

A Quick Guide to Wikipedia

My first edit / DC neighborhoods edit-a-thon

MLK Jr. Library,
Washington DC,
November 19, 2014

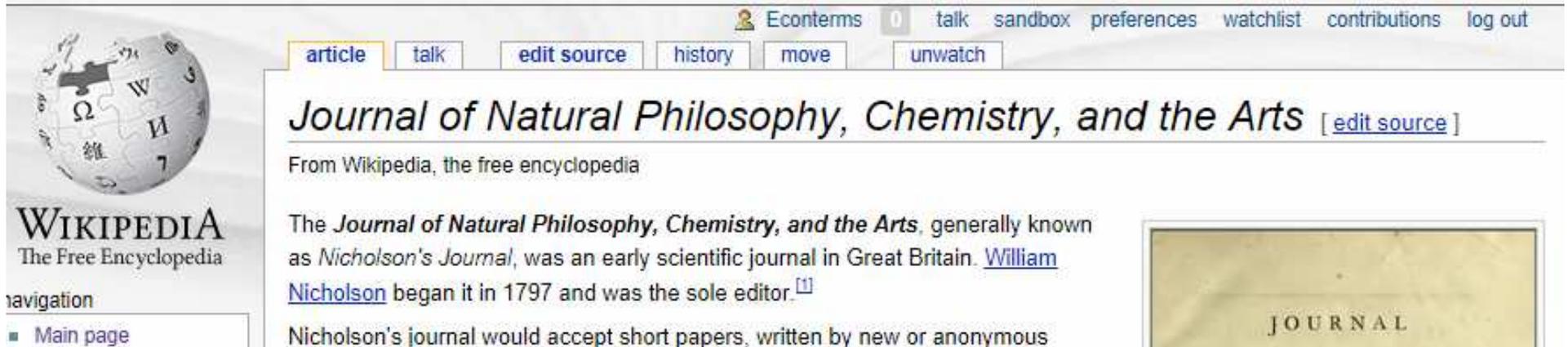
Peter Meyer, Wikimedia DC



To get to event page: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC>
and click on [My First Edit: DC Neighborhoods editathon](#)

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

- **Freely licensed** without restrictions
- Its content created & maintained by **volunteers**
- **Non-profit educational project**, supported by Wikimedia Foundation
- All edits/versions are recorded indefinitely
- “Everything’s in a database.”
- 4.6 million articles in English
- 280+ languages



The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with user options: 'Econterms', '0', 'talk', 'sandbox', 'preferences', 'watchlist', 'contributions', and 'log out'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs: 'article' (highlighted), 'talk', 'edit source', 'history', 'move', and 'unwatch'. The article title is 'Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts' with an '[edit source]' link. Below the title, it says 'From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia'. The main text begins with 'The *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*, generally known as *Nicholson's Journal*, was an early scientific journal in Great Britain. [William Nicholson](#) began it in 1797 and was the sole editor.^[1] Nicholson's journal would accept short papers, written by new or anonymous'. To the right of the text is a small image of a book cover with the word 'JOURNAL' visible. On the left side, there is a Wikipedia logo (a globe with letters) and the text 'WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia'. Below the logo is a 'navigation' section with a link to 'Main page'.

A **wiki** is a Web site that:

- is editable from the browser immediately
- remembers its past versions
- has concise links between its own pages

The tabs at the top look a bit different for different people.

From an article, try out this important tab: “**history**”
That lists past revisions of the article.

History of an article

Any user can see the history of changes to a wiki page.

article talk edit source history watch

Panic of 1907: Revision history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
[View logs for this page](#)

Browse history

From year (and earlier): From month (and earlier): Tag filter:

For any version listed below, click on its date to view it. For more help, see [Help:Page history](#) and [Help:Edit summary](#).
External tools: [Revision history statistics](#) · [Revision history search](#) · [Contributors](#) · [User edits](#) · [Number of watchers](#) · [Page view statistics](#)

(cur) = difference from current version, (prev) = difference from preceding version,
m = [minor edit](#), → = [section edit](#), ← = [automatic edit summary](#)
(newest | [oldest](#)) View (newer 100 | [older 100](#)) ([20](#) | [50](#) | [100](#) | [250](#) | [500](#))

