

Trusting the user: Wikipedia as an example

Daniel Mayer
Wikimedia Foundation

Free Culture and the Digital Library
14 October 2005

What are wikis?

- Openly editable websites
- First wiki: 1995, c2.com
- Anyone can edit (almost) any page
- Simplified syntax for editing
 - `[[link]]` `"italic"` `"bold"` `[[image:sample.jpg]]`
- User actions are logged and reversible
- Stacking the deck against vandals

Editing a wiki



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

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Editing Wikipedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

This page is 45 kilobytes long. This may be longer than is preferable; see [article size](#).



`[[Image:Wikipedia-logo.png|150px|right|thumb|The ''Wikipedia'' logo.]]`
'''Wikipedia''' (pronounced as either "week-ee-peedia or wick-ee-peedia") is a multilingual, [[World Wide Web|Web]]-based, [[Free content|free-content]] [[encyclopedia]]. It is written collaboratively by [[volunteer]]s with [[wiki]] [[software]], meaning articles can be added or changed by nearly anyone. The project began on [[January 15]] [[2001]] as a complement to the expert-written [[Nupedia]], and is now operated by the [[Non-profit organization|non-profit]] [[Wikimedia|Wikimedia Foundation]]. It has steadily risen in popularity,^(ref|Popularity) and spawned several sister projects, such as [[Wiktionary]], [[Wikibooks]], and [[Wikinews]].

Articles in the Wikipedia are regularly cited by the [[mass media]] and [[academia]], who praise it for its free distribution, editing, and diverse range of coverage. Editors are encouraged to uphold a policy of "[[neutral point of view]]" under which notable perspectives are summarized without an attempt to determine an [[objectivity (journalism)|objective]] truth. Yet due to its open nature, [[vandalism]] and inaccuracy are constant problems – and the status of Wikipedia as [[reference]] work has been controversial. It has also been criticized for [[systemic bias]], preference of consensus to credentials, and a perceived lack of accountability and authority when compared with traditional encyclopedias.

There are about 200 [[language]] editions of Wikipedia (about 100 of which are active). Ten editions have more than 50,000 articles each: [[English Wikipedia|English]], [[German Wikipedia|German]], [[French Wikipedia|French]], [[Japanese Wikipedia|Japanese]], [[Italian

Wikimedia Foundation

- Non-profit organization
- Funded by donations and grants
- Operates Wikipedia and its sister projects
 - Wiktionary
 - Wikibooks
 - WikiJunior
 - Wikinews
 - Wikisource
 - Wikiquote
 - Wikimedia Commons



Wikimedia's goals

- Presenting the sum total of human knowledge to every person in the world for free and in their own language.
- Generating good content is the key
 - Our openness is a means to that end
 - The community is a means to that end
 - Wikipedia is not an experiment in anarchy

Wikipedia



WIKIPEDIA
De vrije encyclopedie

- Volunteer created encyclopedia
- Started in January 2001
- 8000 articles in the first 8 months
- International
- Freely licensed
 - Increases sense of shared ownership
- NPOV, NOR, Verifiability

