Improving Disability and Rehabilitation Research Content Within Wikipedia

Presented by Wikimedia DC

July 25, 2024

Center on
KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR
DISABILITY & REHABILITATION RESEARCH

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Wikimedia DC

WIKIMEDIA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

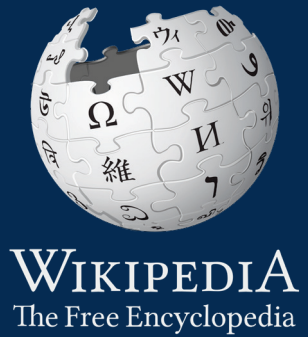
Wikimedia DC is the regional outreach organization for Wikipedia and the other projects of the Wikimedia Foundation. Our mission is to promote participation in Wikimedia projects in Washington, DC; Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and throughout the United States.

Ariel Cetrone – Institutional Partnerships Manager
Wikipedia Username: @Ariel Cetrone (WMDC)
WikimediaDC.org

Agenda

- Wikipedia overview
- Potential causes and solutions for disability-related content gaps
- Article structure
- Editing existing articles and creating new ones

Image: Judith Heumann, American disability rights activist, known as the "Mother of the Disability Rights Movement"
Source: Wikimedia Commons, CC0



Wikipedia

What exactly is it, anyway???

What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free encyclopedia based on a model of openly editable content. It is the largest and most popular general reference work on the internet. Wikipedia is supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization which operates on money it receives from donors. (From English Wikipedia)

Wikipedia contains articles that include information about notable subjects or topics. There are currently more than 8 million articles in English Wikipedia.

Wikimedia is the global community of contributors to Wikimedia Foundation projects. The movement was created around Wikipedia's community and has since expanded to the other Wikimedia projects.

Wikimedia

- Wikipedia, a web-based encyclopedia
- Wiktionary, a dictionary
- Wikibooks, educational textbooks
- Wikinews, news articles
- Wikiquote, a collection of quotations
- Wikisource, a library of source texts and documents
- Wikiversity, educational material
- Wikivoyage, a travel guide
- Wikispecies, a taxonomic catalogue of species
- Wikimedia Commons, a data repository of media like images, videos, and sounds
- Wikidata, a common source of data, also accessible by the other projects

Wikipedia: The 21st-Century Encyclopedia

"Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing."

– Jimmy Wales, co-founder, Wikipedia

Image: Jimmy Wales
Source: Wikimedia Commons via User:Zachary McCune
License: CC4

About

Free as in beer, Free as in freedom ... gratis et libre

Created and edited by volunteers

Overseen by nonprofit Wikimedia Foundation

All edits and versions recorded forever (revision history)

8+ million articles, 280+ languages

Uses and Rights

All content freely licensed without restrictions

Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike or Public Domain

Written content or image/video/audio uploads

Wikimedia Commons – multimedia repository
commons.wikimedia.org

Commercial re-use is absolutely allowed.
Google, publishers...

Wikipedia: Basics, Policies, and Oversight

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

What's a Wiki?

- A website where anyone can edit
- Edits meant to be "quick"
- Remembers all versions (nothing ever destroyed)
- Hyperlinks between pages

Image: Lois Curtis, the plaintiff in the Olmstead v. L.C. Supreme Court case, (center) presents President Barack Obama w/ a photo
Source: Wikimedia Commons, CCO - Work of the US government

Wikipedia: Five Pillars

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.
- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view.
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute.
- Wikipedia's editors should treat each other with respect and civility.
- Wikipedia has no firm rules.

For more, search Wikipedia for

WP:Pillars

Wikipedia Policies

- **Neutral Point of View -** should be written so all sides can agree (WP:POV)
- **Notability -** significant independent sources -> importance (WP:N)
- **Verifiability -** using reliable sources to reference information (WP:V)
- **No original research -** point to existing scholarship (WP: NOR)
- **Assume good faith -** start with congenial spirit (WP:GF)
- **Conflicts of interest -** disclose and abide by terms of service (WP:COI)

Wikipedia: Reliable Sources

Articles should be based on reliable, published sources. If no reliable sources can be found on a topic, an article should not exist. WP:RS

Reliable sources per WP guidelines	Unreliable sources per WP guidelines
• Published scholarship (print or online) • News organizations • Vendor and e-commerce sources. Should only be used to verify awards won, album length, etc. • Biased or opinionated sources, but only when trying to report the existence of one side of a topic, debate, etc.	• Questionable sources, i.e., those with a poor reputations or no editorial oversight • Self-published sources including websites, i.e. the website of the company or person you are writing about* • Primary sources* • Social media sites including LinkedIn * Sites like these can be added to articles' external links sections.

Citing Oneself

- Subject-matter experts who are published in reliable sources may cite themselves
- Experts should:
  - do so only where appropriate.
  - avoid overuse - this may result in accusations of spamming.
  - not put undue weight on their own work.
  - avoid promotional tone or intent.

WP:SELFCITE

Plagiarism

DO NOT copy and paste exact text from a source and add it to a Wikipedia article even if citing the original source.

Instead, rewrite the information in your own words and cite your sources properly.

Image: WWII flagger via Wikimedia Commons (CC 2.0). Uploaded by User: File Upload Bot (Magnus Manske). Author: Oregon Department of Transportation

Conflicts of Interest

Do not edit or create articles about:

- Yourself
- Your school
- Colleagues
- Your employer
- An employee
- Close relatives or friends

Image: WWII flagger via Wikimedia Commons (CC 2.0). Uploaded by User: File Upload Bot (Magnus Manske). Author: Oregon Department of Transportation

Article Deletion Process

Articles for deletion (**AfD**) - Nomination process that generates a discussion page. Users vote 'Keep' or 'Delete'. Comments are encouraged. An admin will close as a Keep' or 'Delete' after seven days.

Speedy deletion - Process where articles are nominated for deletion without discussion. Anyone can nominate, but only admins can delete.

Proposed deletion (PROD) - An intermediate process developed for articles that do not meet the criteria for speedy deletion but for which a full discussion is likely unnecessary. Articles are deleted after seven days if there are no objections.

All are initiated by adding templates to the articles in question.

Full article: Deletion of articles on Wikipedia

Article Quality Assessment

All rated articles by quality and importance						
Quality	Importance					
	Top	High	Mid	Low	???	Total
FA	1,566	2,476	2,393	1,920	180	**8,535**
FL	180	671	774	703	104	**2,432**
A	363	681	789	578	85	**2,496**
GA	3,196	7,257	14,637	19,256	1,743	**46,089**
B	16,767	32,497	53,720	67,081	21,433	**191,498**
C	16,723	53,556	133,836	302,676	86,618	**593,409**
Start	18,485	92,155	413,788	1,597,109	400,823	**2,522,360**
Stub	4,216	31,592	278,486	2,790,024	759,128	**3,863,446**
List	4,809	16,985	53,493	191,306	67,109	**333,702**
Assessed	66,305	237,870	951,916	4,970,653	1,337,223	**7,563,967**
Unassessed	127	496	1,285	19,067	432,771	**453,746**
Total	**66,432**	**238,366**	**953,201**	**4,989,720**	**1,769,994**	**8,017,713**

WP:ASSESS

Wikipedia's Content Gaps

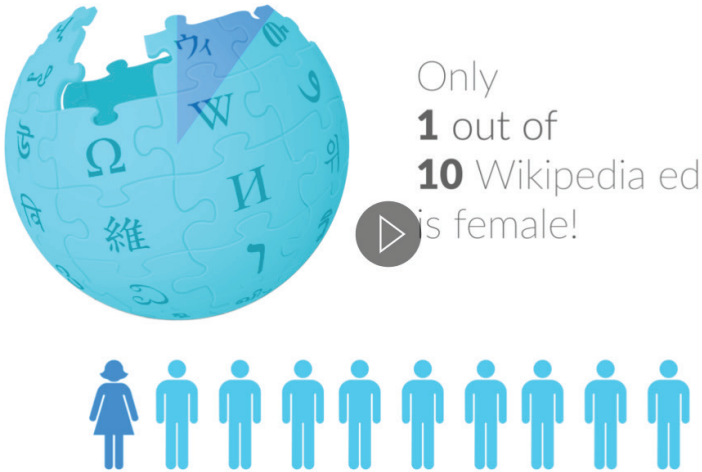
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

The “Average” Wikipedian

The common characteristics of average Wikipedians inevitably color the content of Wikipedia. The average Wikipedian on the English language Wikipedia is:

1. white
2. male
3. technically inclined
4. formally educated
5. an English speaker (native or non-native)
6. aged 15–49
7. from a majority-Christian country
8. from a developed nation
9. from the Northern Hemisphere
10. likely employed as a white-collar worker or enrolled as a student rather than being employed as a blue-collar worker

Gender Gap – Editors



*Average from 2008–2011

More recent estimates are 12%–15%

Graphic by Subhashish Panigrahi CC BY-SA 4.0
(https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], from Wikimedia Commons

Gender Gap – Content

Percentage of women's biographies – English Wikipedia:

November 2014	July 2024
15%	19.86% 399,180 out of 2,010,116 biographies

Disability Content Gaps

What we know and don't know

- No major Wikimedia projects or organizations are tracking disability-related gaps (like Women in Red does for gender).
- **Wikiproject: Disability** exists but has few action items and somewhat inactive editors.
- Edit-a-thons and content drives do take place regularly but are not part are larger initiatives.
- The percentage of disability-related articles may be harder to determine as there are more subcategories and research is ongoing.
- Some gaps, like a lack of photos in Wikimedia Commons, can be more easily identified.

Disability Content Gaps

Why they may persist (if they exist)

- Wikipedia, as a tertiary source, is a direct reflection of available secondary sources.
- A Wikipedia article cannot be created if secondary sources are not available to prove notability.
- Paywalls make some sources inaccessible.
- Those who wish to write about disability-related content require the skills and knowledge needed to create and improve Wikipedia.

Disability Content Gaps

No data? Now what?

Even without these data, we:

- operate under the assumption that gaps exist, especially as the disability studies and rehabilitation research field continue to grow.
- continue planning events, like themed edit-a-thons or workshops, to train scholars and others to create and edit articles.
- highlight this work to attract more of the same.
- encourage scholars to publish and make secondary source as accessible as possible so that Wikipedia (a tertiary source) can be improved.

