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| Wrap-up— | Compiled wisdom fromexperienced Wikipedians |

Experienced Wikipedians volunteered as guides for OCLC’s Wikipedia + Libraries training program; they shared sage advice and offered encouragement to course participants. A selection of their words of wisdom are compiled here.

[User:Avery\_Jensen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Avery_Jensen)

“‘Steep learning curve’ oh tell me about it. ‘Requires knowing something,’ not necessarily. [When you want to do something on Wikipedia and don’t know how] find another article to copy from, open ‘Edit source,’ and copy/paste that code. Maybe you want to position an image, put an internal link on a caption, or can’t figure out how to do something with Visual Editor, I encourage you to open the ‘Edit source’ tab and look. There is even a useful preview function to see how it will look before you hit ‘save.’”

[User:Alexandre\_Hocquet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Alexandre_Hocquet)

“About the ‘we tell people not to use Wikipedia’ argument, as a teacher, I often counter colleagues’ reluctance with a ‘99% of people advising not to use Wikipedia know nothing about Wikipedia,’ that there is no point in a Wikipedia critique that does not understand Wikipedia (... apart from fear, uncertainty and doubt ... and losing one's position of authority :))

I have been designing courses to teach Wikipedia as a digital culture object. If you read French, you can check my [plea](https://theconversation.com/plaidoyer-pour-enseigner-wikipedia-67111) to teach Wikipedia. I also rely on the narration of small vignettes (like the ‘Macaque selfie’ or the ‘I am Philip Roth’ episodes) to make students engage in debates about Wikipedia themes. As an academic, I advocate that Wikipedia literacy is a much better way to educate about critical reading than the voice of the state, or the voice of the (media) corporation.”

[User:Sodapopinski7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Sodapopinski7)

“It took me a while to gain confidence […] the editor community was enormous and I worried I was breaking rules. Over time I found the community of librarians, it’s small, dedicated and supportive. I want you to skip over those feelings of uncertainty and go directly to feeling that you’ve found a community of Wiki-librarians who are all here in service of the same mission: to create and share the sum of the world’s knowledge, for free, with a global audience.”

[User:JacintaJS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:JacintaJS)

“Give librarians a goal and we’ll knock it out of the park – you can do this!”

[User:Jackiekoerner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Jackiekoerner)

“There is a lot of lingo people use [on Wikipedia] without thinking about it. The good thing is usually you can ask or search the term. You might try searching in the search box on Wikipedia with WP: in front of the acronym. This will bring up the policy or term they are talking about. For example, if someone says verify or verifiability, I could search WP: verify or WP: verifiability and bring up the policy they're referencing. The other good thing, it gets better quickly. Pretty soon you’ll know all the lingo and terms -- but please don’t be shy about asking if you have a question. I’d be glad to help answer any questions and clarify any of those terms you don’t find on Wikipedia!”

[User:Slowking4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Slowking4)

“You have superior evaluation skills. Be prepared to explain.”

“Building bibliographies is another task you have expertise in. If you have a good bibliography, please do not file in the drawer, or in a google doc, but paste it in the appropriate article where everyone can benefit from it.”

[User:Megs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Megs)  
  
“Wikipedia’s fourth pillar, to treat each other with respect and civility, is so important to building a healthy community of editors and to encouraging healthy debates. When participating in discussions with other Wikipedians, you may sometimes see the abbreviation AGF, which serves as a reminder to Assume Good Faith on the part of fellow editors.”

[User:Merrilee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Merrilee)

“The community is composed of passionate volunteers who share values with librarians. Here are some of my takeaways about Wikipedia and editing Wikipedia articles.

1. You can’t break it. Don’t worry.
2. Small edits are great. Every contribution makes a difference.
3. There is no ‘ownership’ of articles and articles will always change and are never ‘finished,’
4. There is no one correct way to do things and as in any other large community, opinions vary. Discussion with others is important to reach consensus. It will also help you make new friends and allies. However as with all large communities, there is always ‘that person.’ Don’t let them get you down and realize that they are motivated by passion. Assume good faith.
5. If in doubt, as yourself, ‘Is what I’m doing making Wikipedia a better place?’”

[User:PersnicketyPaul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:PersnicketyPaul)

“Once you’ve added a citation, the [*citation needed*] statement is no longer needed so you are free to remove the template message. Don’t worry about stumbling a bit while, especially, in the beginning stages. This process is a huge learning curve. The great thing about editing Wikipedia, though, is that you can make changes instantly. So if you’ve made a mistake, it’s simple to fix. I’ve made my own share of mistakes on Wikipedia. Don’t be discouraged from continuing—it’s all part of the process.”

[User:RachelWex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:RachelWex)

“Remember that the goal of these [editing] events [like edit-a-thons] is not churning out articles, let alone churning out perfect articles. The goal is to build community and to create a supportive environment where people see this as fun and would want to participate again or edit on their own. It is better to do a minimum of training on editing, then address issues one-on-one. Also, more experienced editors can be called upon to sit with new folks, introduce themselves, and talk amongst each other to help each other out. It is a magical experience when it happens.”

[User:Kerry\_Raymond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Kerry_Raymond)

“If I go to a museum exhibition or a national park or anywhere with information boards or signage that makes me think ‘that info might be useful for the Wikipedia article,’ I take a photo of it so I have a copy of the information to refer to at home -- I rarely edit when I am out and about, I’d rather spend my time enjoying the real-life activity. When it comes to citing in a Wikipedia article where web/news/book/journal isn’t one of the categories, you can just do a ‘free format’ citation.”

[User:Vizzylane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Vizzylane)

“There have been many Wikipedians before us that have had time to explore and dialogue. Sometimes reading explanations of what things mean in Wikipedia can be overwhelming. That’s why a lot of people start out with small changes, like correcting typos and adding sources to articles already in progress. We’re all in the same boat!”

[User:Gamaliel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Gamaliel)

“There are a lot of websites which copy Wikipedia content. We refer to them as ‘mirrors.’ Most of the time that’s okay, Wikipedia content is offered freely to the world, with attribution. But sometimes pages will mirror Wikipedia content without attribution. Then editors find these webpages and, thinking they are original sources, cite them in Wikipedia articles by accident. You shouldn’t cite a Wikipedia article or a Wikipedia mirror on Wikipedia itself.”

[User:Librarygurl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Librarygurl)

“There is A LOT of documentation about doing things on Wikipedia. An intricate style guide, lengthy essays on issues. Sometimes it’s just easier to ask someone. I’m a reference librarian who strongly believes in asking for help when needed.”

[User:Megalibrarygirl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Megalibrarygirl)

“The world is bigger because I edited! You can do this!”