

Wikipedia is a web-based free encyclopedia written by volunteers from all over the world

- The founder of Nupedia, **Jimmy Wales**, founded Wikipedia in 2000. Wales donated the bandwidth and server, which are located in San Diego. In 2001 Wikipedia was launched in many different languages



Created in the year 2001

In the present it has:

- More than 10 million articles in more than 250 languages.
- Thousands of articles are added every day.
- 684 million visitors per year -> 21 visitors per second
- 75000 active contributors
- By 2007 it had less than 10 full-time staff members.

How big is it?

Encyclopedia	Edition	Articles (thousands)	Words (millions)	Est. characters (millions)	Average words per article
<i>Wikipedia</i>	English	>2,000	>1,000	>3,500	435
<i>Siku Quanshu</i> (四庫全書) [*]	1782 [†]	—	800	—	—
<i>Yongle Encyclopedia</i> (永樂大典) [†]	1403 [†]	—	370 ^[7] / 770 ^[8]	—	—
<i>Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana</i>	1933	>1,000 [†]	200	1,000	—
<i>Gūjīn Túshū Jíchéng</i> (古今圖書集成)	1725 [†]	—	100	—	—
<i>Encyclopedia of China</i> (中国大百科全书)	1993	80	126.4	—	1580
<i>Enciclopedia italiana</i>	1939	60 [§]	50	247	833
<i>Nationalencyklopedin</i>	—	183 ^{**}	—	—	—
<i>Encyclopædia Britannica</i>	2002	65 ^[9]	44	—	650
	Online	120	55	300	370
<i>Great Soviet Encyclopedia</i>	1978	100	21 ^{††}	200	570
<i>Encyclopédie</i>	1751-1780	72	20	—	278
Microsoft Encarta	Encarta Deluxe 2002	70 ^{††}	40	200	600
	Encarta Deluxe 2005 ^{**}	63	40	200	200
	2002 <i>Encarta Encyclopedia</i>	40	26	200	200

How did it grow so fast?

Information in Wikipedia is written by contributors. Anyone with access to the internet can edit Wikipedia.

There are around 1500 administrators that make sure that behavior guidelines and policies are fulfilled.

Pros

- There are no regional or cultural bias.
- It is edited constantly.
- There is a neutral point of view.
- Information is added daily and even the most current events are included.
- There are all kinds of information: both academic and non-academic.

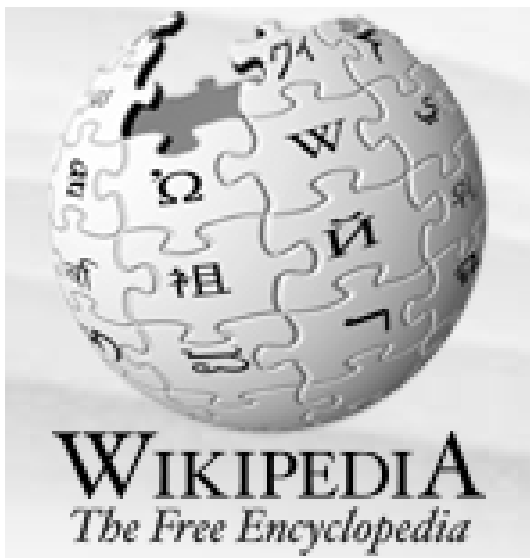
Cons

- Anyone can edit Wikipedia. It is susceptible to vandalism or insertion of false information.
- Information can be added without citing sources.

Example: 2005. a person inserted a fake biography linking a prominent journalist to the Kennedy assassinations and Soviet Russia as a joke on a co-worker which went undetected for 4 months.

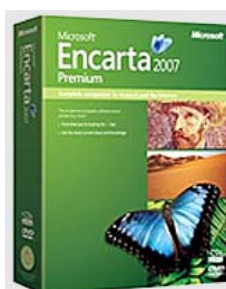
Mistaken cons: guarantee of quality. There is no source that guarantees accuracy nor reliability.

There are differences between Wikipedia and other similar services



Quantity in Basket: *None*
Code: **encyclopedia-britannica-2007**
Price: **\$1,149.00**
Shipping Weight: **128.00** pounds

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Korean Wikipedia

- 76,733 articles in Korean. Very few considering the level of education and the number of internet users in Korea.
- 28th place in ranking of number of articles.
- 9th place in ranking of internet users.

The problem behind

The use of Wikipedia can be very debatable. There can be issues concerning the following:

- Monetary value of information
- Formality of articles. Should it be considered as an encyclopedia?

Questions & Opinions