Getting Started:
First Steps for a New Editor

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

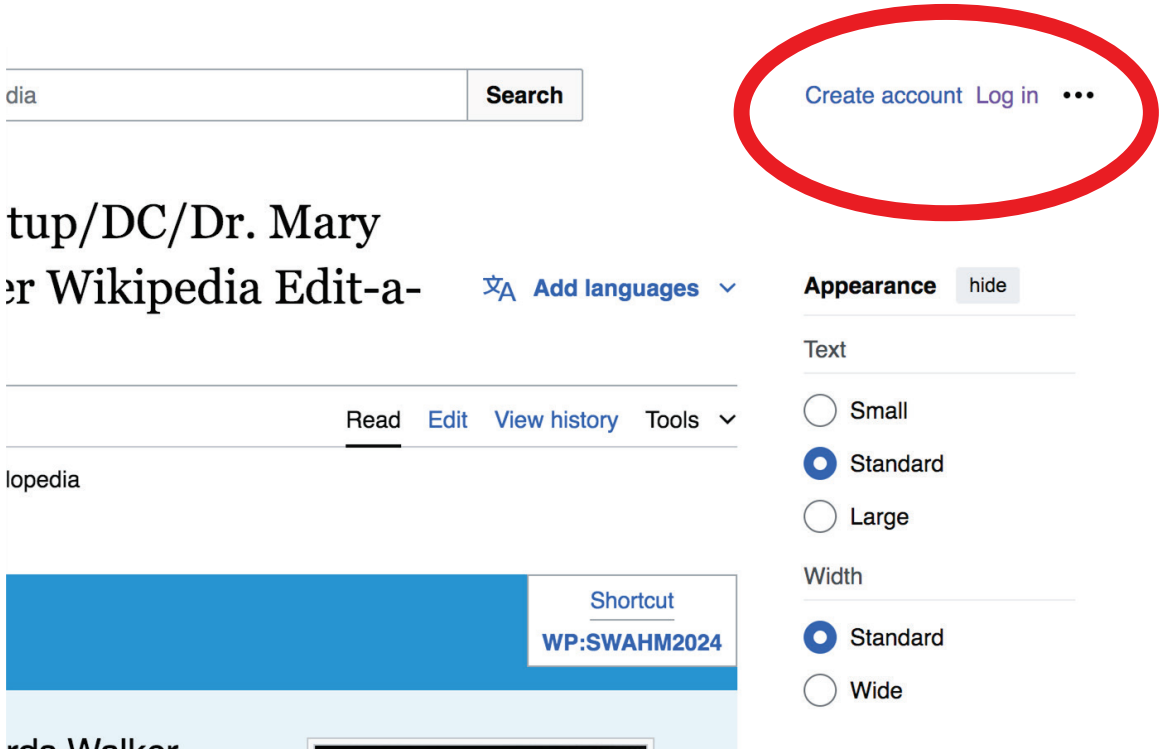
Log In/Create Account

Go to en.wikipedia.org

Select “Create account” (top right) and log in.

Already have an account? Simply log in.

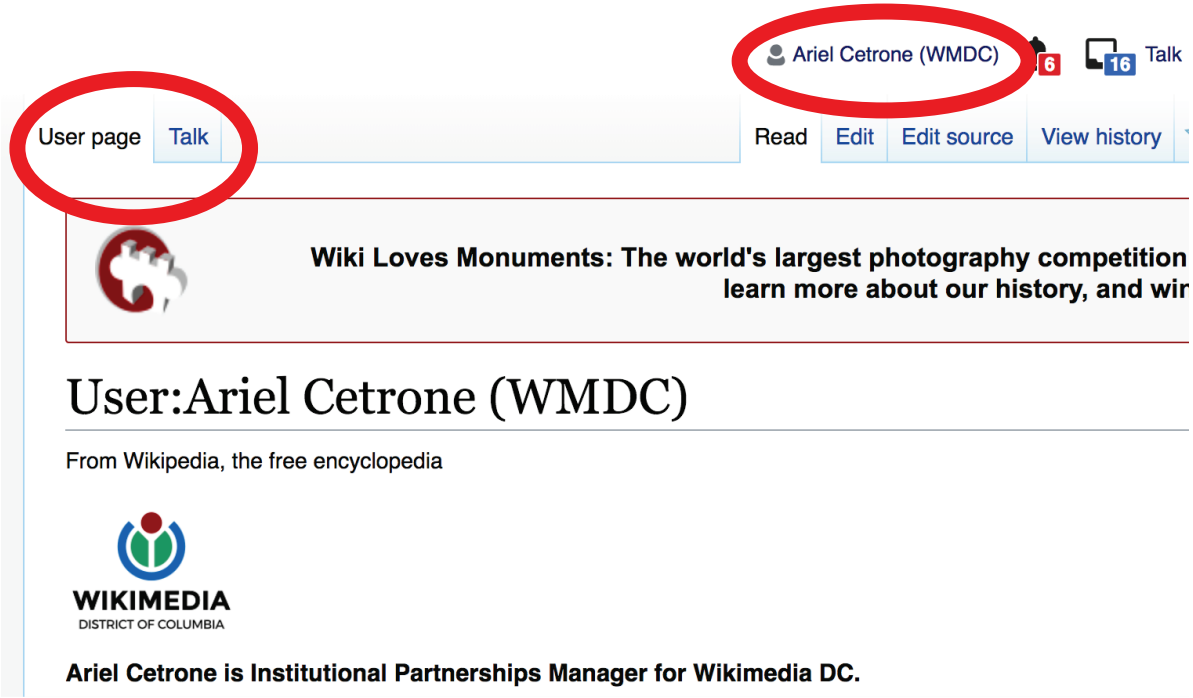
Note: Usernames are public. Real names are not required.



User Page

All users/editors are assigned a user page.

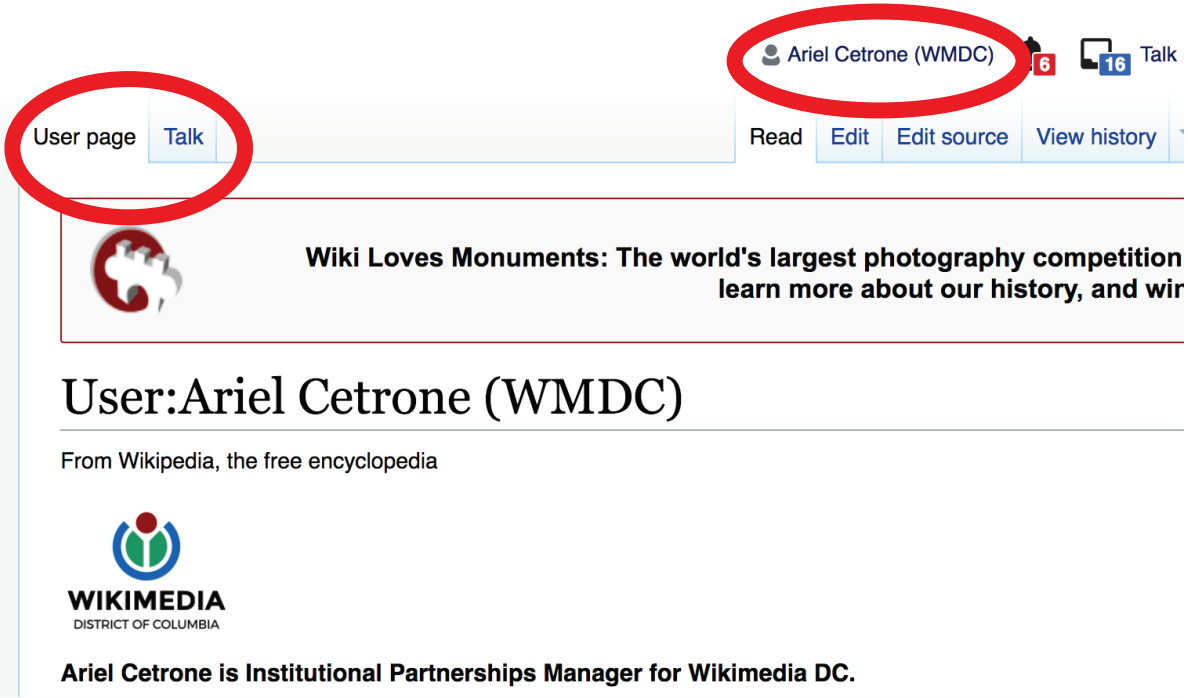
Access the user page by selecting your username (top right).



User Page (cont'd)

Select "Create" (new users) or "Edit" (for experienced users) to share information, interests, etc.

Use is optional unless editing as part of official duties – i.e., Wikipedian-in-residence.



Talk Page

A place to receive messages and communicate with other users

Types of Editors

Visual vs. Source

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia Editing Tools

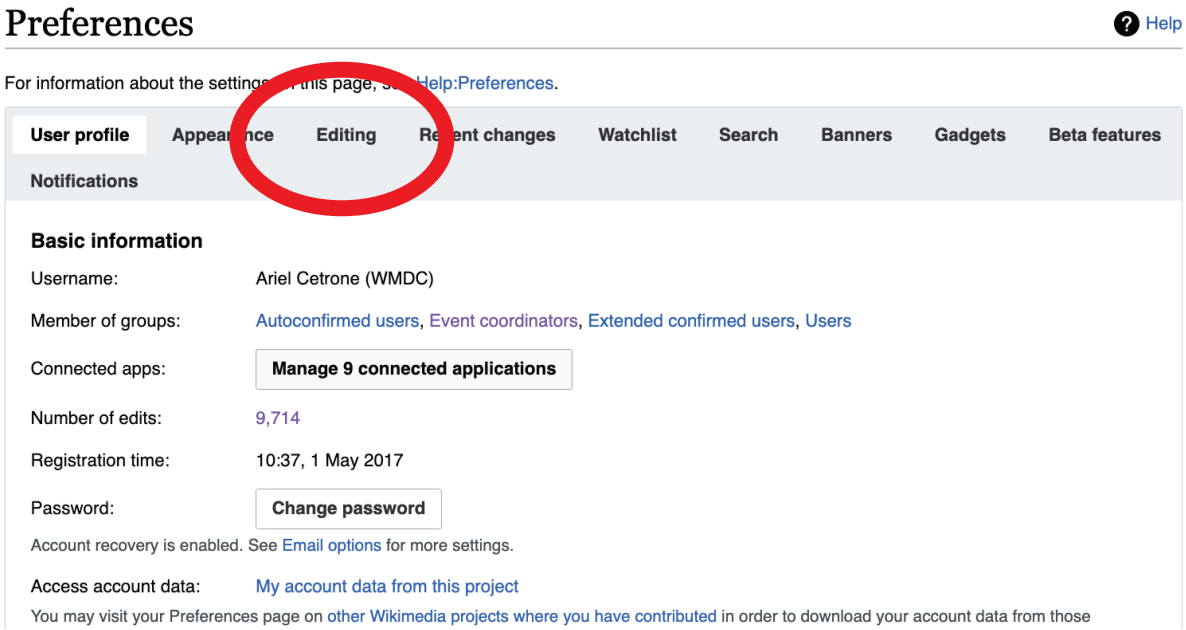
VisualEditor "Edit" button	Source Editor "Edit source" button
VisualEditor is a "visual" way of editing Wikipedia that does not require editors to learn wiki markup. Until Visual Editor, editors had to learn wiki markup to make most edits. VisualEditor works like a word processor. While it is simpler to use, the Source Editor can be more effective for some tasks.	Source editor uses Wikitext, also known as Wiki markup or Wikicode, which consists of the syntax and keywords used by the MediaWiki software to format a page.