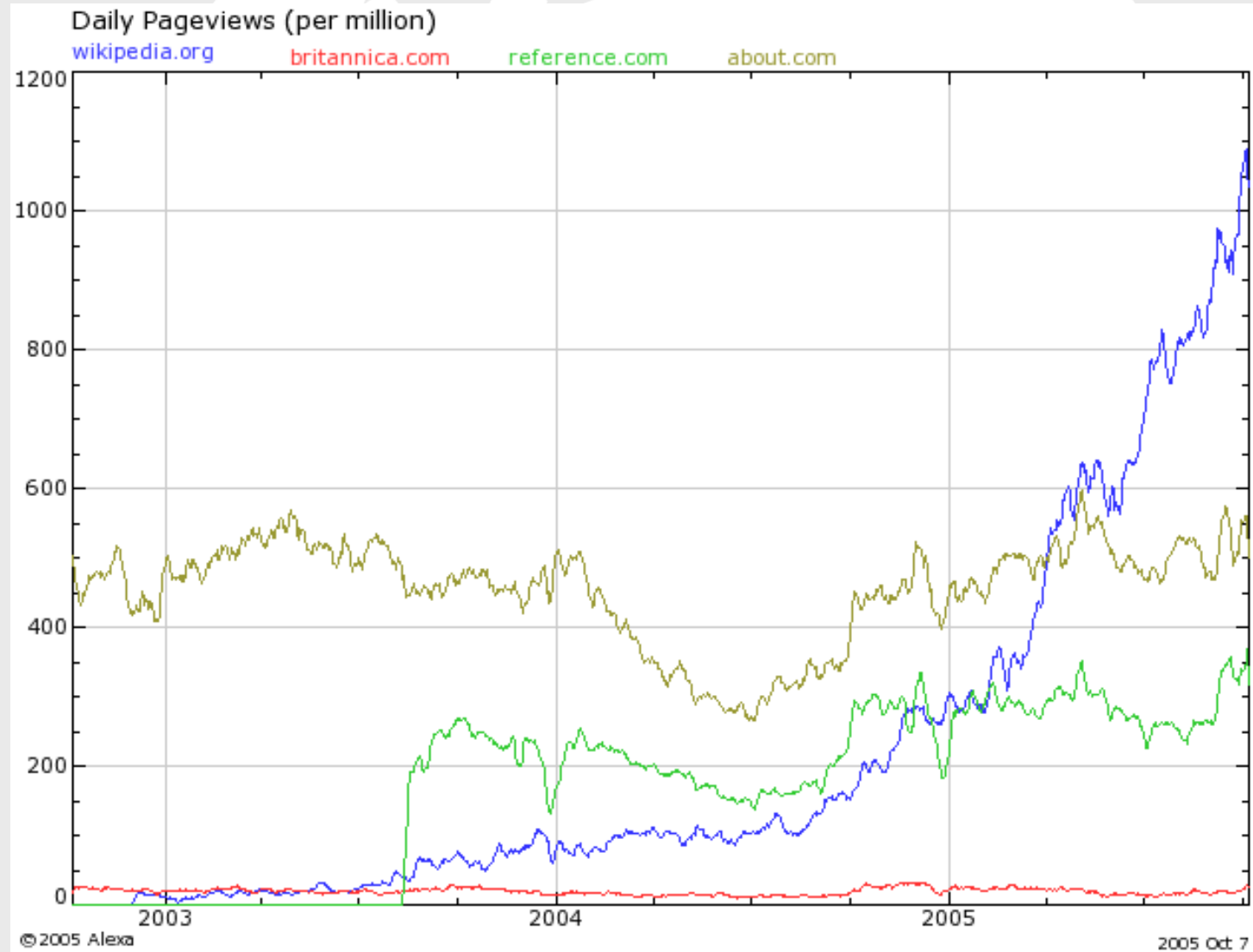
Neutral Point of View policy

- NPOV - Neutral Point of View
- Diverse political, religious, cultural backgrounds
- Kept together by our “NPOV” policy
- NPOV is a social concept of co-operation, avoids some philosophical issues.

Wikipedia statistics

- 2 million articles in >100 languages
- English Wikipedia: 750,000 articles
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/>
 - largest encyclopedia in the world
- German Wikipedia: 300,000 articles
 - <http://de.wikipedia.org/>
- Over
 - 20,000 active Wikipedians
 - 5,000 new articles per day
 - 100,000 edits per day
- Among top 50 websites according to Alexa.com
 - <http://www.alexa.com/data/details/main?q=&url=http://www.wikipedia.org>

