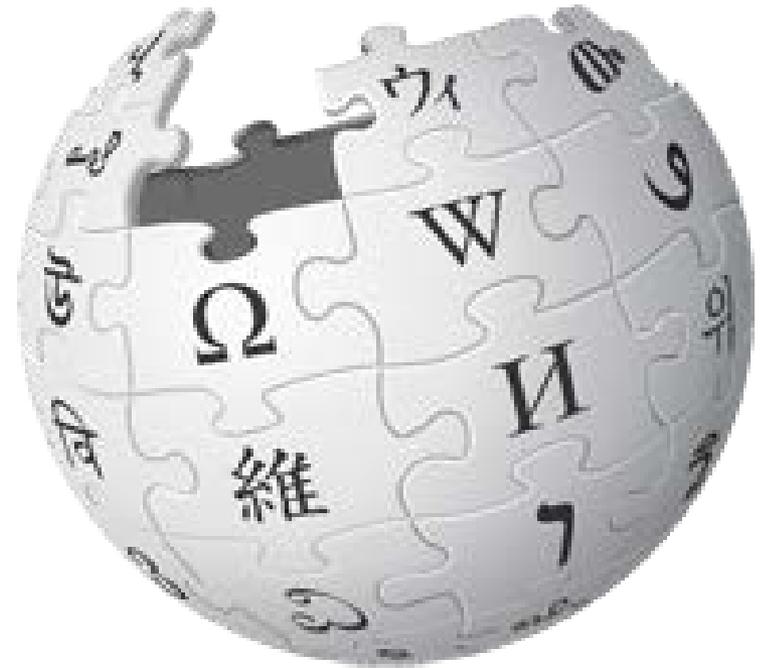


A Quick Guide to Wikipedia

African Americans in STEM fields edit-a-thon

February 24, 2015

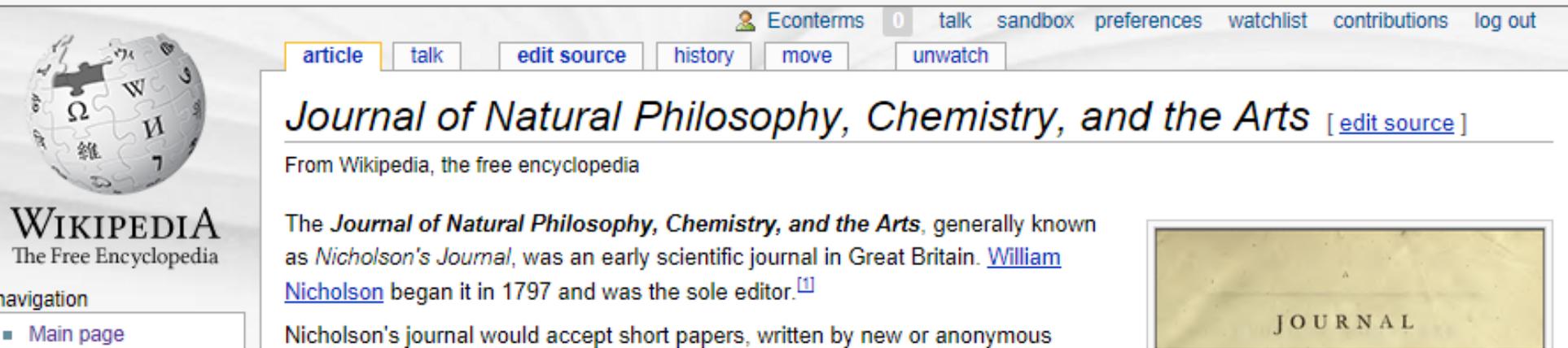
Peter Meyer, Wikimedia DC



To get most quickly to the “event page” for today, please visit Wikipedia and put **WP:Meetup/DC/A** in the search box

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

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



The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs 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 describes the journal as an early scientific journal in Great Britain, edited by William Nicholson starting in 1797. A small image of the journal cover is shown on the right, with the word 'JOURNAL' visible. The left sidebar contains the Wikipedia logo and navigation links like '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

From an article, try this 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 of 1907: Revision history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[View logs for this page](#)

Browse history

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

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 the top portion of a Wikipedia article. At the top right, there is a user profile for 'Econterms' with a count of '0' and several navigation links: 'talk', 'sandbox', 'preferences', 'watchlist', 'contributions', and 'log out'. Below this is a row of article action buttons: '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]' To the right of the text is a thumbnail image of a book cover with the word 'JOURNAL' printed on it. On the left side, there is a navigation box with the Wikipedia logo and the text 'WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia' and a link to the 'Main page'.

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

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

Anatomy of an article

Lead section, or lede

Notability must be made clear there

Table of contents appears automatically

Infoboxes help people apprehend the subject quickly

Images can't have constraints on use; fair use or public-domain-like.