Set Editing Preferences: Activate Visual Editor

1. Open Wikipedia.
2. Select “Preferences” (top right).

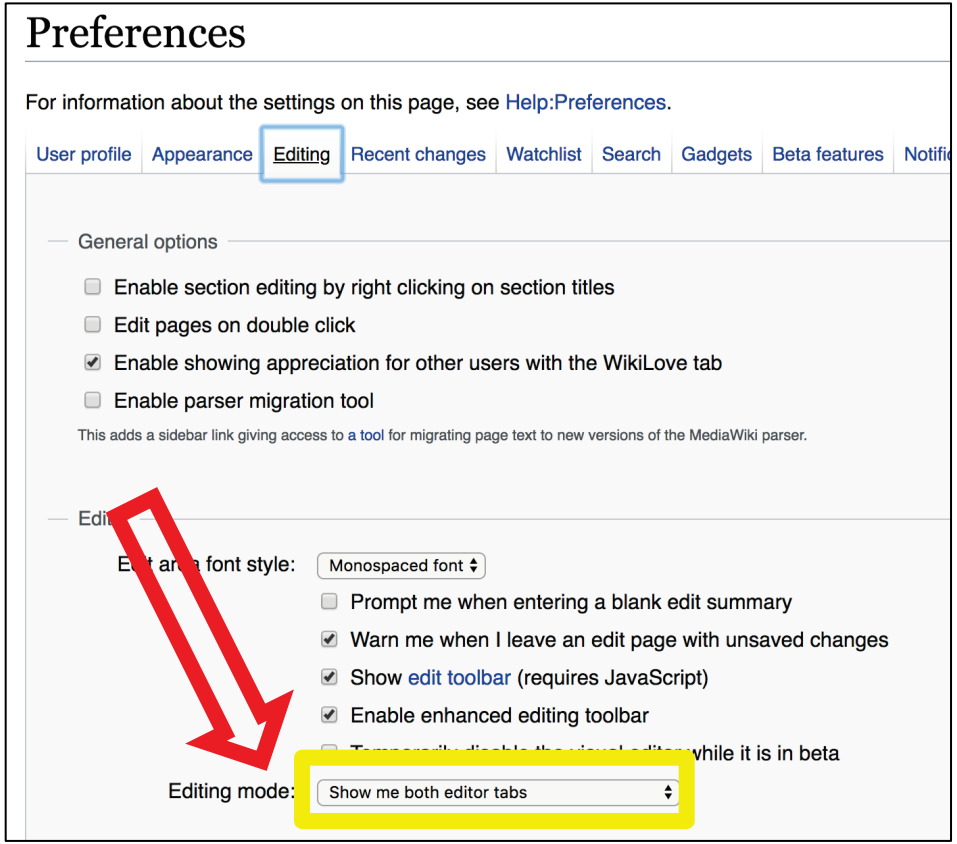
Set Editing Preferences: Activate Visual Editor

3. Select the “Editing” tab



Set Editing Preferences: Activate Visual Editor

4. Scroll down to “Editor.”
5. Select “Show me Both Editor Tabs” from the “Editing Mode” dropdown menu.
6. Save (bottom left).



Article Anatomy

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Sample Article

Mobility aid [edit | edit source]

5 languages

Article Talk | Read Edit Edit source View history TW

A start-class article from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ORES predicted quality: C (3.32)

A **mobility aid** is a device that helps individuals with mobility impairments to walk or improve their overall mobility.[1]

These aids range from walking aids, which assist those with limited walking capabilities, to wheelchairs and mobility scooters, which are used for severe disabilities or longer distances that would typically be covered on foot. For individuals who are blind or visually impaired, white canes and guide dogs have been long-standing resources. Additional aids are designed to facilitate mobility and transfers within buildings, including navigating between different floor levels.

The term "mobility aid" traditionally refers to technology mechanical devices and is commonly used in government documents such as documents related to tax concessions.[2] It refers to devices that provide a level of mobility comparable to unaided walking or standing from a seated position.

Advancements in technology are likely to expand the functionalities of these devices through the integration of sensors and the provision of audio or tactile feedback.[3][4]

Wheelchair user entering a bus in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Disability	
Theory and models	[show]
Education	[show]
Therapy	[show]
Societal implications	[show]
Personal assistance	[show]
Socioeconomic assistance	[show]
Groups · Organizations	[show]
Parasports	[show]
Culture	[show]
Disability · Lists	

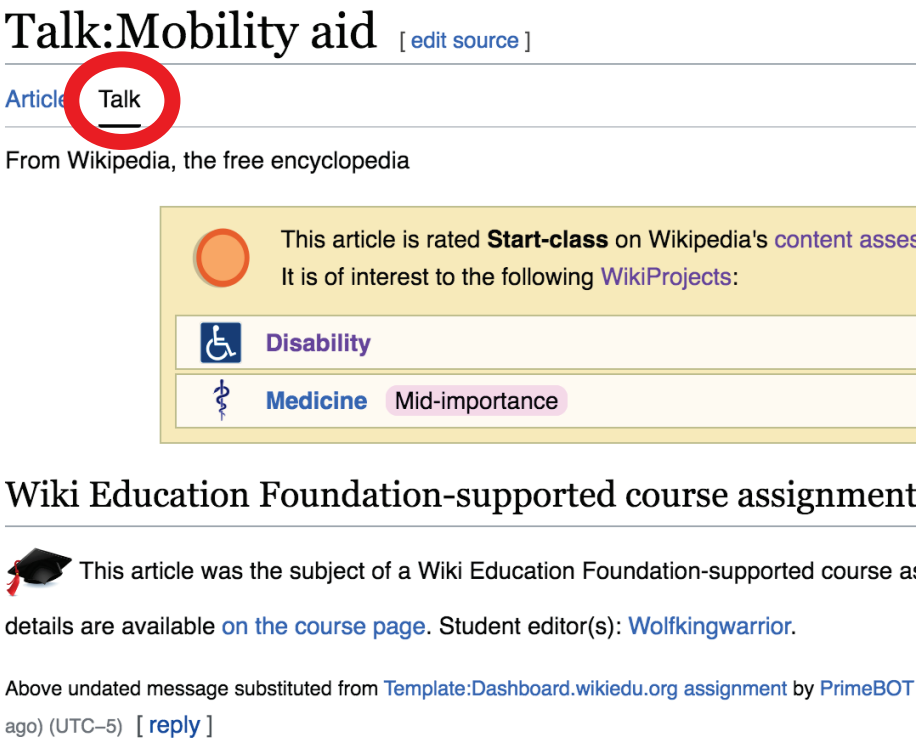
Walking aids [edit | edit source]

Walking aids are devices designed to assist individuals with mobility impairments in maintaining upright ambulation. These aids include assistive canes, crutches, walkers, and more specialized devices such as gait trainers, and upright walkers. Each type of aid is designed to support users in different ways, which include improving stability, reducing lower-limb loading, and facilitating movement.

Improving Stability

Walking aids enhance stability by providing additional points of contact, which expand the user's range of stable center of gravity positioning

Article Talk Page



Talk:Mobility aid [edit source]

Article Talk

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is rated **Start-class** on Wikipedia's content asses
It is of interest to the following WikiProjects:

Disability

Medicine Mid-importance

Wiki Education Foundation-supported course assignment

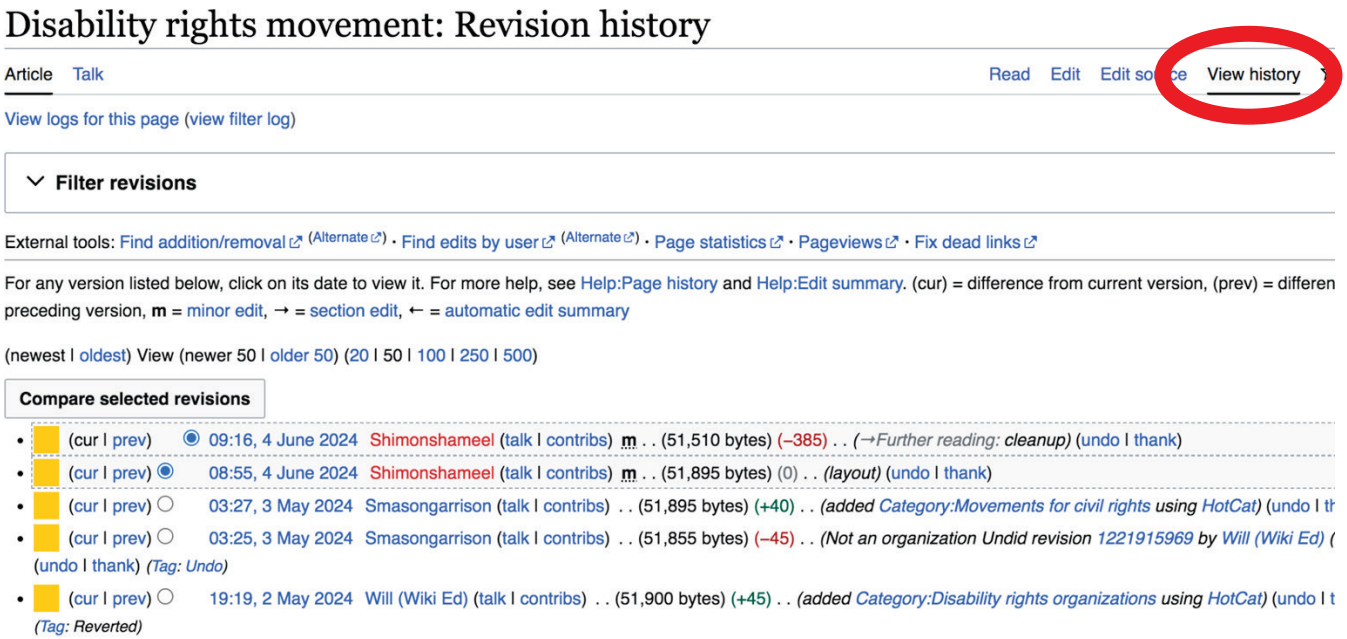
This article was the subject of a Wiki Education Foundation-supported course as

details are available on the course page. Student editor(s): Wolfkingwarrior.