- (cur | [prev](#)) [15:35, 29 May 2013](#) [Tango Panaché](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (51,329 bytes) (0) . . ([→See also](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [15:34, 29 May 2013](#) [Tango Panaché](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (51,329 bytes) (+43) . . ([→See also](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [05:10, 20 May 2013](#) [Gilliam](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (51,286 bytes) (+2) . . ([→Pujo Committee: space](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [13:24, 19 April 2013](#) [Marketediamond](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (51,284 bytes) (+460) . . ([→Contagion spreads](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [16:15, 12 April 2013](#) [Killian441](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,824 bytes) (+1) . . ([Link to different book removed](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [11:41, 5 April 2013](#) [Anastrophe](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,823 bytes) (+2) . . ([→In fiction: correct letter](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [04:51, 11 March 2013](#) [108.201.220.243](#) ([talk](#)) . . (50,821 bytes) (+4) . . ([→In fiction](#)) ([undo](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [00:00, 20 February 2013](#) [Addbot](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,817 bytes) (-515) . . ([Bot: Migrating 16 interwiki links, now provided by Wikidata on d:q844449 \(Report Errors\)](#)) ([undo](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [05:04, 27 January 2013](#) [ServiceableVillain](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (51,332 bytes) (+2) . . ([→Pujo Committee: ce](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [17:37, 13 January 2013](#) [Tassedethe](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (51,330 bytes) (+22) . . ([WPCleaner: v1.22 - Repaired 1 link to disambiguation page - \(You can help\) - Charles Hamlin](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [21:40, 10 December 2012](#) [Yobot](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (51,308 bytes) (0) . . ([clean up, References after punctuation per WP:REFPUNC and WP:CITEFOOT using AWB \(8792\)](#)) ([undo](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [22:03, 21 November 2012](#) [David.moreno72](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (51,308 bytes) (+935) . . ([Added extra detail and citations](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [22:38, 31 October 2012](#) [Mortense](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,373 bytes) (+5) . . ([→Enter J.P. Morgan: Grammar.](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [08:48, 19 October 2012](#) [Edward](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,368 bytes) (+4) . . ([link lender of last resort using Find link](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [09:08, 12 October 2012](#) [Yobot](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,364 bytes) (0) . . ([WP:CHECKWIKI error 61 fix, References after punctuation per WP:REFPUNC and WP:PAIC using AWB \(8459\)](#)) ([undo](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [20:46, 2 September 2012](#) [KAMIKAZOW](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,364 bytes) (-66) . . ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [10:10, 3 August 2012](#) [Amelapay](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,430 bytes) (+174) . . ([added external links](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [15:51, 24 July 2012](#) [Amelapay](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) m . . (50,256 bytes) (+1) . . ([updated link](#)) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))
- (cur | [prev](#)) [12:09, 3 June 2012](#) [Tassedethe](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) . . (50,255 bytes) (+44) . . ([Disambiguated: Richard](#))

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the user's name 'Econterms' and a count of '0'. To the right of the user name are links for 'talk', 'sandbox', 'preferences', 'watchlist', 'contributions', and 'log out'. Below this, there is a secondary navigation bar with buttons for 'article', 'talk', 'edit source', 'history', 'move', and 'unwatch'. The article title is 'Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts' with an '[edit source]' link. Below the title, it says 'From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia'. The main text of the article begins with 'The *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*, generally known as *Nicholson's Journal*, was an early scientific journal in Great Britain. [William Nicholson](#) began it in 1797 and was the sole editor.^[1] Nicholson's journal would accept short papers, written by new or anonymous'. To the right of the text is a small image of a book cover with the word 'JOURNAL' visible. On the left side, there is a Wikipedia logo and the text 'WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia'. Below the logo is a 'navigation' section with a link to 'Main page'.

At top: When I'm logged in, at the top it shows:

- my username (Econterms), linking to my user page
- my talk page
- a Sandbox (for editing practice)
- a Watchlist (a list of links to pages I've edited)
- and a list of my contributions (edits).

