# Learner Guide **** Section 1

Wikipedia for you, your library, and your community

*Welcome to the course Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together!*

We are embarking on a journey of exploration and discovery to strengthen the ties between US public libraries and Wikipedia, expand public access to authoritative information and serve public libraries’ diverse

communities.

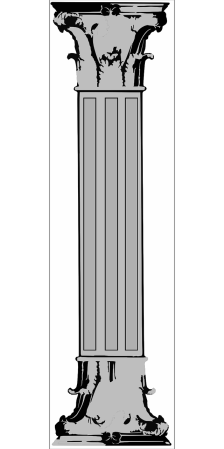
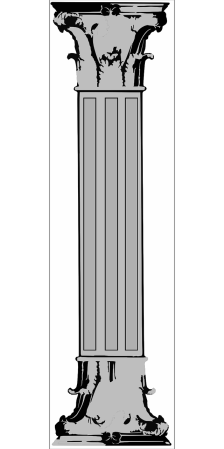
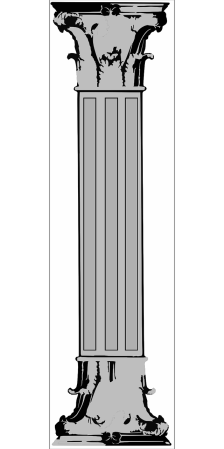
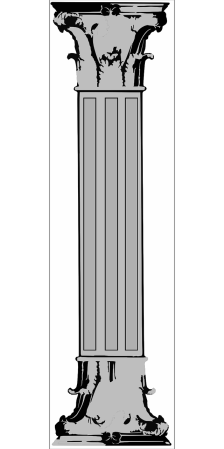
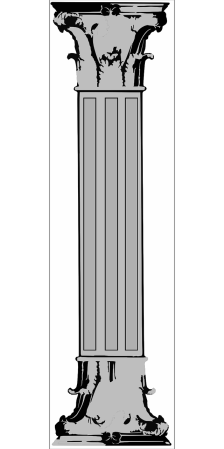
Use this learning guide as a worksheet to support your experience for the first section of the course. Go to 1. Wikipedia for you, your library, and your community on the course page to find resources and participate in discussions.

Topics for the week include:

* Why Wikipedia is important to libraries. Advocating for Wikipedia to your staff and community
* Wikipedia culture and community, volunteer structure, etc.
* Understanding what Wikipedia is (and isn't), and the core policies and guidelines that guide its creation
* Content development - how articles get on Wikipedia, are edited and maintained

Course pre-work, before the first live session:

* Create your Wikipedia user account.
  + Follow the instructions, including adding your new Wikipedia username to your course profile.
  + If you already have a Wikipedia user account, we’d still like you to add your username to your course profile.
  + If you hit a snag, you can get help with technical, schedule, logistics or any other general questions about interacting with the course in the Course Support Forum.
* View [Wikipedia Essentials](https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/training/students/wikipedia-essentials)
  + It’s a 22-minute self-paced module that will introduce you to the “Five Pillars” that are the foundation of the Wikipedia community.
  + Keep the Five Pillars summary as a handy reference throughout the course.

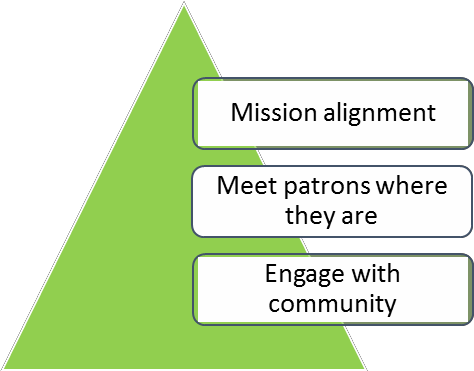
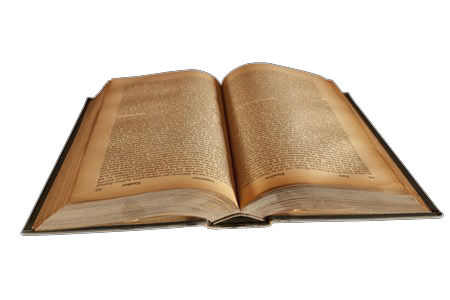


# Live Session ONE

* [Date and time]

Use this guide as a companion to the live session presentations. Take notes and record your reflections on what you’re hearing and learning.

What is your most compelling reason for wanting to engage with Wikipedia?



What would be most compelling to your supervisor?

What did you learn about Wikipedia’s definition of itself as an encyclopedia?

As a freely-accessible, volunteer-produced online encyclopedia, what are Wikipedia’s strengths and areas for growth that make it appealing for public libraries?

Wikipedia culture

What is your impression of Wikipedia as a “working editorial newsroom”?

What do you need to feel prepared to engage with the collaborative and social culture of Wikipedia?

## Assignments

* Review the Wikipedia Five Pillars.
* Create your Wikipedia User page, following the instructions. For some of you, this may be your first intro- duction to using the editing tools in Wikipedia.

Discussion Groups:

We encourage everyone to join these conversations and actively share your perspectives.

In your small discussion groups:

* + Introduce yourself
  + Share your Wikipedia username and a link to your Wikipedia user page
  + Discuss your impressions of the Wikipedia Five Pillars and how it may have changed your perception

of Wikipedia as a resource

## Further reading (entirely optional)

Online articles

[Librarians Who Wikipedia,](http://oc.lc/LibrariansWhoWikipedia) WebJunction’s series of interviews with public librarians who have engaged with Wikipedia

Scholz, James E. and A.D. Beman-Cavallaro (2017). “The Devil's Advocate: Librarians in Wikipedia” Progressive Librarians Guild. Access [pdf file](http://www.progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL/PL45/095.pdf)

Cohen, Noam (2009). [Wikipedia: Exploring Fact City](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/29/weekinreview/29cohen.html?_r=1) *New York Times*. Essay exploring Wikipedia as you would explore a city

Lih, Andrew (2015). [Can Wikipedia Survive?](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/can-wikipedia-survive.html?_r=0) *New York Times*. Essay on Wikipedia’s decline in volunteer editors. Books

Burke, Peter “Social History of Knowledge: From Gutenburg to Diderot” ISBN: 978-0745624853.

Lih, Andrew. [The Wikipedia Revolution: How a Bunch of Nobodies Created the World's Greatest Encyclopedia.](http://www.worldcat.org/title/wikipedia-revolution-how-a-bunch-of-nobodies-created-the-worlds-greatest-encyclopedia/oclc/232977686) Hachette Digital, Inc. [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) 9781401395858.

External links

[Wikimedia projects](https://meta.wikimedia.org/) –the family of projects in addition to Wikipedia

## Next week: Evaluating Wikipedia with a critical eye

Check out the pre-work recommendations to prepare for the live session.

The next live session will be [Date and time].

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