Above undated message substituted from Template:Dashboard.wikiedu.org assignment by PrimeBOT

ago) (UTC–5) [reply]

History Log



Disability rights movement: Revision history

Article Talk Read Edit Edit source View history

View logs for this page (view filter log)

Filter revisions

External tools: Find addition/removal (Alternate) · Find edits by user (Alternate) · Page statistics · Pageviews · Fix dead links

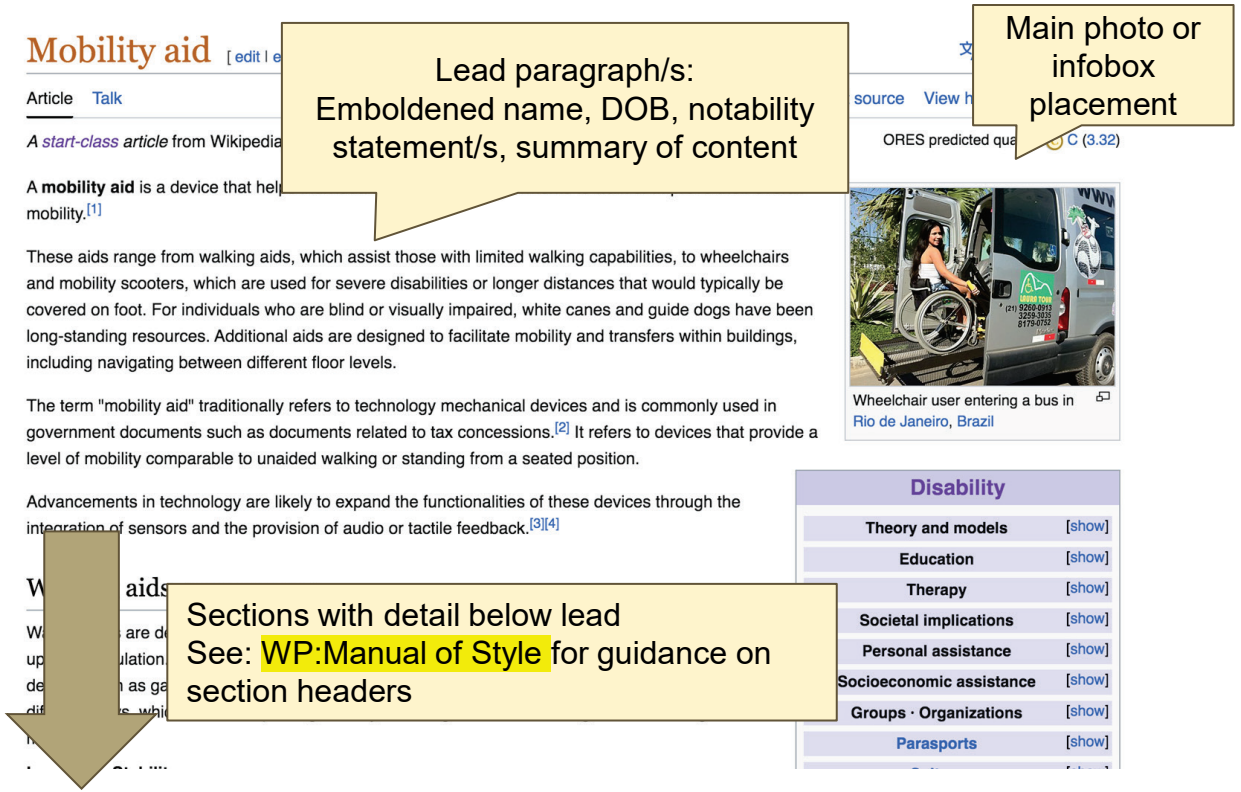
For any version listed below, click on its date to view it. For more help, see Help:Page history and Help:Edit summary. (cur) = difference from current version, (prev) = differen
preceding version, **m** = minor edit, → = section edit, ← = automatic edit summary

(newest | oldest) View (newer 50 | older 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

Compare selected revisions

- (cur | prev) 09:16, 4 June 2024 Shimonshameel (talk | contribs) **m** . . (51,510 bytes) (–385) . . *(→Further reading: cleanup)* (undo | thank)
- (cur | prev) 08:55, 4 June 2024 Shimonshameel (talk | contribs) **m** . . (51,895 bytes) (0) . . *(layout)* (undo | thank)
- (cur | prev) 03:27, 3 May 2024 Smasongarrison (talk | contribs) . . (51,895 bytes) (+40) . . *(added Category:Movements for civil rights using HotCat)* (undo | th
- (cur | prev) 03:25, 3 May 2024 Smasongarrison (talk | contribs) . . (51,855 bytes) (–45) . . *(Not an organization Undid revision 1221915969 by Will (Wiki Ed)* (
(undo | thank) *(Tag: Undo)*
- (cur | prev) 19:19, 2 May 2024 Will (Wiki Ed) (talk | contribs) . . (51,900 bytes) (+45) . . *(added Category:Disability rights organizations using HotCat)* (undo | t
(Tag: Reverted)

Article Sections: Lead Paragraphs and Infoboxes



References

Walker cane hybrid [edit | edit source]

A walker cane hybrid[6] was introduced in 2012 designed to bridge the gap between a cane and a w
hybrid has two legs which provide lateral (side-to-side) support which a cane does not. It can be us
hands in front of the user, similar to a walker, and provides an increased level of support compared
It can be adjusted for use with either one or two hands, at the front and at the side, as well as a stai
assistant. The hybrid is not designed to replace a walker which normally has four legs and provides
support using both hands.

References [edit | edit source]

1. ^ "Mobility Aids". *MedlinePlus*. Retrieved 2021-03-12.
2. ^ "Reduced-rate VAT on mobility aids for older people". London: HM Revenue and Customs. Retrieved 2
3. ^ Acerbi, A; Graffigna, J P; Polimeni, G; Fernández, H H (2007). "Mobility aid for blind figure skaters". *Jo*
012098. Bibcode:2007JPhCS..90a2098A. doi:10.1088/1742-6596/90/1/012098.
4. ^ Bostelman, R; Russo, P; Albus, J; Hong, T; Madhavan, R (2006). "Applications of a 3D Range Camera T
Conference on Networking, Sensing and Control. Gaithersburg, MD: National Institute of Science and Tech
5. ^ "Description of Forearm Crutch". Ceredigion, UK: SafetyNet Systems. Archived from the original on
6. ^ A Multi-configuration Walking Apparatus – US Patent Application 12/817,073 [*dead link*].

- Michael W. Whittle, R (2008). "Pathological and Other Abnormal gaits", *Gait Analysis, An Introducti*
130).

Hyperlinks

Walking aids [edit | edit source]

Walking aids are devices designed to a[illegible]s with mobility impairments in maintaining upright ambulation. These aids in[illegible]ude assistive canes, [illegible]rutches, walkers, and more specialized devices such as gait trainers, and upri[illegible]. Each type of aid is designed to support users in different ways, which include improving stability, reducing lower-limb loading, and facilitating movement.

Improving Stability

Walking aids enhance stability by providing additional points of contact, which expand the user's range of stable center of gravity positioning.

Reducing Lower-Limb Loading

Additional Sections – Selected

External links [edit | edit source]

- Assistive Devices and Mobility Aids: Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions Regulations for travelers from the US Transportation Security Administration

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Mobility devices***.

v • t • e	Disability	[hide]
Main topics	Disability · Disability studies · Medical model · Social model	
Approaches	IEP · Inclusion · Learning disability · Mainstreaming · Physical therapy (driver rehabilitation) · Special needs (school · education)	
Rights, law, support	**Rights**	Ableism/disablism · Disability rights · Pejorative terms
	Law	AODA · ADA · Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities · Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons · International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
	Services	Services for mental disorders · Services for disabled people
	Support	DLA · ODSP · Rail · SSDI · SSI · Students · CNIB
	Activist groups	CCD · DPI · MINDS · Reach Canada
Structural and assistive	Accessible toilet · Activities of daily living · Assistive technology · Independent living · **Mobility aid** · Orthotics and braces · Personal Care Assistant · Physical accessibility · Prosthetics · Universal design · Web accessibility	
Social issues	Augmentative and alternative communication · Emotional or behavioral disability · Invisible disability · Disability and LGBT identities · Disability and religion · Disability and poverty · Disproportionality in Special Education · Sexuality and disability · Youth and disability	
Arts, media, culture, sport	Disability culture · Disability art · Disability in the arts (Disability in children's literature · Disability in horror films) · Disability in the media · Parasports (Deaflympics · Paralympics · Special Olympics)	
Category · Lists		

Categories (+⁺): Mobility devices (–) (±) | Accessibility (–) (±) | (+)

Editing Existing Articles

WIKIPEDIA
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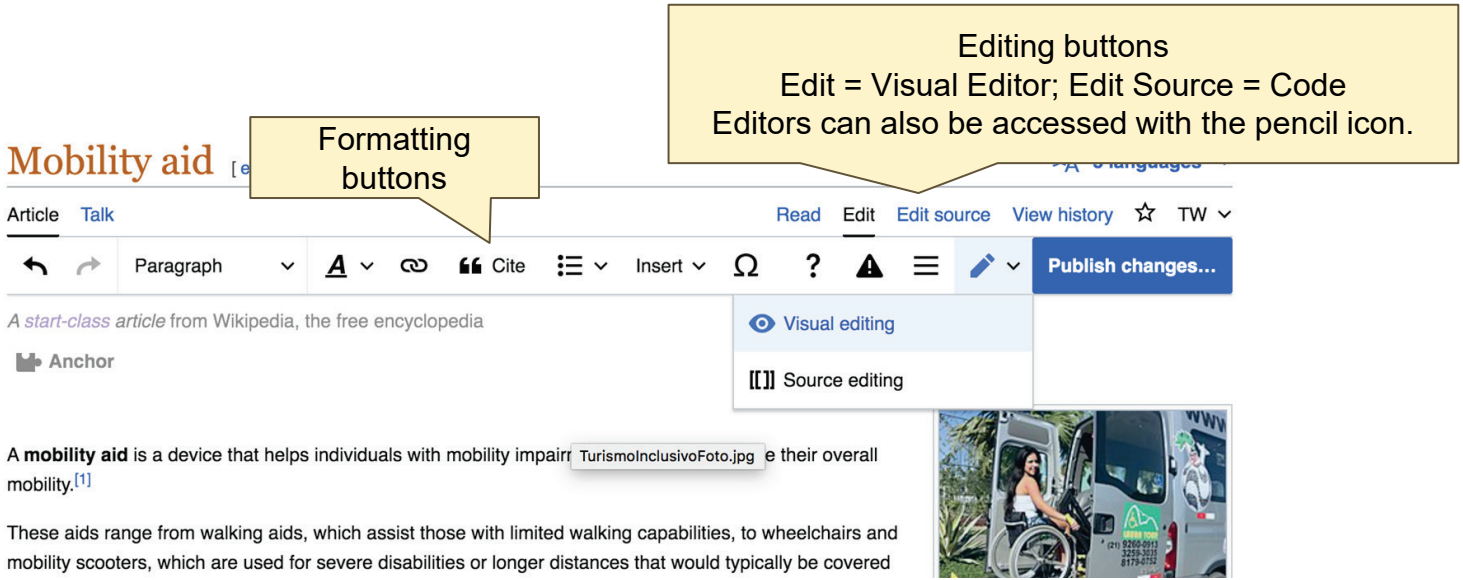
Editing with Visual Editor