Anatomy of an article

Article Talk

Read Edit source Edit beta View history

Search



Louise Nevelson [edit source | edit beta]



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Louise Nevelson (September 23, 1899 – April 17, 1988) was an American sculptor known for her **monochromatic**, wooden wall pieces and outdoor sculpture. **Nevelson**, she emigrated with her family to the United States in the early 20th century. Nevelson learned English at school, as she spoke **Yiddish** at home. By the early 1930s she was attending art classes at the **Art Students League of New York**, and in 1941 she had her first solo exhibition. A student of **Hans Hofmann** and **Chaim Gross**, Nevelson experimented with early **conceptual art** using **found objects**, and dabbled in painting and printing before dedicating her lifework to sculpture. Usually created out of wood, her sculptures appear puzzle-like, with multiple intricately cut pieces placed into wall sculptures or independently standing pieces, often 3-D. A unique feature of her work is that her figures are often painted in monochromatic black or white.^[2] A figure in the international art scene, Nevelson was showcased at the 31st **Venice Biennale**. Her work is seen in major collections in museums and corporations. Louise Nevelson remains one of the most important figures in 20th-century American sculpture.



Contents [hide]

1 Early personal life

Louise Nevelson



Louise Nevelson and granddaughter Neith Nevelson, c. 1965

Birth name	Leah Berliawsky
Born	September 23, 1899 Perislav, Poltava Governorate, Russian Empire
Died	April 17, 1988 (aged 88) New York City
Nationality	American
Field	Sculpture
Training	Art Students League of New York

Wikipedia Content Standards

- **Neutral Point of View**
- **Verifiability**
reliable sources, cited correctly
- **No “original research”**
i.e. unpublished data, opinions, speculation
- **Assume good faith** towards other editors
- **Avoid conflict of interest** (i.e. editing page about self, boss)

Wikipedia policy
Principles
Five pillars
What Wikipedia is not
Ignore all rules
Content standards
Neutral point of view
Verifiability
No original research
Biographies of living persons
Article titles
Working with others
Civility
No personal attacks
Harassment
No legal threats
Consensus
Dispute resolution
More
List of policies
List of guidelines

See [Wikipedia: Policies and guidelines](#)

Who or what merits an article in Wikipedia?

If a person or topic has received significant coverage in reliable sources that are independent of the subject, then it is deemed “notable.”

For more, search for **Wikipedia:Notability**, or type in search shortcut WP:N

We're ready to edit!

(in a safe place at first)

You can always cancel, without saving,
or undo a recently saved edit.

Step 1 - Register a user account

1. Click “Create Account”

Your username will be associated with edits you make

2. Choose a username and password

Each individual (“editor”) should have one account.

Sharing an account is not allowed. Don’t create an account with the name of an organization.

Advantages of registering an account:

Signals membership in the community

Can create articles, upload images, keep preferences

A record of work builds credibility, confidence, and pride

You get your own “sandbox” page to practice editing

More likely to get help from others

Keeps computer’s IP address private.



Special page

Create account [Log in](#)

Create account

Enter your information below.

Username (help me choose)

Password

Confirm password

Email address (optional)

Security check



[Can't see the image? Request an account](#)

[Create your account](#)

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
- Donate to Wikipedia
- Wikimedia Shop