Wikipedia usage growth



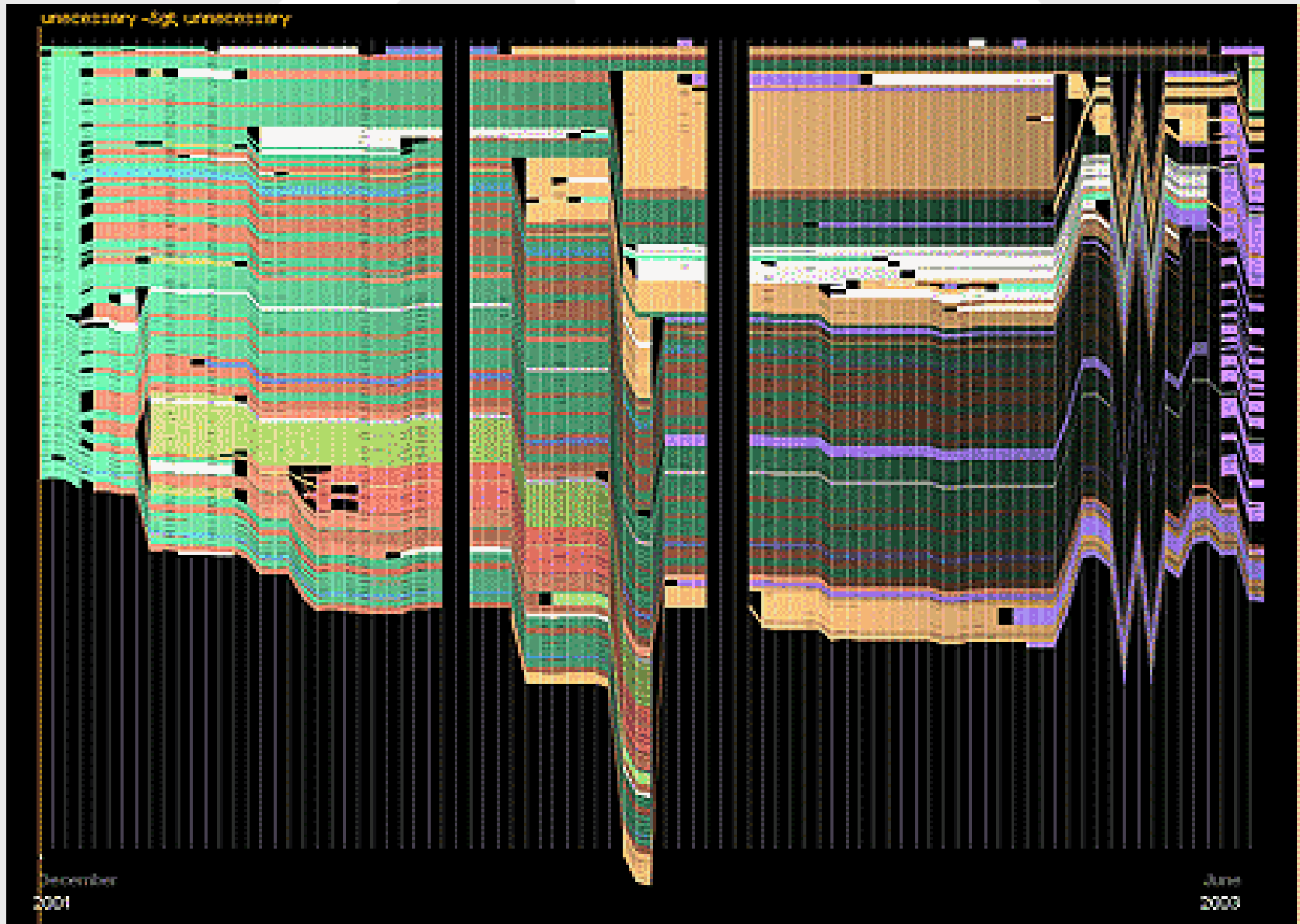
Can the content be trusted?

- Community review processes
- Moderation after the fact
 - Encourages growth
 - Can't be sure of validity
- License allows free 3rd party use