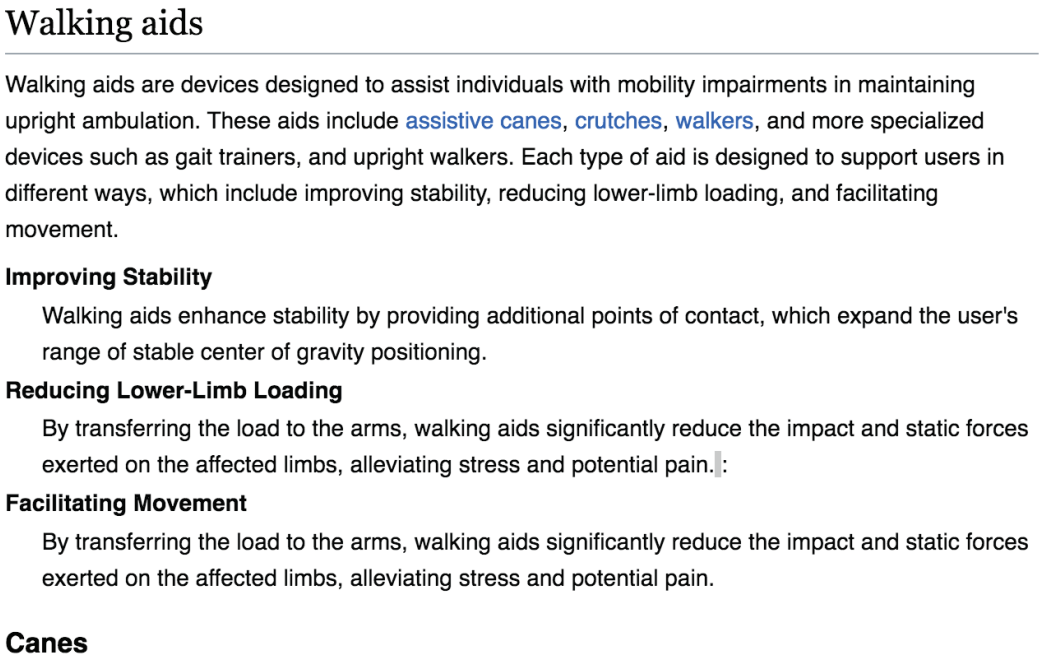
1. Open a Wikipedia article.
2. Select “Edit” to use visual editor.



Add or Edit Content

3. Place cursor in desired location.
4. Add or edit text.

When adding new content, you must cite your sources.



Walking aids

Walking aids are devices designed to assist individuals with mobility impairments in maintaining upright ambulation. These aids include assistive canes, crutches, walkers, and more specialized devices such as gait trainers, and upright walkers. Each type of aid is designed to support users in different ways, which include improving stability, reducing lower-limb loading, and facilitating movement.

Improving Stability

Walking aids enhance stability by providing additional points of contact, which expand the user's range of stable center of gravity positioning.

Reducing Lower-Limb Loading

By transferring the load to the arms, walking aids significantly reduce the impact and static forces exerted on the affected limbs, alleviating stress and potential pain.:

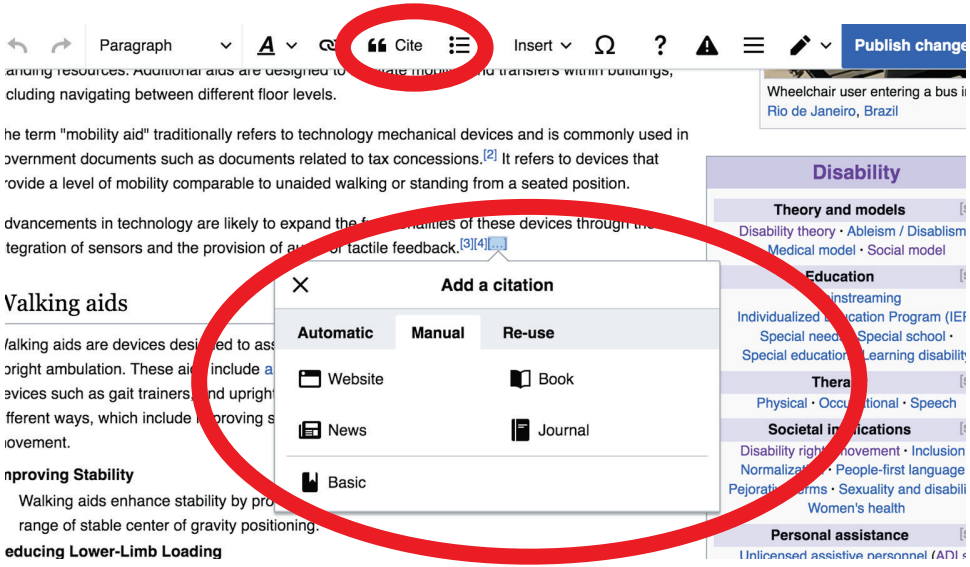
Facilitating Movement

By transferring the load to the arms, walking aids significantly reduce the impact and static forces exerted on the affected limbs, alleviating stress and potential pain.

Canes

Citing Your Sources

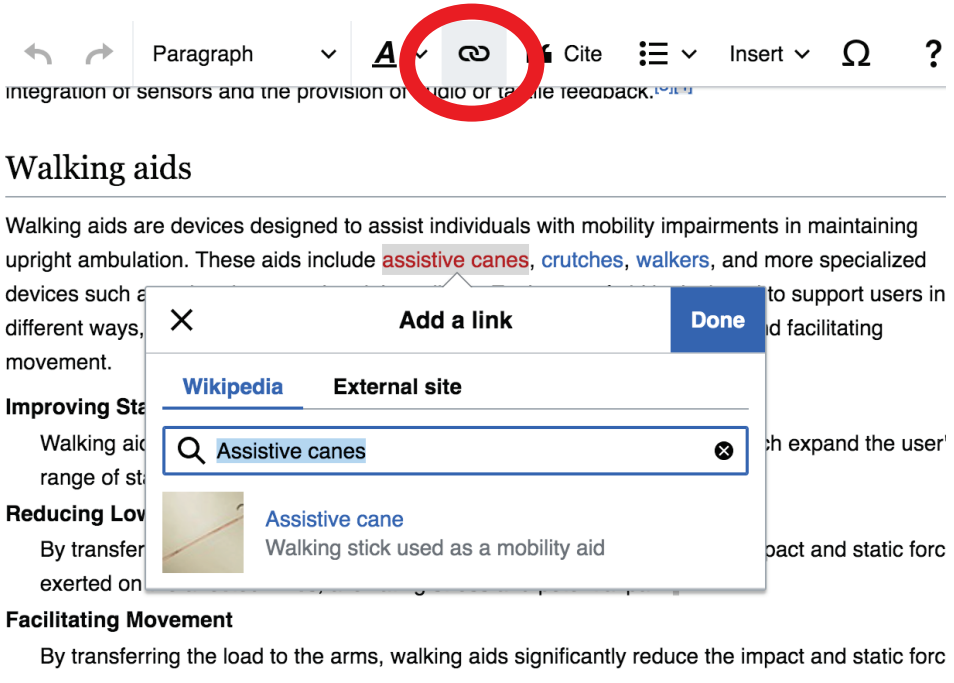
1. Place cursor in desired location.
2. Select “Cite” (quote icon).
3. Select “Automatic” (for URLs, etc.), “Manual” (to customize fields), or “Reuse” (to cite a source that already has been used).



Creating Links Between Wikipedia Articles

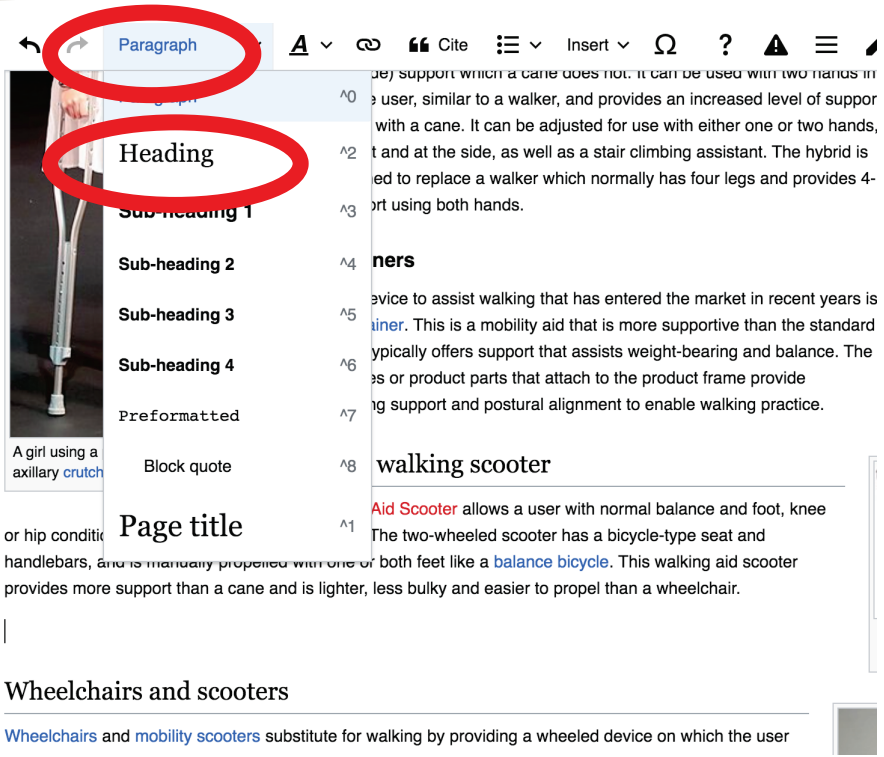
1. Select text.
2. Select link icon.
3. Select article and "Done."

*When adding an external link in an external links section, enter the title of what you are adding, highlight the text, select the link icon, paste a URL, and select "Done."



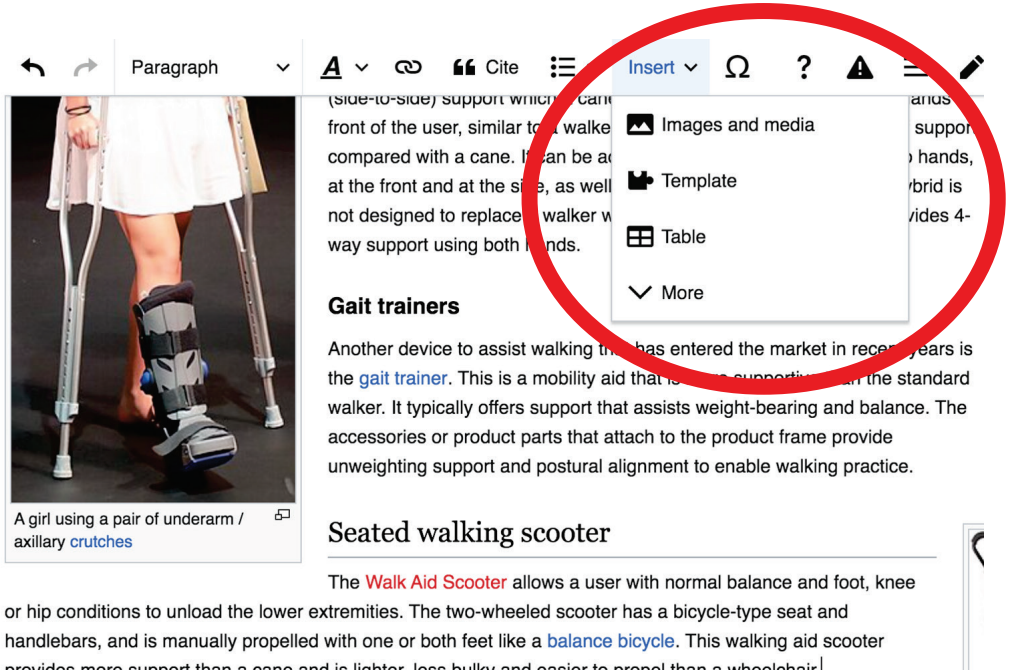
Adding Sections with Headings

1. Place cursor.
2. Select “Paragraph.”
3. Select “Heading.”
4. Add heading text.
5. Select enter/return to continue with regular font.



