

# Free Knowledge: The Practical Revolution

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# What is Wikipedia?

- **Wikipedia is a freely licensed encyclopedia written by thousands of volunteers in over 100 languages**
- **GNU FDL - Free license allows others to freely copy, redistribute, and modify our work commercially or non-commercially**

# How big is Wikipedia?

- **English Wikipedia is largest and has nearly 100 million words**
- **English Wikipedia larger than Britannica and Microsoft Encarta combined**

# How big is Wikipedia Globally?

- English - 359,000 articles
- German - 146,000 articles
- Japanese - 74,000 articles
- French - 54,000 articles
- Polish - 39,000 articles
- Spanish - 31,000 articles
- 1,000,000 articles in 100 languages

# How popular is Wikipedia?

- According to Alexa.com, Wikipedia is more popular than...
- Reuters.com
- WSJ.com
- FoxNews.com
- Same as USAToday.com

# How good is Wikipedia?

- **c't magazine: Wikipedia vs Brockhaus Multimedia vs Encarta - Wikipedia clear winner in quality**
- **IBM researchers - vandalism is repaired within 5 minutes**
- **Ongoing academic research to improve**

# Challenges to Wikipedia

- **Incompatible and contradictory copyright law in different nations is a constant challenge**
- **Maintaining quality and consistency standards in a fast growing community**
- **As of today, we are inaccessible in China. We do not know why.**

# Spin off projects

- **Wiktionary** - “Wikipedia is not a dictionary”
- **Wikibooks** - “Wikipedia is not a textbook”
- **Wikisource** - “Wikipedia is not a source repository”
- **Wikicommon** - Global repository of media for use by all languages, all free content projects

# Our Community

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- **Diverse political, religious, cultural backgrounds**
- **Kept together by our “NPOV” policy**
- **NPOV - Neutral Point of View**
- **NPOV is a social concept of co-operation, avoids some philosophical issues**

# Wikimedia Foundation Goal

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- **A world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of the world's knowledge in their own language**
- **We don't have to just dream about it, we are doing it**