliability, the “other”, types of media, digital society, collaborative writing, meaning construction, transparency...
- “Glocalisation”

Definitions of "true"

- Professionalism
  - amateur ≠ amateurish
- Fixity
  - Older = more or less likely?
- Verifiability
  - Outsourcing truth?
- Objectivity
  - A "noble dream"
- Neutrality
  - Equal weight to unequal arguments?

Who owns meaning?

Writer controls the meaning

or

Reader creates their interpretation?

When the reader IS the writer - what then?

Ideas for Interacting with Wikipedia in a Classroom

- Read a relevant article as a class and review it
- Gather references for the text of an existing article
- Improve a shorter article as a class in one lesson
- Debate the discussion archive of a contentious article
- Discuss the language changes in the edit history
- Individuals improve an article over a term and report
- Compare articles across languages/encyclopedias

But make sure to publish your findings!

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/wikipedia:School_and_university_projects

[[WP:SUP]]

Featured articles in Wikipedia

Featured articles are considered to be the best articles in Wikipedia, as determined by Wikipedia's editors. Before being listed here, articles are reviewed at featured article candidates for accuracy, neutrality, completeness, and style according to our featured article criteria.

At present, there are **2,311** featured articles, of a total of 2,633,151 pages on the English Wikipedia. Thus, about one in 1,130 articles is listed here. Articles that no longer meet the criteria can be proposed for improvement or removal at featured article review.

A small bronze star ( ) on the top right corner of an article's page indicates for non-logged-in readers and most user settings that the article is featured. Additionally, if the current article is featured in another language version, a star will appear next to the language page link, in the list on the left of the page (see also featured articles in other languages).

Featured content:

- **Featured articles** ←
- Featured lists
- Featured pictures
- Featured sounds
- Featured portals
- Featured topics

Featured article tools:

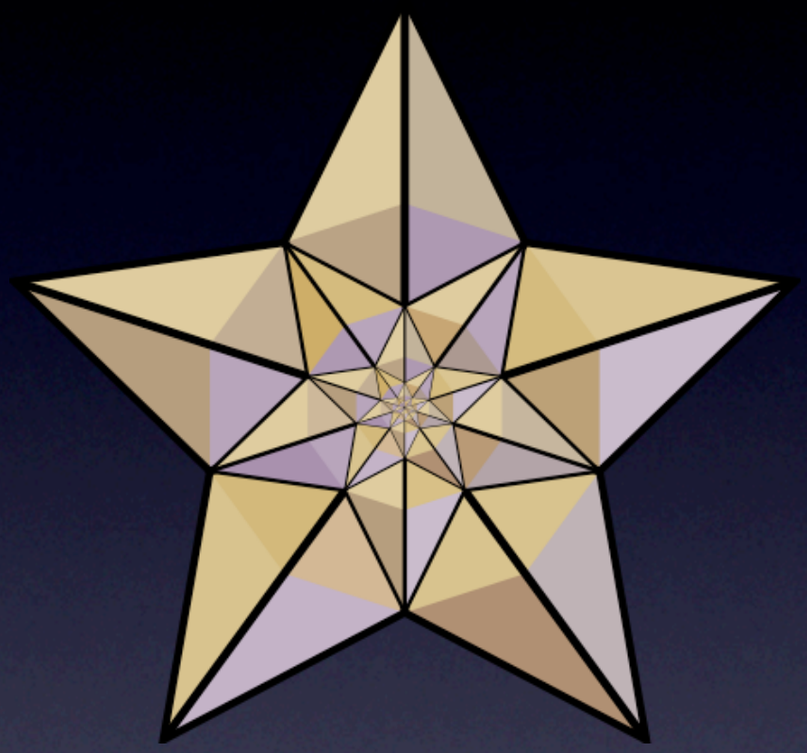
- Featured article criteria
- Featured article candidates
- Featured article review
- Today's featured article
  - This month's queue
  - Main page requests
- Featured article log
- Featured article statistics
- Former featured articles

Shortcut:
WP:FA

Contents

Art, architecture and archaeology · Awards, decorations and vexillology · Biology · Business, economics and finance · Chemistry and mineralogy · Computing · Culture and society · Education · Engineering and technology · Food and drink · Geography and places · Geology, geophysics and meteorology · Health and medicine · History · Language and linguistics · Law · Literature and theatre · Mathematics · Media · Music · Philosophy and psychology · Physics and astronomy · Politics and government · Religion, mysticism and mythology · Royalty, nobility and heraldry · Sport and recreation · Transport · Video gaming · Warfare

Featured Content



2650 Articles - 2027 Pictures -1531 Lists -
140 Portals -124 Sounds - 99 Topics

one more thing...

We have lots of educational resources about American culture. But relatively little about Australian culture.

1. It's made available
2. Copyright freedom

TIRES

American Institutions:

- multiple file formats (inc .tiff)
- no ambit claims
- no digital watermarking
- default is open for US Gov't.

Australian Institutions:

- low resolution jpg format
- "personal and private use"
- watermarking
- Crown Copyright is by default closed.

Thank you.

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[[user:witty lama]]

www.wittylama.com/blog