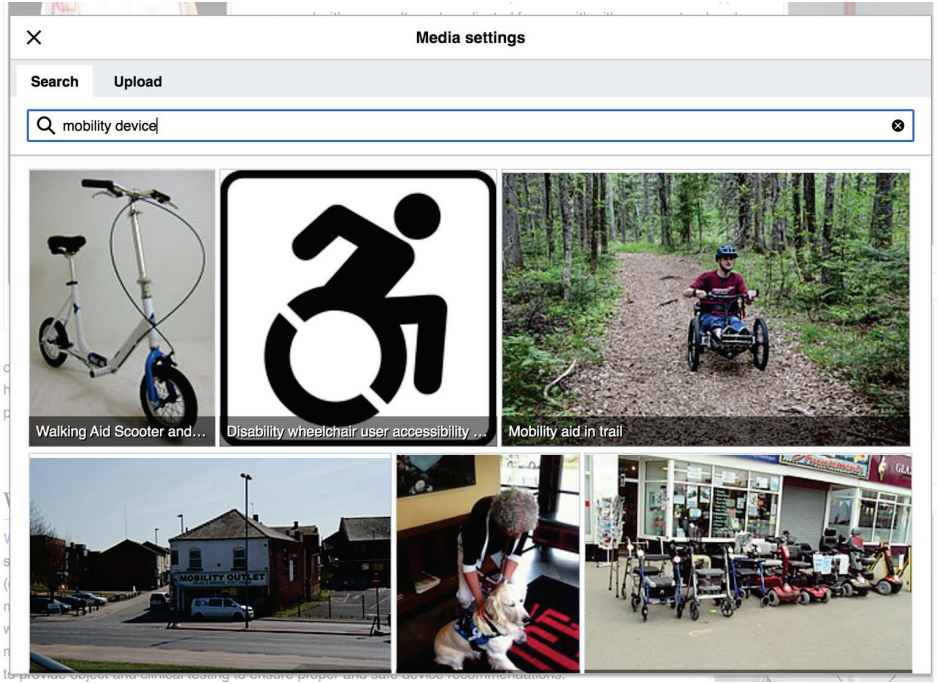
Adding Photos with Wikimedia Commons

1. Place cursor in desired location (left or right).
2. Select: “Insert” + “Media.”



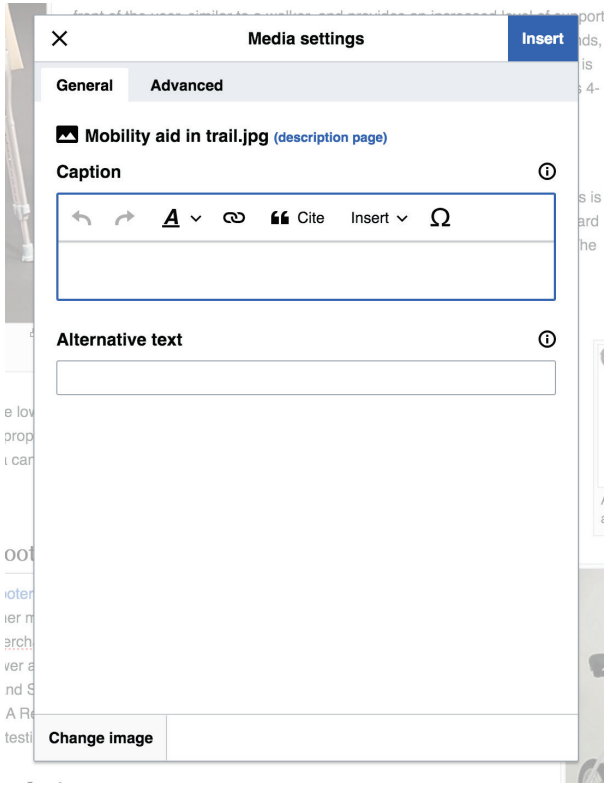
Adding Photos with Wikimedia Commons (cont'd)

3. Enter search term.
4. Select photo + "Use this image."



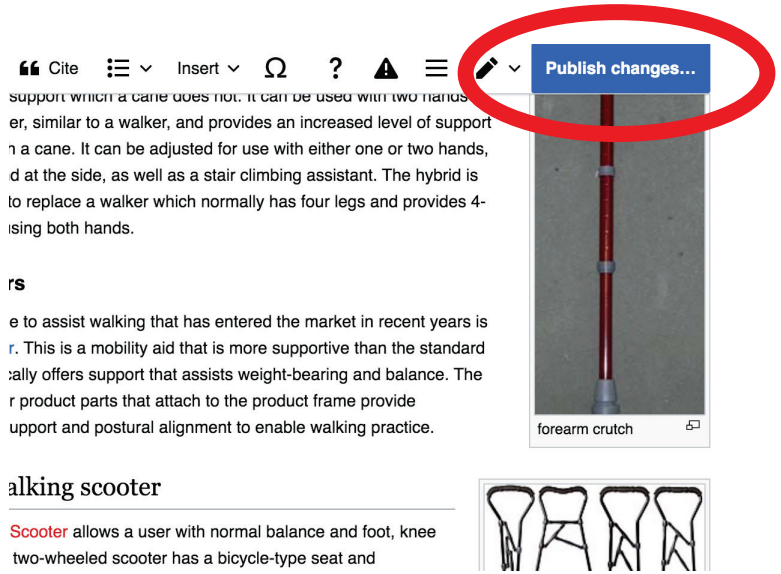
Adding Photos with Wikimedia Commons (cont'd)

5. Caption your image and add alternative text
6. Select "Insert."



Publish

1. Select “Publish changes.”
2. Add brief note in “Edit Summary” field.
3. Select “Publish changes” once more.



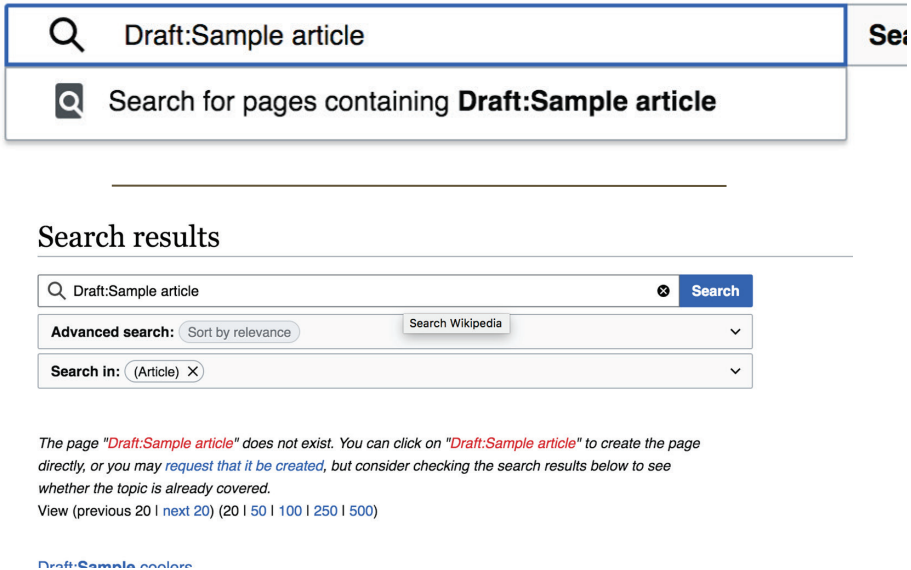
To quickly abandon changes made to an article, select “Read” (next to “Edit/Edit Source”), and your edits will not be saved.

Creating New Articles

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Method 1: Creating Article Drafts

1. Open Wikipedia and log in.
2. Enter “Draft: Article name” into the WP search bar. If it doesn’t exist, you will be presented with a red link.
3. Select the red link to open a blank page.
4. Add a references header at the bottom.
5. Return to the top and add text, sources, hyperlinks, etc.
6. Publish when ready.

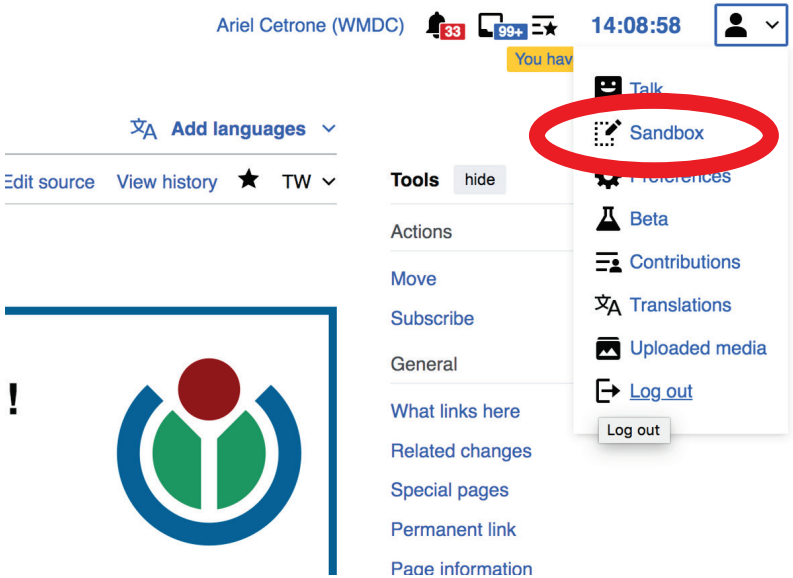


Drafts can be moved into mainspace once new editors have published 10 edits or have had a username for 4 days. Articles can also be created directly in Wikipedia mainspace by entering the article name in the WP search bar without “Draft:” and by following steps 3–5. This is not recommended for new or inexperienced editors.

