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| Section 3— | Conflict of Interest Statement on your Wikipedia User page |

**What is COI and do I have it?**

The Wikipedia [conflict of interest page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Conflict_of_interest) describes COI editing this way:

**“Conflict of interest** (**COI**) **editing** involves contributing to Wikipedia about yourself, family, friends, clients, employers, or your financial and other relationships. Any external relationship can trigger a conflict of interest.”

**COI is not something that you “have,” instead, as the Wikipedia guideline page describes,**  “That someone has a conflict of interest is a description of a situation, not a judgment about that person's opinions or integrity.

To learn more about the Wikipedia view of conflict of interest, check out the [plain and simple conflict of interest guide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Plain_and_simple_conflict_of_interest_guide).

### **Why write a COI statement**

Signal that you understand and follow the guidelines by stating on your user page who you are, where you work, and any affiliations you may have that are at all relevant to any contribution you may make on Wikipedia. Transparency will help you gain the trust of other editors and signal you understand the spirit of Wikipedia.

**Can you show me example COI statements?**

Here is the [user page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Kosboot) COI statement of a librarian at New York Public Library:

I, Kosboot, am an employee of the New York Public Library, a nonprofit library dedicated to serving the New York City and global communities, and helping to provide broad access to library resources. I will not make any edits that would not be beneficial to the goals of Wikipedia. While my editing is sort of all over the map, I do like to improve access to important, free, scholarly sources held in libraries and archives.

I do, from time to time, insert links or create articles based on library resources.

I will modify my editing behavior based on problems cited by other editors or if my editing conflicts with other Wikipedia guidelines. I ask that other editors do not hesitate to contact me, via my user talk page, if I appear to be going against this declaration.

And here are a few other examples; one from our team member [Merrilee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Merrilee), and two from archivists [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:DinaHerbert) and [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Lange.lea).

Feel free to copy and edit any of these to make your own, or work from the following basic guidelines.

**What should my COI include:**

Your COI statement can be brief.

1. A short statement of who you are (not necessarily your real name), where you work or are affiliated, and something about that organization.   
   *I, XXXX, am an employee of XXXXX, a XXXXX dedicated to XXXXX.*
2. A statement indicating your understanding of, and intention to follow Wikipedia’s policies.  
   *I always strive to strictly abide by Wikipedia's accepted practices on conflicts of interest, neutrality, and notability.*
3. Note any editing activity you may engage in that could be perceived as presenting a COI.  
   *I do, from time to time, insert links or create articles based on library resources.*
4. And a statement of your willingness to change your behavior if asked to by other editors.   
   *I will modify my editing behavior based on problems cited by other editors or if my editing conflicts with other Wikipedia guidelines. I ask that other editors do not hesitate to contact me, via my user talk page, if I appear to be going against this declaration.*