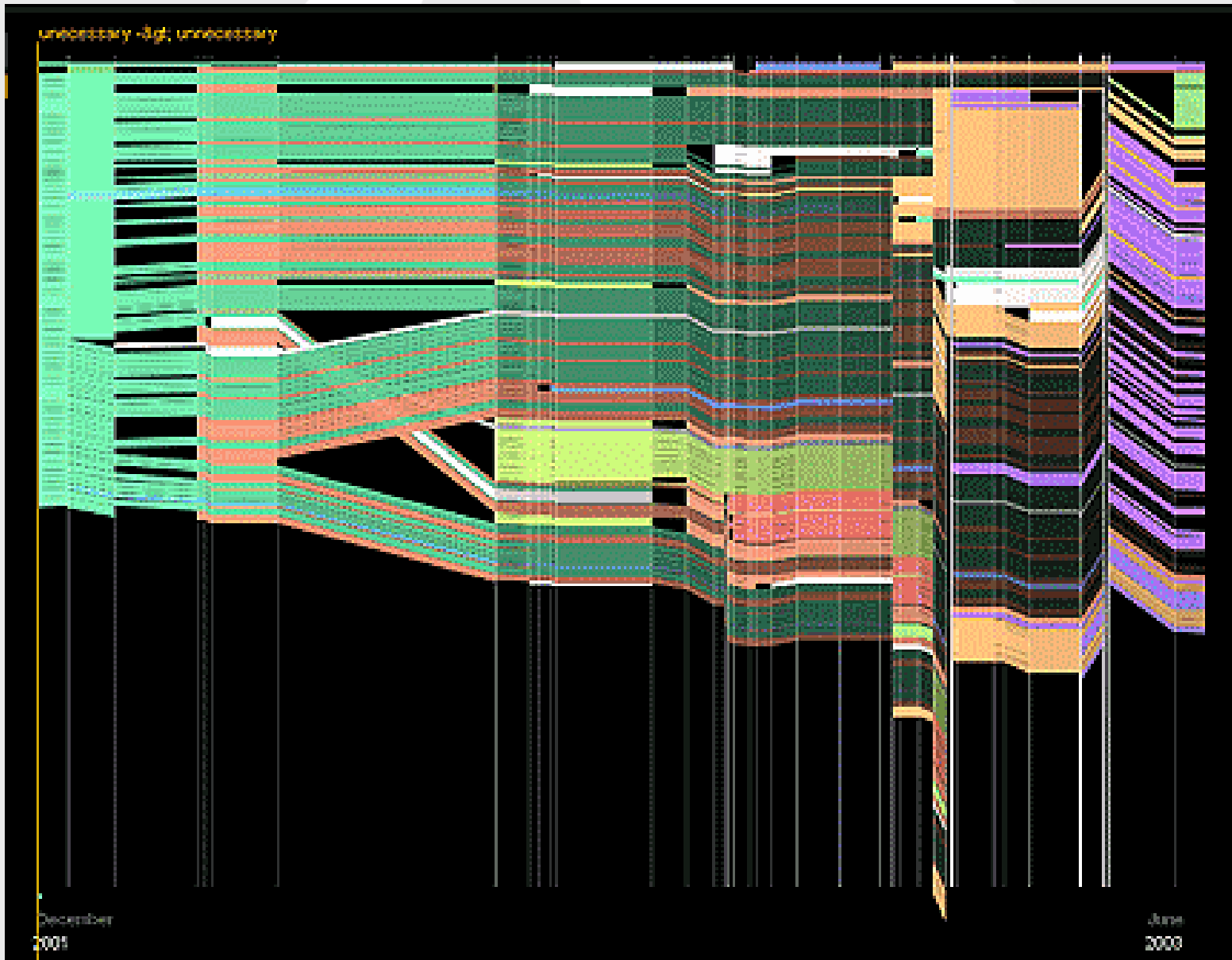
Limited studies thus far

- IBM History Flow study
 - Major vandalism repaired in less than 5 minutes
 - <http://researchweb.watson.ibm.com/history/results.htm>
- Wikipedia vs Brockhaus and Encarta
 - c't German computer engineering magazine
 - Comparison of German encyclopedias (Oct04)
 - German Wikipedia won except in multimedia
 - http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia_vs_Brockhaus_and_Encarta

History flow: Versions



History flow: Time



Community self-regulation

- **Quality control features:** recent changes, watchlists, related changes, page histories, user contributions lists
- **Community features:** talk pages, user profiles, access levels, user-to-user email, message notification, RFC, mediation, arbitration.

Comparing versions

Flat Earth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

(Difference between revisions)

Revision as of 22:40, 12 Feb 2003

[Ed Poor](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

okay, I'm done. Comments?

Revision as of 22:42, 12 Feb 2003

[Eloquence](#) ([Talk](#) | [contribs](#))

second para

Line 1:

The "flat earth" theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain. Some ancient Greek philosophers began to discuss the idea of a spherical earth, notably Eratosthenes and Ptolemy.

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had pretty much died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few diehards hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

Line 1:

The "flat earth" theory is the idea that the earth is flat, as opposed to the view of modern science that the earth is spherical.

People from early antiquity generally believed the world was flat, as that is how it looks even from a high mountain; by the time of [[Pliny the Elder]], however, its spherical shape was generally acknowledged. [[Ptolemy]] derived his maps from a curved globe and developed the system of [[latitude]] and [[longitude]].

During the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the [[renaissance]] of science several centuries later, some Christian writers questioned and even opposed the earth's sphericity, although it is not clearly known how influential their views were. Even before the Renaissance began, the flat earth theory had almost died out, yielding by the 900s or 1100s to the idea that the earth is a globe.

Some Christians in England and America tried to revive Flat Earth thinking in the 19th century, and a few hold out to this day (see [[Flat Earth Society]]).

== Flat Earth theories of Antiquity ==

Rolling back versions

special page

User contributions

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

For 128.147.38.10 ([Talk](#))

Namespace:

([Latest](#) | [Earliest](#)) [View \(previous 250\)](#) ([next 250](#)) ([20](#) | [50](#) | [100](#) | [250](#) | [500](#)).