Method 2: Creating Sandbox Articles

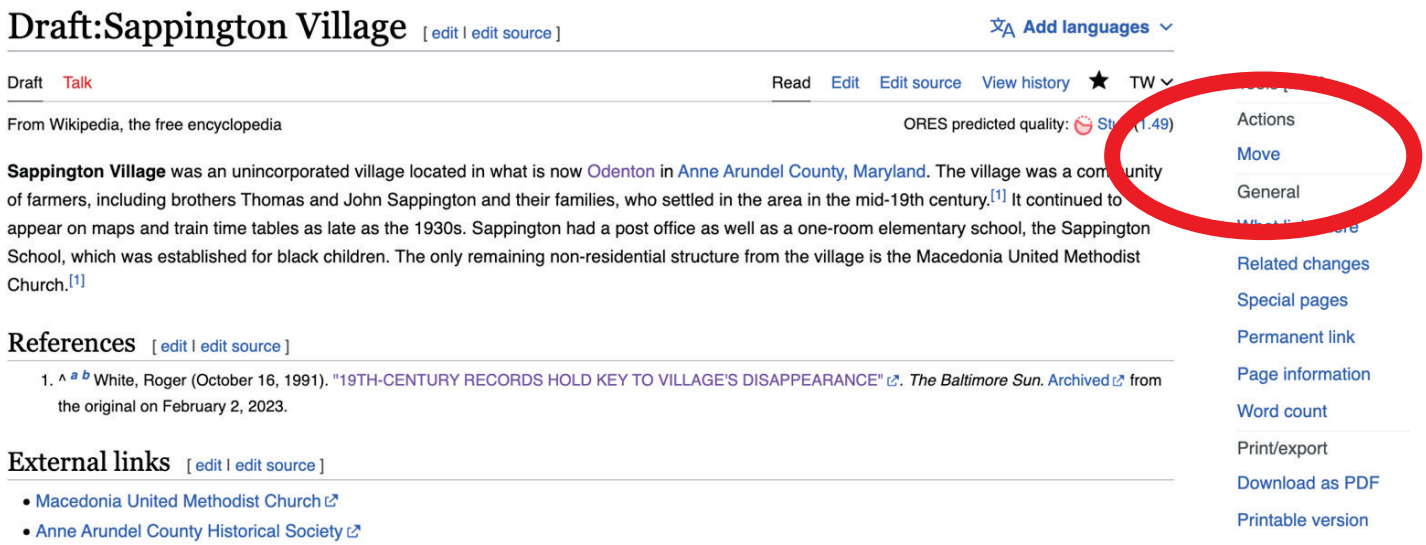
1. Select the “person” icon on the top right.
2. Select “Sandbox.”
3. Add a references header at the bottom.
4. Return to the top and add text and sources.
5. Publish when ready.

Articles in a sandbox can be moved into mainspace once new editors have published 10 edits or have had a username for 4 days.



Moving Draft or Sandbox Articles

1. When the draft or sandbox page is ready for Wikipedia mainspace, go to the draft article or Sandbox page and select “Move.”



Moving Draft or Sandbox Articles (cont'd)

2. Open "New title:" dropdown menu and select "(Article)."

   For sandbox articles, change the name to the appropriate article name.

3. Select "Move page."

Uploading Photos or Files to Wikicommons

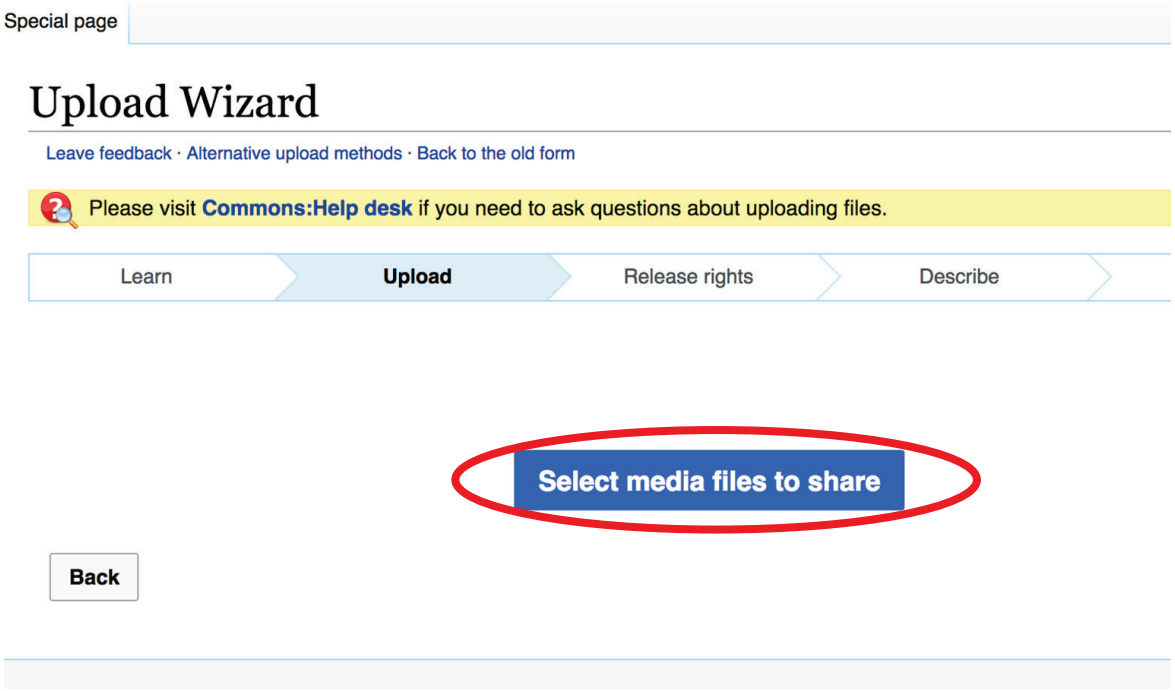
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Adding Images or Files

1. Go to commons.wikimedia.org
2. Select “Upload.”

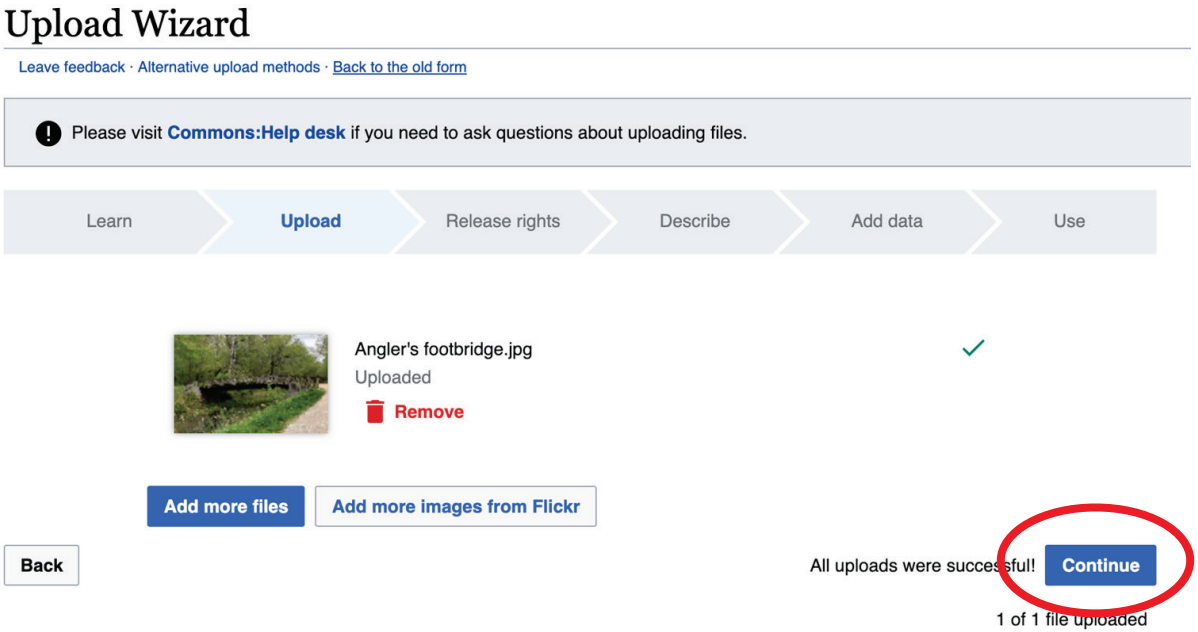
Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

3. Select media files to share.



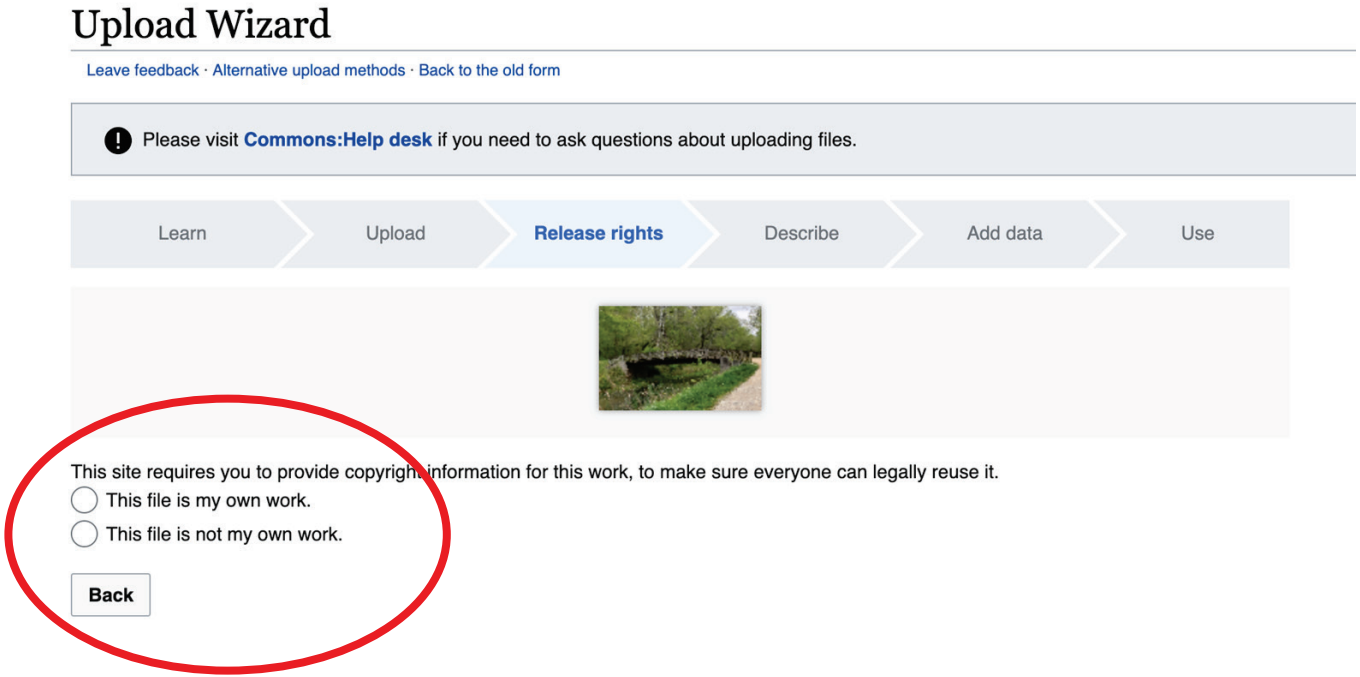
Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