Footnotes take effort. They help people drill down into topics

Categories, at the bottom, are used for finding related subjects

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article for Thomas Moran. Blue arrows point to the following elements:

- Title:** Points to the article title "Thomas Moran".
- Edit view:** Points to the "Edit" button in the top navigation bar.
- Infobox:** Points to the biographical information box on the right, including the portrait of Thomas Moran.
- Table of contents:** Points to the "Contents" table on the left side of the article.
- 1st sub-section:** Points to the "Biography" section header.
- Related articles:** Points to the "See also" section.
- Footnotes:** Points to the "References" section.
- Non-wiki links:** Points to the "External links" section.

At the bottom of the page, there are category links: [Categories: 1909 births](#) | [1981 deaths](#) | [British historians](#) | [Harvard University alumni](#) | [People educated at Westminster School, London](#) | [People of the Royal Observer Corps](#)

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

Wikipedia Content Standards

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

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](#)

We're ready to edit!

(in a safe place at first)

The next steps are optional – you could edit articles immediately.

You can always cancel out of the editor, 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 named for an organization.

Advantages of registering an account:

Can create articles, upload images, keep preferences

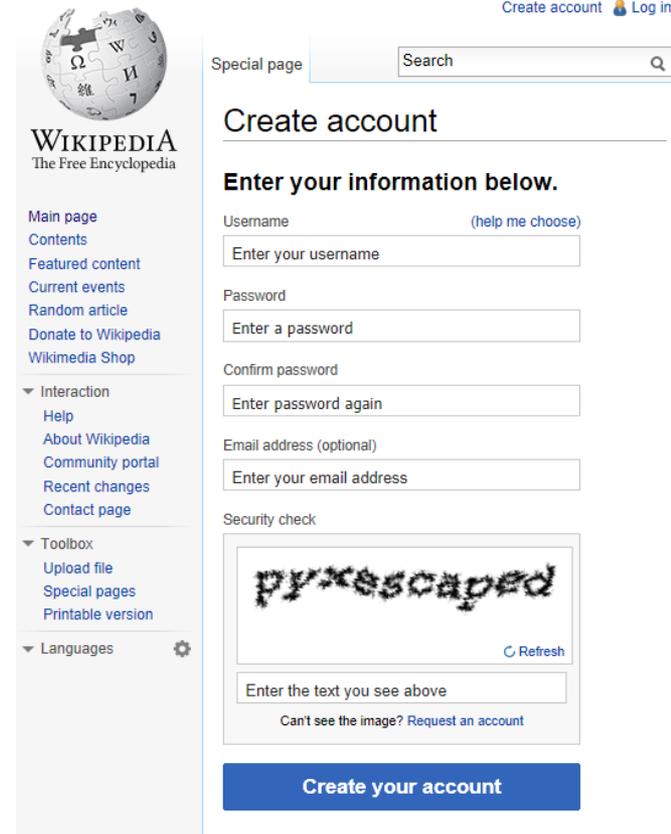
A record of work builds credibility, confidence, and pride

You get your own sandbox page to practice editing

Talk page => Easier to get help

Signals membership in the community

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

 [Refresh](#)