- 02:21, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sexual problems](#) ([→External links](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
- 02:20, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sexual problems](#) ([→Onset](#))
- 02:19, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sexual problems](#) ([→Onset](#))
- 02:17, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sexual problems](#) ([→Onset](#))
- 02:14, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sexual problems](#) ([→Onset](#))
- 01:51, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Venlafaxine](#) ([→Side Effects](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
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- 01:47, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Citalopram](#) ([→Persistent sexual side effects](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
- 01:47, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Paroxetine](#) ([→Persistent sexual side effects](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
- 01:46, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Fluoxetine](#) ([→Persistent sexual side effects](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
- 01:45, 13 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor](#) ([→Sexual side effects](#)) **(top)** [[rollback](#)]
- 02:03, 8 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Paroxetine](#) ([→Side effects](#))
- 02:01, 8 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Citalopram](#) ([→Other side effects](#))
- 02:00, 8 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Sertraline](#) ([→Side effects](#))
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- 01:56, 8 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Fluoxetine](#)
- 01:54, 8 October 2005 ([hist](#)) ([diff](#)) [Fluoxetine](#)

Community Organization

- Example: *Articles For Deletion*

Wikipedia:Articles for deletion/Pocket Mumias

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

< [Wikipedia:Articles for deletion](#)

Pocket Mumias

[\[edit\]](#)

The term is so non-notable as to merit not a single Google hit; **delete**. [Dvyost](#) 02:35, 7 October 2005 (UTC)

- Not only is it nn, it's patently offensive. **Delete**. For the reference, see [Mumia Abu Jamal](#). [RasputinAXP](#) [talk](#) * [contribs](#) 02:41, 7 October 2005 (UTC)
- **Delete**. nn, and not clever enough by half. [BDAbramson](#) [talk](#) 02:49, 7 October 2005 (UTC)
- **Delete** not notable, not verifiable anyway ("some underground circles" notwithstanding) --[W.marsh](#) 03:22, 7 October 2005 (UTC)
- FREE MUMIAS (to be **deleted**). Non-notable at best, likely unverifiable, possible hoax. [Lord Bob](#) 05:19, 7 October 2005 (UTC)
- **Do Not Delete** Mumia himself coined this phrase in an effort to get the youth to continue the movement for his release. He said it live on Larry King in December 2001. --[Hubris](#) 10:44, 7 October 2005 (UTC)
 - I'm going to let my idea of the plausibility of your story slide for a moment, and say simply this. The [CNN transcripts page](#) [☞](#) showing Larry King's programs since January 1, 2000 does not mention any such interview. I don't have time to look through the couple dozen transcripts for December 2001 to check this statement out, but if you could point out which day the broadcast occurred we could all have a gender and that would be nice and verified. Howzat sound? [Lord Bob](#) 14:53, 7 October 2005 (UTC)

Community Organization

- Example: *Featured Article Candidates*

Wikipedia:Featured article candidates/Technetium

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

[← Wikipedia:Featured article candidates](#)

Technetium

[\[edit\]](#)

Self nom; been on [peer review for a while](#). Kinda short, but there really isn't much to say about this element in the first place and everything significant to say is already included, IMO. So I think the length is very appropriate. I'm responsible for the [original de-stubbing](#) of this article, and recently [significantly expanded](#) it. Since then, [others have expanded my expansion](#) and fixed many issues (such as some unclear writing on my part and some outdated data from one of my sources). This is therefore one of the more collaborative articles I've submitted to FAC. --[mav](#) 02:02, 27 Apr 2005 (UTC)

- **Support.** The article sure doesn't seem inadequate. [Femto](#) 15:35, 27 Apr 2005 (UTC)
- **Support.** [Jan van Male](#) 17:34, 27 Apr 2005 (UTC)
- ~~**Object.** Several sections of the article (notably "notable characteristics" and portions of "occurrence") are grammatically one sentence paragraphs that have been strung together into meaningless paragraphs. The text should be reorganized within these sections, and ideally subsectioned. In general, the writing is competent but not "compelling" or "brilliant" - the FA criteria for meeting the "well-written"~~

The future?