4. Select "Continue"



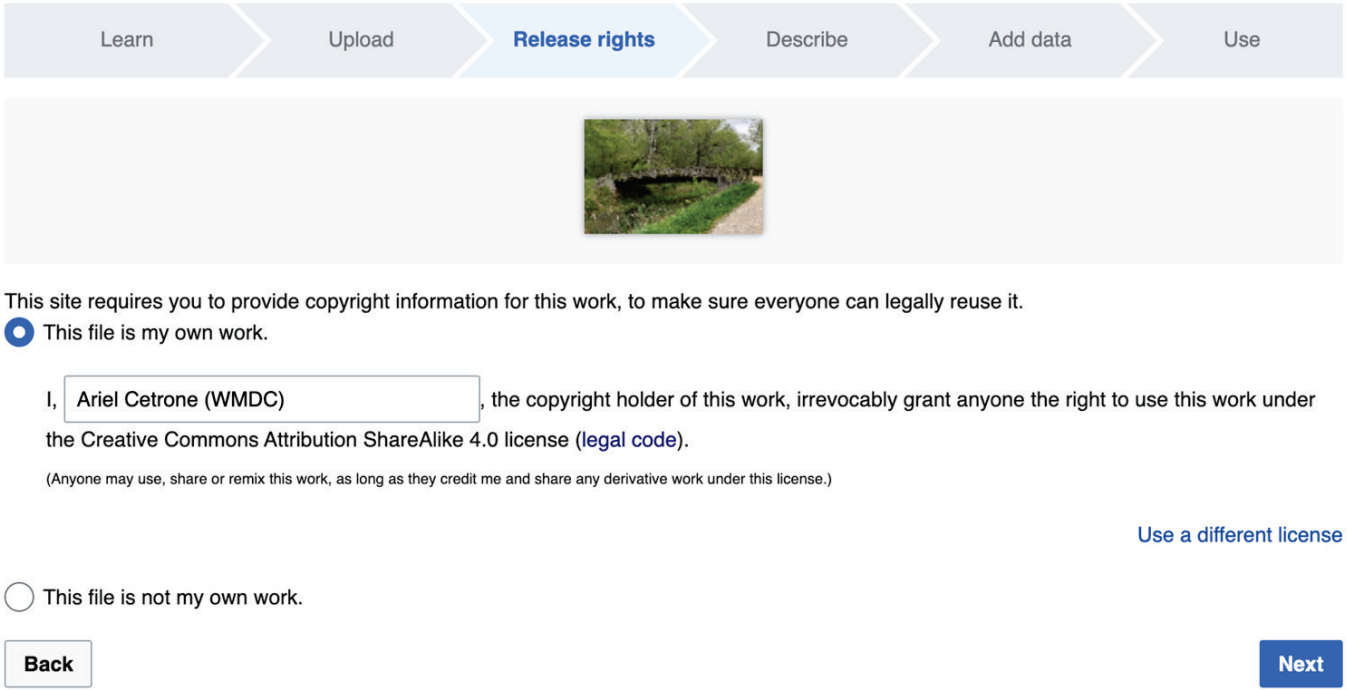
Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

5. Address Copyright.



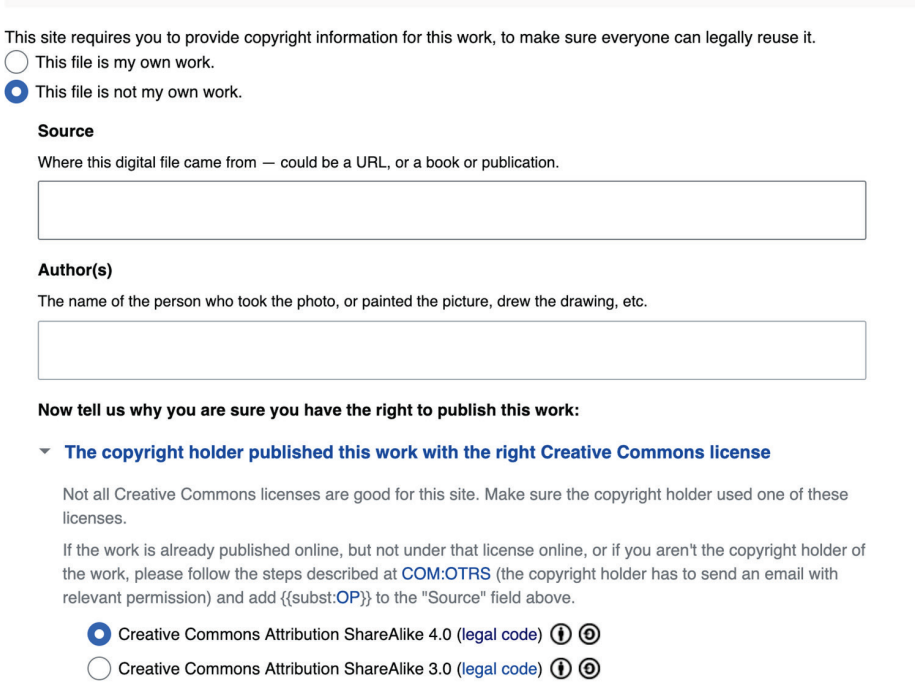
Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

5a. Release the rights if it is your own work.



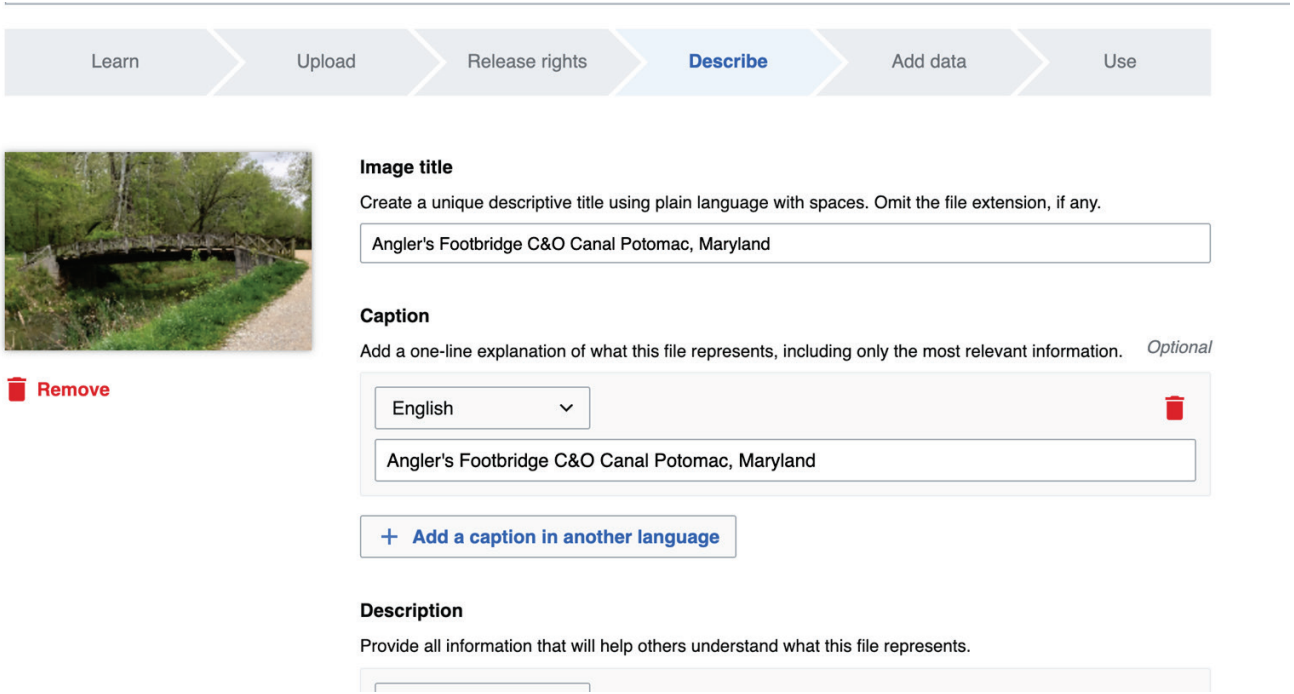
Adding Images or Files

5b. If not your own work, name the source and select the appropriate Creative Commons license or another reason it is license free or in the public domain (e.g., pre-1928, published for the U.S. government).



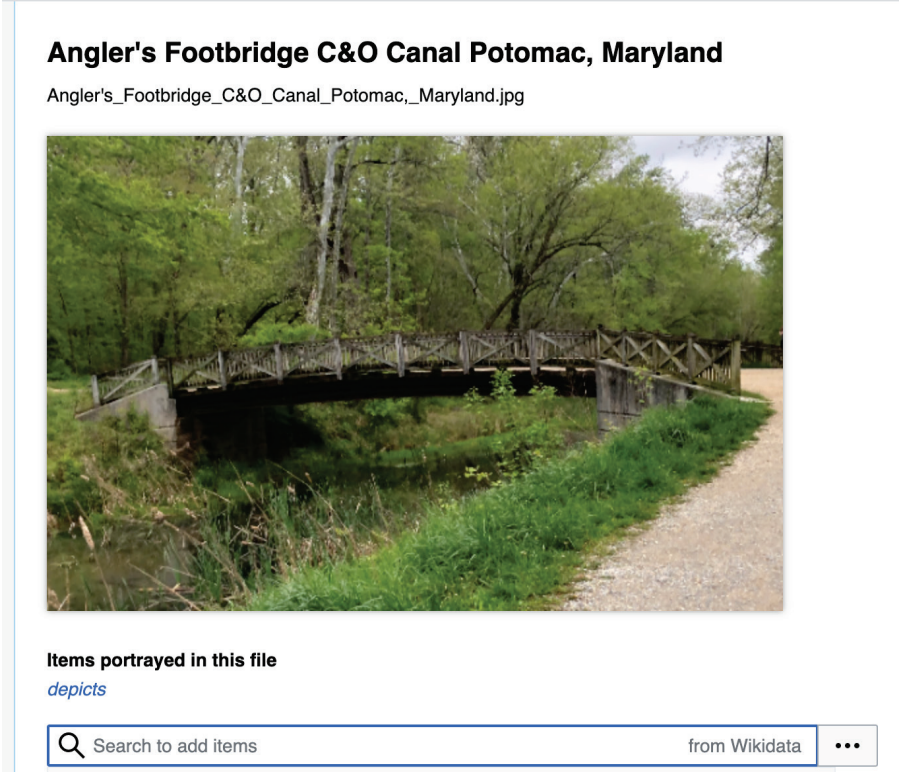
Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

6. Describe the image.



Adding Images or Files (cont'd)

7. Add metadata (optional); e.g., footbridge.
8. Publish.



Webcast Evaluation

https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7931210/Evaluation-WikipediaWebcast86

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