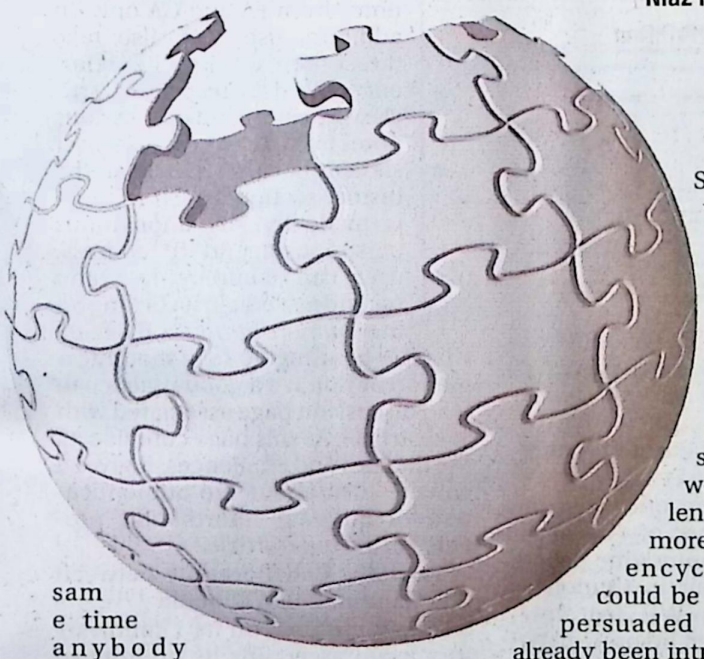
Wikipedia: Our Encyclopedia!

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WIKIPEDIA (WP) is a multilingual, web-based, free content encyclopedia project written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world. Starting from the foundation President to a general Wikipedian, everyone works there as a volunteer. Its articles can be created and edited by anyone having internet access from any part of the world, at the same time anybody can access its full contents without paying a single penny. WP aims to make people contribute whatever they know and it believes through an evolutionary process one day its articles will become encyclopedic. Unfortunately, people on few occasions misunderstand WP because of its openness and do not trust its contents. This article hopes to illuminate all those mystifications and tries to draw an epigrammatic picture on WP and its articles.



A bit of history

WP was founded as an offshoot of Nupedia, an abandoned project to produce a free encyclopedia. Nupedia had an elaborate system of peer review and required highly qualified contributors, **but preparing articles was very slow.** During 2000, Jimmy Wales, founder of Nupedia, and Larry Sanger, an employee of the Nupedia project, first started finding different ways to supplement Nupedia with a more open and complementary project.

On the evening of January 2, 2001, Sanger had a conversation over dinner with Ben Kovitz, a computer programmer, in San Diego, California. Kovitz explained the wiki concept to Sanger in detail. Sanger saw that a wiki would be an excellent format whereby a more open, less formal encyclopedia project could be pursued. He easily persuaded Wales, who had already been introduced to the wiki concept, to set up a wiki for Nupedia, and Nupedia's first wiki went online on January 10. There was considerable resistance on the part of Nupedia's editors and reviewers to the idea of associating Nupedia with a website in the wiki format, so the new project was given the name "Wikipedia" and launched on its own domain, wikipedia.com, on January 15 (now called "Wikipedia Day"). Wales donated required bandwidth and server for WP project. The domain was eventually changed to the present wikipedia.org when the non-profitable **Wikimedia Foundation** was launched as its new parent organization, prompting the use of a *.org* domain to denote its noncommercial nature.

In May 2001, a wave of non-English WP was launched - in Catalan, Chinese, Dutch, Esperanto, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish; these were soon joined by Arabic and Hungarian. In September, Polish was added and further commitment to the multilingual provision of WP was made. At the end of the year, Afrikaans, Norwegian, and Serbocroatian versions were announced. Soon after, Bangle Wikipedia was also lunched. Bangle Wikipedia can be visit from the following link: bn.wikipedia.org. In order to see Bangle text properly, user must have Unicode supported Bangle font installed on their operating system.

Wikipedia Management

WP is a free encyclopedia written and managed by people like us. It is run under non-profitable *Wikimedia Foundation* located in the United States. Board members of this foundation are practiced Wikipedians elected by other Wikipedians having voting right from all over the world. Though these posts are open to all but experienced persons are likely to win. People from all around the world can join WP as a Wikipedian and contribute whatever they are acquainted with. WP keeps track of each contribution made by Wikipedians and provides them different amenities based on their exertions and seniority. Wikipedians having four hundred contributions on the main-space get the voting right to vote in the board election. Furthermore, who have one year seniority at WP can edit *recent event* pages which are usually restricted for new or non Wikipedians.

General Wikipedians do not have the admittance to edit and manage main page contents. These contents along with few other management issues are controlled by a set of people called WP Administrator. Administrators are special type of Wikipedians having some supplementary management power such as access to different restricted pages,