# Role of libraries in Wikipedia content development

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#### Introduction

Encyclopedias are a collection of articles summarized from primary and secondary information sources.

Centralised editorial activity is the main highlight of traditional encyclopedias.

The fundamental concept of traditional encyclopedia changed with the arrival of online alternatives like Wikipedia.

The main features of Wikipedia are Multilingual, Open content and Free.

Wikipedia introduced decentralised editorial activity, dependent on volunteers.

#### Wikipedia in Indian languages

Wikipedia's Indian language editions became active after the introduction of the **Unicode** standard.

The efforts of *Indic Project* and *SMC* have contributed to the development of tools for local languages.

As per **Wikimedia Statistics** India consistently maintains **5th rank** in page viewing in the country-wise ranking.

### Article strength of South Indian languages

| SI.<br>No. | Wikipedia Edition   | No. of articles | Year<br>established |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1.         | Tamil Wikipedia     | 1,30,122        | 2003                |
| 2.         | Malayalam Wikipedia | 69,911          | 2002                |
| 3.         | Telugu Wikipedia    | 69,739          | 2003                |
| 4.         | Kannada Wikipedia   | 26,397          | 2003                |

Source: Number of articles as on 1 August 2020 culled from stats.wikimedia.org

#### Ratio of editors

| Language  | Ratio                        |  |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|
|           | (For every million speakers) |  |
| Tamil     | 1                            |  |
| Malayalam | 4                            |  |
| Telugu    | 0.7                          |  |
| Kannada   | 0.7                          |  |

#### How Wikipedia works

The community members power up the Wikipedia.

There are two groups in the community: **Wikipedia readers** and **Content contributors**.

Wikipedia content editors are known as Wikipedians.

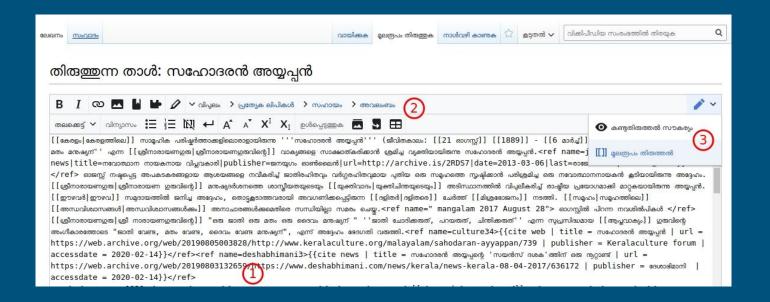
The main function of Wikipedians is to **create new articles**, **add new content** to existing articles, and **make changes** to the content.

#### Editing of a Wikipedia article



- 1. Article 2. Discussion 3. Source edit 4. View history 5. Account name
- 6. Messages

#### Editing of a Wikipedia article...



The content of the article is laid out using Wikitext markup language.

#### Use of Wikipedia in educational institutions

In addition to reading articles, Wikipedia is used worldwide as part of educational activities.

SchoolWiki (https://schoolwiki.in) is an IT School prepared for public school students in Kerala based on the wiki.

Collaboration of students and teachers to promote learning resources, language skills and wiki usage.

#### Skills can learn from using Wikipedia

Get a chance to read more.

Gains the ability to describe and summarize.

Learn to present subjects in a neutral way different from the usual classroom style.

Biased content can be quickly identified.

Learn to collaborate with others to write articles for the encyclopedia.



#### Skills can learn from using Wikipedia....

Students learn how to properly refer to and use authentic sources of knowledge.

Learn about copyright and copyleft licenses.

You can learn how to work with others online. It will be beneficial to practice working in a new global work environment.

Opportunity to learn about the markup language WikiText, the form of coding, and Wiki software.

## Role of libraries in the development of Wikipedia

Libraries irrespective of its nature can provide training to its user community in creating Wikipedia content.

Selected readers may be asked to add features and highlights of the book they have read to the Wikipedia article about the author and discuss it.

You can create Wikipedia articles about writers in each region and their works.

Find copyright-expired books, historical documents and photographs in the library and in your region and digitized and made available to the public through various Wikimedia projects like Wikisource.

## Role of libraries in the development of Wikipedia....

You can ask various user groups to compile a list of articles that do not exist in the regional language Wikipedia.

Relevant Wikipedia articles in English and Hindi can be translated into the regional language Wikipedia.



#### Summary

Libraries can engage in Wikipedia activities with users and public participation.

Libraries can contribute to Wikipedia's content development using local resources.

Even the smallest effort and involvement can influence the overall growth of the Wikipedia project.