Section 1—  **Creating Your Wikipedia User Page**

**Select your editing mode**

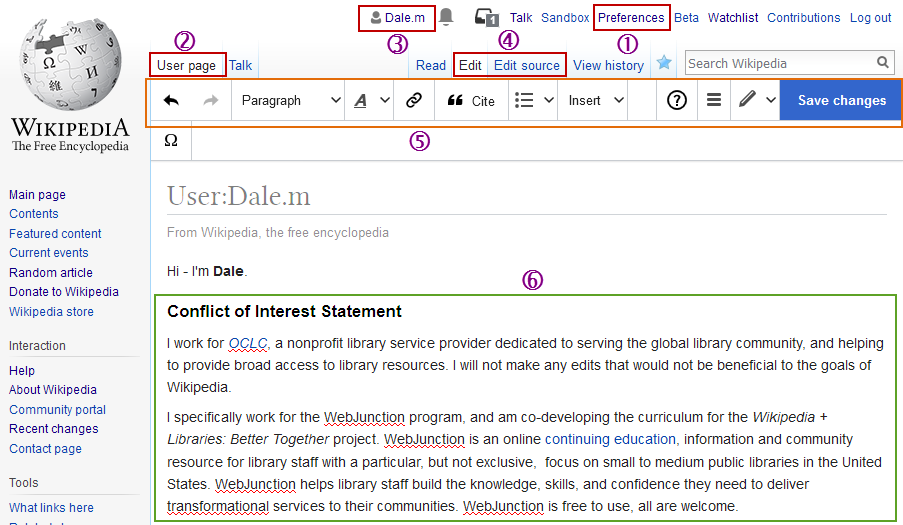
There are two ways to edit Wikipedia: VisualEditor – a WYSIWYG editor with a familiar interface; and Source editor, where you directly edit the underlying wiki markup code.

You will likely prefer VisualEditor, but since it is not available on all pages, we suggest that you enable both.

To set your editing preference

1. Make sure you are on an [English Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) page, and are logged in.
2. Click on the [**Preferences**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Preferences)1 link in the top right corner of the page. You now see your *Preferences* page.
3. Select the **Editing** tab.
4. In the *Editor* section, click on the *Editing mode* drop-down menu and choose **Show me both editor tabs**.
5. Click **Save** at the bottom of the page.

Now when you are on an editable Wikipedia page, just below your username, you will see *Read*, *Edit*, *Edit source*, and *View history* tabs. The *Edit* tab brings up the VisualEditor, the *Edit source* tab leads to direct wiki markup editing.

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**Create your user profile page2**

1. Make sure you are on an [English Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) page, and are logged in
2. Click on your *username***3**, in red, on the top right of the page (if your username is blue, skip step 3)
3. Click **Start your user page**.
4. Select the **Edit**4 tab. The VisualEditor loads**5**.
5. Begin typing directly in the page, a little something about yourself to give other editors a sense of your interests and motivation for contributing. You are not required to add any personally identifying details.
6. Click the **Save changes** button at the upper right. A *Save your changes* box pops up.
7. In the *Edit Summary* box, briefly describe the edit you just made. Wikipedia best practice is to always describe your edits to aid the collaborative version control.
8. Click **Save changes**.

**Add a conflict of interest statement6**

**Check out the** [plain and simple conflict of interest guide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Plain_and_simple_conflict_of_interest_guide), which was written to guide editors from cultural institutions such as libraries. Add a brief COI statement to your user page (look [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:DinaHerbert), [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Lange.lea), or [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Merrilee) for examples).