[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

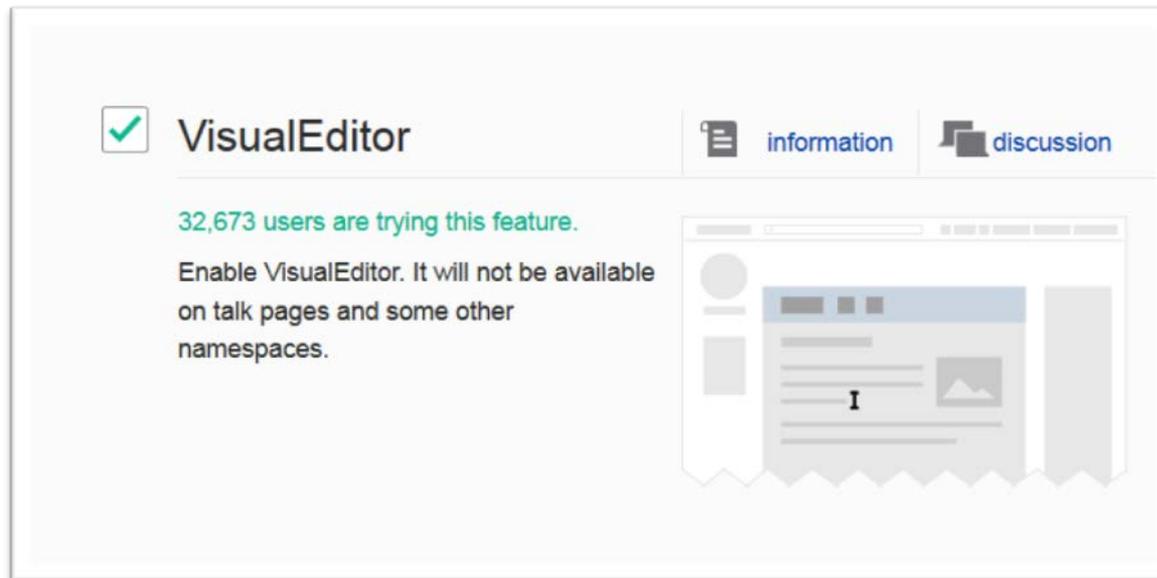
Languages

Note: There are two programs for editing

Edit Source	Visual editor
<p>MediaWiki software markup language</p> <p>Type WP:CHEAT in the search box for more information</p>	<p>What you see is what you get (WYSIWYG)</p> <p>Type WP:VE/UG in the search box for more information</p>
<p>Relatively simple to learn, especially if you have any experience with HTML</p>	<p>Familiar symbols for formatting, similar to word processing programs</p>
<p>Best for ultimate control and ability to customize the page; working with wiki “templates” {{ }}</p>	<p>Best for making straightforward textual edits, adding links, headings, etc.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>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.</p>

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):

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

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

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

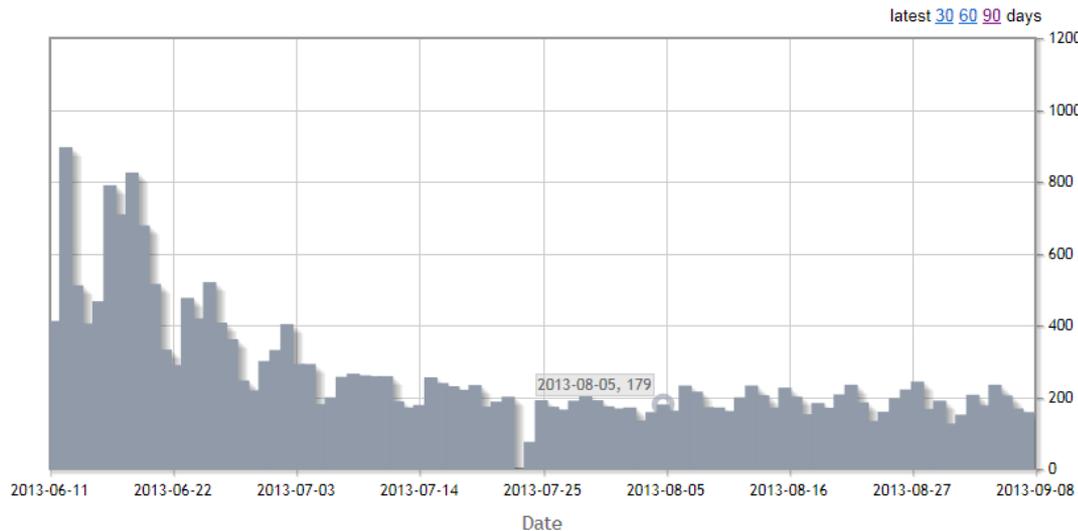
- 11:41, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) User talk:John Abbe (→Howdy!: r) **(top)** [rollback]
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **m** Talk:Shanghaied in Astoria (moved Talk:Shanghaied In Astoria to Sha
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **N** Talk:Shanghaied In Astoria (moved Talk:Shanghaied In Astoria to Sha
- 11:36, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **N** Shanghaied In Astoria (moved Shanghaied In Astoria to Sha
- 11:35, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) Shanghaieing (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) Shanghaieing (→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)
- 10:13, July 6, 2008 (hist) (diff) **m** Heather Wilson (→Fired U.S. attorney: ref tidying)

Count of visits to article available from article history page

http://stats.grok.se/en/latest90/Economic_history

Wikipedia article traffic statistics

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



English 201309 Economic_history Go Top

[This page in json 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

Two kinds of “talk pages”

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 feel for whether the article has issues, controversies
- You can make suggestions here, instead of editing it yourself

Article Talk Read Edit New section View history 

Talk:Henry Moore

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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

- 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.

- Be polite, and welcoming to new users
- Assume good faith
- Avoid personal attacks
- For disputes, seek dispute resolution

Article policies

- No original research
- Neutral point of view
- Verifiability

Citing Sources



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main page
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- Current events
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Interaction

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- Recent changes
- Contact page

Tools

- What links here

Article Talk Read Edit source Edit beta View history More

Paragraph A Cite

Passenger pigeon

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]

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

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

More institutions and lingo

- **Commons** is a wiki with files (images) for any language
- **Wikisource** – historical texts with transcription
- **Article** -- the encyclopedia entries
- **Editor** – any user who makes an edit
- **Bots** – software tools that edit outside the browser
- **Chapters** are local institutions that support Wikimedia activity. Wikimedia DC is a chapter.
- **WikiProjects** = pages on Wikipedia where editors coordinate coverage around a particular field or topic – e.g. WikiProject District of Columbia
- **GLAM** = Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums

There's a vast universe of policies, projects, roles, newsletters, subunits, mediation processes, . . . too much to say

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!