Interaction

- Help
- About Wikipedia
- Community portal
- Recent changes
- Contact page

Toolbox

- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version

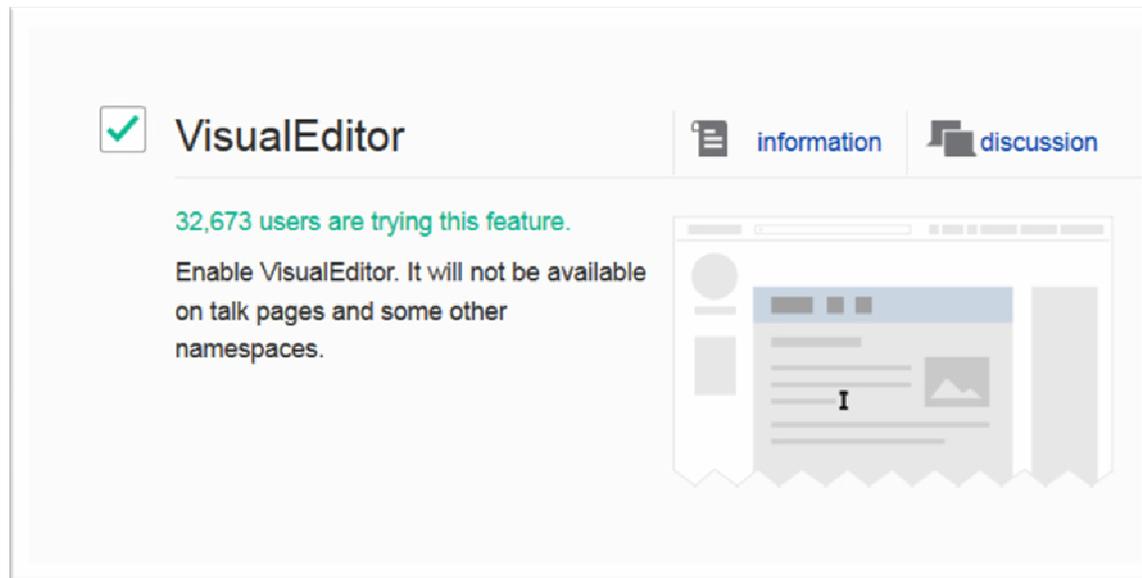
Languages

Note: There are two programs for editing

Edit Source	Visual editor
MediaWiki software markup language	What you see is what you get (WYSIWYG)
Type WP:CHEAT in the search box for more information	Type WP:VE/UG in the search box for more information
Relatively simple to learn, especially if you have any experience with HTML	Familiar symbols for formatting, similar to word processing programs
Best for ultimate control and ability to customize the page; working with wiki “templates” {{ }}	Best for making straightforward textual edits, adding links, headings, etc.
Not very good for people who dislike or get confused by markup languages! Also it is easy to lose your place, or make a typo. <i>Always click “Show Preview” before saving!</i>	Not very good for the more complex wiki markup, such as “templates” {{ }}, still a work in progress, so it can be buggy and/or confusing at times.

Step 2 – Turn on “Visual Editor”

1. Click the *Preferences* link at the top of the page
2. Visit the *Beta features* tab, scroll down and check the box “*VisualEditor*”



Step 3 - Create a user page

1. Click the link at the top with your username on it.
2. Write something (like “Hello world”) and *click Show Preview*.
3. Leave a comment under Edit Summary explaining what you did. Now you have a user page!

This user page can be personalized, or not, as you wish.

If you are editing while employed or affiliated with an institution you may wish to post a conflict of interest statement. (Example: [[User:Sarasays]])

A user's edit history

User contributions
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
For Peteforsyth (Talk | block | Block log | Logs | Deleted c

Search for contributions

Show contributions of new accounts only
 IP address or username: Namespace:

From year (and earlier): From month (and earlier):

...test | Earliest) View (newer 100) (older 10%) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

- 11:41, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) User talk:John Abbe (→Howdy!: r) **(top)** [rollback]
- 11:37, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **m** Talk:Shanghaied in Astoria (moved Talk:Shanghaied In Asto
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **m** Shanghaied in Astoria (moved Shanghaied In Astoria to Sha
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **N** Talk:Shanghaied In Astoria (moved Talk:Shanghaied In Asto
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **N** Shanghaied In Astoria (moved Shanghaied In Astoria to Sha
- 11:35, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) Shanghaieg (section order, tweaks) **(top)** [rollback]
- 11:26, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **N** James Kelly (crimp) (redir) **(top)** [rollback]
- 11:25, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) Shanghaieg (→Background: wikilinks)
- 11:19, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) Heather Wilson (→Fired U.S. attorney connect another dot) (
- 11:15, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) Heather Wilson (further clarification)
- 10:43, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **m** Heather Wilson (→Fired U.S. attorney : ref tidying)