- Referencing particular revisions
- Greater participation from academics
- Reader validation of articles
- Development of a stable version
 - Wikipedia 1.0
 - German DVD

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You can [edit this page right now!](#) It's a free, community project

Welcome to Wikipedia, a collaborative project to produce a complete encyclopedia from scratch. We started in January 2001 and already have **over 8,000 articles**. We want to make over 100,000, so let's get to work--*anyone* can edit any page--copyedit, write a little, write a lot. See the [Wikipedia FAQ](#) for information on how to edit pages and other questions. If you're visiting Wikipedia for the first time, [welcome!](#) *The content of Wikipedia is covered by the [GNU Free Documentation License](#).*

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Applied Arts and Sciences

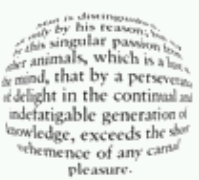
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August 2001

UseMod



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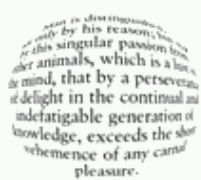
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November 2002

Phase 3 – now called MediaWiki



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- In the news:* [NATO - Domestic Security Act](#) - [Phil Spector](#) - [Václav Havel](#) - [Shuttle disaster](#)
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- [Jean Aristide](#) - [Maastricht treaty](#) - [Spanish-American War](#) - [Elizabeth II](#) - [Treaty of Waitangi](#)

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February 2003

first table-centric Main Page design



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Recent deaths: [Rebeca Martinez](#) - [Abdul Rahman Munif](#) - [Eleanor Holm](#) - [Carlie Bruscia](#)
New articles: [US Eighth Army](#) - [Trugernanna](#) - [William Jessop](#) - [Superb Fairy-wren](#)
Featured articles: [Paradox](#) - [Chess](#) - [Éire](#) - [Io \(moon\)](#) - [White Rose](#) - [Vampire](#) - [Punk rock](#)
Anniversaries: [February 9](#) - [The Beatles](#) on *The Ed Sullivan Show* - [Mandaluyong City](#) - [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) - [Volleyball](#) - [Emperor Zeno](#) - *The Simpsons*

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February 2004
new logo and colour

Main Page

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Today's featured article



The [Hubble Deep Field](#) is the result of a series of observations by the [Hubble Space Telescope](#) of a small region of the [northern celestial hemisphere](#). It was assembled from 342 separate exposures taken with the Space Telescope's [Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2](#) over 10 consecutive days between [December 18](#) and [December 28, 1995](#). The field is small enough that only a few foreground [stars](#) in the [Milky Way](#) lie within it; thus, almost all of the 3,000 objects in the image are galaxies, some of which are among the youngest and most distant known. By revealing such large numbers of very young galaxies, the HDF has become a landmark image in the [study of the early universe](#), and it has been the source of almost 400 [scientific papers](#) since it was created. Three years after the HDF observations were taken, a region in the south celestial hemisphere was imaged in a similar way and named the [Hubble Deep Field South](#). The similarities between the two regions strengthened the belief that the [universe](#) is uniform over large scales and that the [Earth](#) occupies a typical region in the universe (the [cosmological principle](#)).

Recently featured: [Shrimp farm](#) – [Wario](#) – [Isaac Brock](#)

[Archive](#) – [By email](#) – [More featured articles...](#)

Selected anniversaries

October 13: Festival dedicated to [Fontus](#) ([Roman Empire](#))

- **54:** [Claudius](#) was fatally poisoned by his wife [Agrippina the younger](#), making her



In the news

- [Shenzhou 6](#) (*pictured*), the second [Chinese human spaceflight](#), is launched, carrying [Fei Junlong](#) and [Nie Haisheng](#) for five days in [orbit](#).
 - Over 40,000 people are confirmed dead in [India](#) and [Pakistan](#) following a magnitude 7.6 [earthquake in Kashmir](#).
 - [Liberia](#) holds its first-ever fully free [presidential and parliamentary elections](#) in the aftermath of its [second civil war](#).
 - [Thomas Schelling](#) and [Robert Aumann](#) win the [2005 Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel](#) for their work in [game theory](#) analysis.
 - [Angela Merkel](#) will become [Germany's](#) new [Chancellor](#), leading a [Grand Coalition](#) between [SPD](#) and [CDU/CSU](#).
- [Wikinews](#) – [Recent deaths](#) – [More current events...](#)



Did you know...

From Wikipedia's [newest articles](#):

...that identical [Norwegian Lady Statues](#) commemorating a [shipwreck](#) are located in the [sister cities](#) of [Moss, Norway](#)



