



Genealogy Wiki's & Wikipedia

Dave Barton





Agenda



- What is a Wiki
- Genealogy Wikis
- Wikipedia





WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



Wikis





What is a Wiki?



A wiki enables communities to write documents collaboratively, using a simple markup language and a web browser.

- All users can edit any page and create new pages
- Uses page links to enable topic association, and creates pages if one does not already exist
- It is an ongoing process of creation and collaboration

Wiki-Wiki-Web



Wiki-Wiki Shuttle at Honolulu International Airport

- Name of the system that powers Wiki's.
- “Wiki-wiki” is a Hawaiian word that means “very quickly.”
- Wiki-Wiki-Web founder Alan Cunningham named it after the sign he saw on an airport shuttle, called the “Wiki-Wiki bus.”

Characteristics of Wiki's



- Editing wiki pages
 - Editing Page – Simple Markup Language – User editing
- Navigation
 - Many hyperlinks – links to pages that don't exist
- Linking and creating pages
 - Publish and then edit – not edit then publish
 - Wiki Pages linked to form a Wiki.
- Searching
 - Title Search and/or Full Text Search

Trust and Security

- Controlling Changes
 - Easy to Correct Mistakes
 - Change Log
- Trustworthiness
 - Participant-policing versus Expert Monitoring
- Security
 - Amount of Vandalism Depends on How Open a Wiki Is
- Potential Malware





Wiki Usage Types



- Public Wikis
 - Open Source
 - Wikipedia, WikiWikiWeb, MemoryAlpha, Medical, Other.
- Private Wikis
 - Corporate, Academic, Government
 - Enhance corporate (organizational) internal knowledge sharing
 - Access Control, integration with other software, document management.

Genealogy Wikis



Genealogy Wikis

- Research
 - FamilySearch Research Wiki
 - Ancestry.com Wiki
- Family Genealogies
 - Genealowski.com
- Unified Family Trees
 - WikiTree
 - WeRelate



FamilySearch Wiki

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page

- FamilySearch Wiki is a tool people can use to learn how to find their ancestors. It offers information on how to find, use, and analyze records of genealogical value. The site's content is variously targeted to beginners, intermediate researchers and experts.
- Some suitable types of content for the wiki are:
 - Links to online sites that can be used to search for ancestor's names.
 - Instructions on how to find, use and analyze records that are genealogically useful.
 - Historical definitions of legal terms, occupations and other terms that are useful to genealogists.
 - Images of records used as examples of the kind of information a type of record will contain.



Ancestry.com Wiki

http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

- The Ancestry.com Wiki is made up of four kinds of content:
 - *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*
 - *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*
 - Other great Ancestry.com content
 - Content added by contributors



- Ancestry.com believes that each genealogist is an expert in his or her own field and they invite you share your expertise. If that means correcting some outdated information from one of their printed sources, that's great. If it means writing a brand new article about a topic they haven't covered yet, even better.

Genealowiki.org

<http://www.genealowiki.com/bin/view.cgi/Main/WebHome>

This site is dedicated to those who wish to publish their family's stories without having to have a background in web site design or knowledge in HTML coding.

Hosted by Twiki.

Includes the
genealogies of
fifteen families





<http://www.wikitree.com/>

- Mission is to connect the world on a single family tree that's free and accessible to everyone.
- FREE worldwide family tree, striving for ONE collaborative profile for every person.
- Established 2008.

WeRelate

http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page

WeRelate takes a shared approach to genealogy. The goal to build a unified family tree containing the best information from all contributors.

Tutorials have some of the best information about Wikis available on the web.

Largest Genealogy Wiki Online.



Developed by Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. and operated in partnership with the Allen Public Library.



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



What is Wikipedia?



- Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free-content encyclopedia project supported by the Wikimedia Foundation and based on a model of openly editable content.



- Wikipedia is written collaboratively by largely anonymous volunteers who write without pay. Anyone with Internet access can write and make changes to Wikipedia articles, except in limited cases where editing is restricted to prevent disruption or vandalism. Users can contribute anonymously, under a pseudonym, or, if they choose to, with their real identity.



Wikipedia Five Pillars



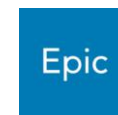
- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
- Wikipedia has a neutral point of view
- Wikipedia is free content
- Wikipedians should interact in a respectful and civil manner
- Wikipedia does not have firm rules.



Wikipedia as an Encyclopedia



- Encyclopedia Britannica comparison
 - Encyclopedia Britannica: Quality Control before publication.
 - Wikipedia: Quality Control after publication
 - Current Events
- 2005 study by *Nature* indicated that Wikipedia was almost as accurate as Britannica.
- 2012 Pilot Study by Epic and Oxford University seems to confirm this.





Wikipedia Criteria



- Neutral point of view,
- No original research
- Verifiability,
- Reliable sources
- Cite all sources





Wikipedia Criteria



- Neutral point of view,
- No original research
- Verifiability,
- **Reliable sources**
- Citing sources



Reliable Sources



Articles should be based on reliable, third-party, published sources with a reputation for fact-checking and accuracy. This means the opinions only of reliable authors, and not the opinions of Wikipedians who have read and interpreted primary source material for themselves.

- published materials with a reliable publication process,
- authors who are regarded as authoritative in relation to the subject, or both.
- these qualifications should be demonstrable to other people



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Dave Barton

DavidWilliamBarton@gmail.com

<http://hrgenealogy.wordpress.com>