time & date of change

link to article's history page

compare to previous version

m = minor edit, N = new article

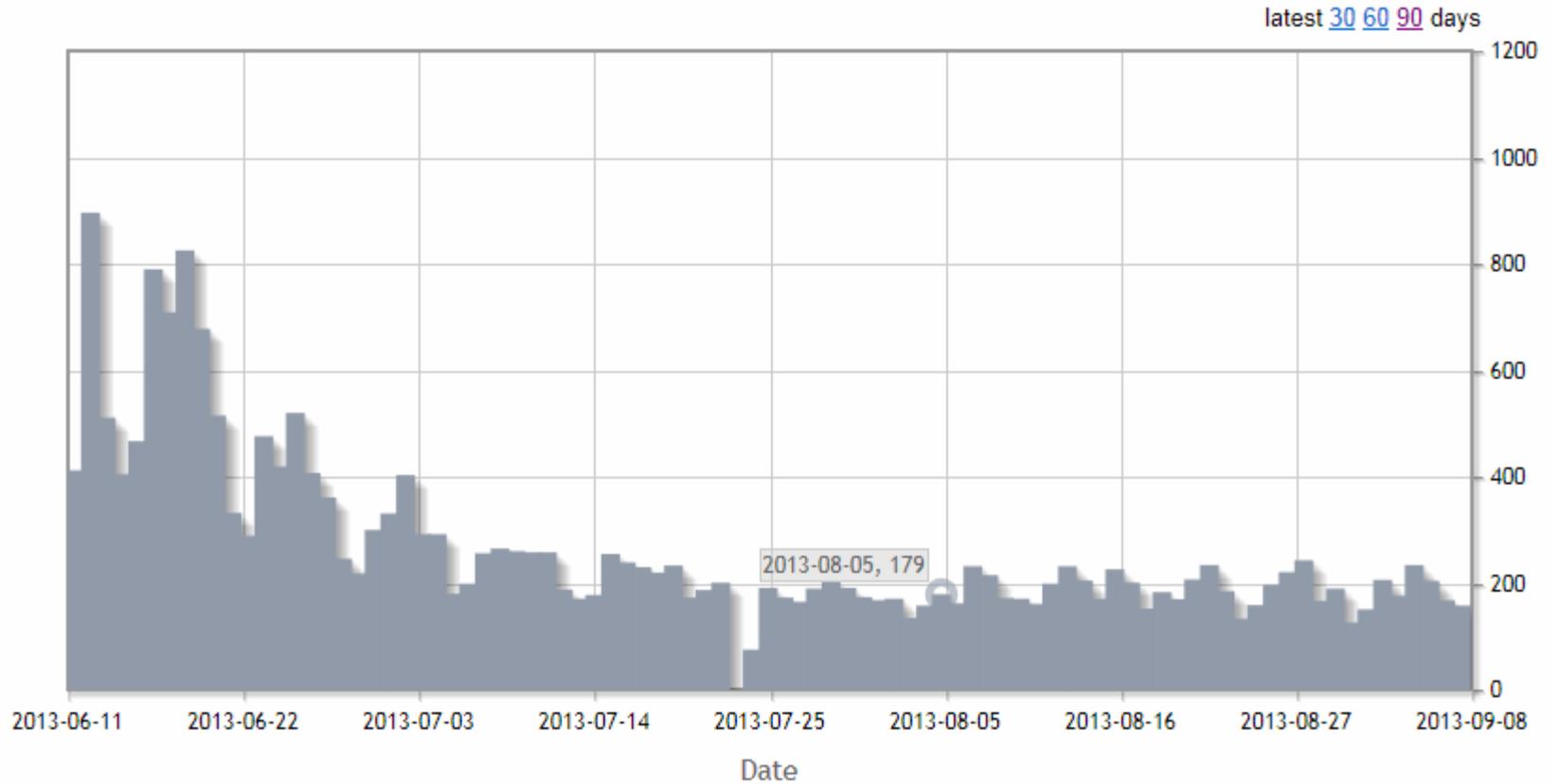
edit summary (grey text indicates section)

(top) = page's most recent edit

link to page edited; namespace shown before colon (here, User talk:)

Wikipedia article traffic statistics

[Economic history](#) has been viewed 23429 times in the last 90 days.



English 201309 Economic_history

[This page in ison format.](#) (took 1.83073401451 sec)

[About these stats.](#) The raw data is available [here](#). This is very much a beta service and may disappear or change at any time.

[toggle labels](#)

224

Flattr

Creating a new article

1. Do some searching around to confirm the article doesn't exist under a different name.
2. Draft the article stub in your user Sandbox.
3. Search (unsuccessfully) for the exact name of the article you want to create.
4. Click on the resulting redlink to create the page, paste in code from your Sandbox, Save.

NOTE: “Submit for review” button is not required for registered editors.

User talk pages – These are public pages intended for text messages sent to particular users. A trick to sign one’s name is to put ~~~~, which fills out with the username when the edit is saved.

