

Webinar: How to contribute climate change information to Wikipedia Q&A

1. Are there any common pages or links between the different language sites or are they entirely independent of each other?

They are connected through interlanguage links on the left hand side of the page and Wikidata -- Wikidata is the multilingual data being shared between the projects.

2. Just a quick clarification. If we edit something in English do the changes filter through to other language sites?

No - not automatically. Unless someone manually translates it and adds it. Every language edition of Wikipedia is independently written. There are translation tools, and Wikidata (for data) and Commons (for Photos) are common sites for all languages.

There is a translation tool if you are interested, under your settings when you log in. The translation tool is very easy to use. The really great feature is that it let's you see the original content side by side with the sheet you are translating on.

3. Can researchers and/or practitioners add their own work?

We discussed this at the Africa Climate Change edit-a-thon. It is the editor's responsibility to give an appropriate overview of a topic and if a researcher/practitioner's own work is part of this overview, they can of course add it. In the edit-a-thon we decided good practice in this case would be to check with a colleague first for a more neutral perspective on whether the addition of his or her work is appropriate for the topic.

Wikipedia isn't a good place to put original research like you would publish in a paper, but you can definitely cite papers that have been published. You do want to be careful about writing about yourself, your lab, your university etc because of concerns about conflict of interest. But, you can certainly write about research subjects you are an expert in!

4. How can I get the contact for the Ghana group?

The website for the Ghana group is <https://wmgh.org>, community@wmgh.org
You can find their email here on their meta page. You can send them an email and they should respond https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Ghana_User_Group

5. Is the material on the commons also free to use? We just need to acknowledge the source, right?

Yep! Free to use this material as long as you credit the photographer and note the license. Next to most photos, there's a "credit" button/link that you can use. It looks like this:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Credit_line

Even when content doesn't have copyright restrictions (i.e. Public Domain) it is a good idea to preserve provenance and attribution -- like any good academic or scholarship practice -- it's great to give attribution, to prevent misinformation.

6. How can I firm Sudan ground? Is there any technical support available to go about this?

It is pretty simple to build a community. Generally people start their journey by creating an account on Wikipedia and begin editing. This grows to organising edit-a-thons with multiple people. You can learn from this story here:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/How_I_became_a_Wikipedian This is information on how to organise a programme: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Program_guides/Edit-a-thons

7. Please share the name / link of that project involving visual storytelling

You can find the link to Wiki Loves Africa here:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wiki_Loves_Africa_2020

8. How can I know about groups that exist in Latin America?

Yes we would be happy to introduce you! We have community groups in most of the countries, of various strengths -- some of the Groups, like Wikimedia Argentina, Mexico, Columbia and Chile are quite well organised and ready to support partners.

9. Could there be a map function added to a Wiki page that would allow visual search of adaptation projects by location?

There is potential for that and it depends on how interactive you want the map to be :) See the bottom of this page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_active_coal-fired_power_stations_in_Turkey

There are some interesting map visualisation tools. Articles about places can have a geocode with the coordinates added, which does make it possible to make maps. You could post on the WikiProject Climate change if you are thinking about a particular type of map.

10. What is the status of Wikipedia in China, is it a permitted website?

As of 2019, all versions of Wikipedia were blocked in China. You can get more information on that here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_of_Wikipedia#:~:text=As%20of%20April%202019%2C%20all,the%201989%20Tiananmen%20Square%20protests.

11. Can contributions made on Wikipedia also be reproduced on other websites?

Yes, because of the CC-BY-SA license, you can reuse the content for both non-profit and commercial applications -- for more information see:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Meta:Creative_Commons_Attribution-ShareAlike_3.0_Unported_License and <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

12. How do you find stats of hits on Wikipedia pages?

You can use this tool to look at page views on specific projects or topics:

<https://pageviews.toolforge.org/>

Or you can just click on the tab called "View history" at the top of an article. And then click on "Page views".

13. Do the Wikipedia articles impact citation frequencies for published papers?

Because of the volume of visitors to Wikipedia, any papers cited on Wikipedia pages are exposed to a larger potential audience. There is evidence that blogging or tweeting on academic papers leads to increases in access to them. I am not aware of any empirical evidence on this though.

14. What are the copyright restrictions when using graphics in Wikipedia from publications that are "owned" by the major publishing houses?

You can (and should!) cite information in a Wikipedia article in the same as you would in a journal paper, so I think as long as you cite the graphic appropriately, there wouldn't be an issue.

To clarify, you can only include graphics / images in Wikimedia Commons / Wikipedia if they are freely licensed - so for papers that are not openly licensed, we cannot use those graphics in Wikipedia.

15. I have a project that I want to start on climate change very soon in Kano Nigeria. Please how can Wikipedia contribute to achieve the goals of the project?

Here is a guide on how you can start thinking about your project:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Program_guides/Edit-a-thons

I also recommend reaching out to the community in Nigeria to chat about this:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_User_Group_Nigeria

16. Any special agreement with [MDPI](#) that is 100% open access?

I don't think so. But there was or is a collaboration with Cochrane Reviews for WikiProject Medicine. But if a journal is open access then what kind of special agreement would one need on top of that?

Yes, and you would never want to reproduce an entire journal paper in its entirety as they are unlikely to be perfectly aligned with Wikipedia's approach to providing encyclopedia-type overviews of topics. You can cite papers within Wikipedia pages just as you would cite them in another paper.

17. We could use a little more clarification about who should participate in the Wiki4Climate session in November

Everyone is welcome to contribute and participate in the Wiki4Climate edit-a-thon.