Article Talk Pages

A place for editors to discuss the topic

Give you a good feel about whether or not the article has issues, controversies

If you feel that part of an article has problems or errors, this is a place where you can make suggestions instead of editing it yourself

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of a Wikipedia page with tabs for 'Article' and 'Talk'. The 'Talk' tab is active. To the right are buttons for 'Read', 'Edit', 'New section', and 'View history', along with a search box. The main heading is 'Talk:Henry Moore' with the subtext 'From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia'. A yellow banner contains the text: 'This is the talk page for discussing improvements to the Henry Moore article.' Below this are three columns of guidelines. The first column lists rules for discussion, the second lists general conduct rules, and the third lists article policies. At the bottom, a star icon indicates that 'Henry Moore' is a featured article.

Article Talk Read Edit New section View history Search

Talk:Henry Moore

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is the **talk page** for discussing improvements to the **Henry Moore** article.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is not a forum for general discussion of the article’s subject.• Put new text under old text. Click here to start a new topic.• Please sign and date your posts by typing four tildes (~~~~).• New to Wikipedia? Welcome! Ask questions, get answers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be polite, and welcoming to new users• Assume good faith• Avoid personal attacks• For disputes, seek dispute resolution	Article policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No original research• Neutral point of view• Verifiability
--	--	--

Henry Moore is a featured article; it (or a previous version of it) has been *identified* as one of the best articles produced by the Wikipedia community. Even so, if you can update or improve it, please do so.

Citing Sources



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

[Main page](#)
[Contents](#)
[Featured content](#)
[Current events](#)
[Random article](#)
[Donate to Wikipedia](#)
[Wikimedia Shop](#)

Interaction

- [Help](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact page](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Recent changes](#)

Article [Talk](#) [Read](#) [Edit source](#) [Edit beta](#) [View history](#) [★](#) [More](#)

[↶](#) [↷](#) Paragraph [A](#) [↻](#) Cite [☰](#)

Passenger pigeon [\[edit source\]](#) [\[edit\]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the 1986 Soviet film, see [Wild Pigeon \(film\)](#)

The **passenger pigeon** or **wild pigeon** (*Ectopis*) is an extinct North American bird. Named after the French word *passager* for "passing bird" it was once the most abundant bird in North America, and possibly the world. It accounted for more than a quarter of all birds in North America.^[3] The species lived in enormous migratory flocks until the early 20th century, when hunting and habitat destruction led to its demise.^[4] One flock in 1866 in southern Ontario described as being 1 mi (1.5 km) wide and 300 mi (500 km) long, took 14 hours to pass, and held in excess of 3.5 billion birds. That number, if accurate, would likely represent a large fraction of the entire population at the time.^[5]^[upper-alpha]

-  Website
-  Book
-  News
-  Journal
-  Basic
-  Re-use

Images: Wikimedia Commons vs. “Non-free Use” rationale

Wikimedia Commons image

commons.wikimedia.org

Example: [Teton Range](#)



Non-free image

en.wikipedia.org

Example: [Look Mickey](#)



WikiProjects

WikiProjects = venues on Wikipedia where editors coordinate coverage around a particular field or topic

Real examples:

WikiProject Architecture

WikiProject Fungi

WikiProject Visual Arts

WikiProject Feminism

WikiProject District of Columbia

Ways to bring a positive & collaborative spirit to the community

Thank others for their work!



- (cur | prev) 19:51, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (10,203 bytes) **(+569)** . . (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 19:46, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (9,634 bytes) **(+171)** . . (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 19:32, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (9,463 bytes) **(-15)** . . (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 19:20, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (9,478 bytes) **(+1)** . . (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 19:12, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (9,477 bytes) **(+9)** . . (→*Fortifying The Downtown Gallery*) (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 19:03, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (9,468 bytes) **(+1,387)** . . (→*Early years*) (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 18:42, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (8,081 bytes) **(+2,039)** . . (→*Later years*) (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 18:29, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (6,042 bytes) **(+1,671)** . . (*created two sections*) (undo | [thank](#))
- (cur | prev) 17:56, March 29, 2013 Sarahobender (talk | contribs) . . (4,371 bytes) **(+842)** . . (→*Selling the Modernists*) (undo | [thank](#))

Send a thank you notification to this user

**This tutorial for was created by
Georgina Goodlander (user:bathlander)
for the “Wikipedia Edit-a-thon: The Civil
War and American Art” event held on
February 15, 2013.**

**It was adapted from “Introduction to
Editing Wikipedia” by User:Sarasays.
Peter Meyer (user:econterms) has
adapted it further**

***Please feel free to expand, improve, re-
use, and share!***