



WikiProject LGBT studies

Press Information Kit

*Imagine a world in which every single person is given free access to the sum of
all human knowledge.*

That's what we're doing.



This side of human nature has been so thoroughly effaced that we have forgotten how ubiquitous it really is. - Haiduc

I often take for granted the freedoms I have, and should do more to support those in other countries who are more targeted than I am. - Jeffpw

Edits should improve the quality of article in a neutral manner, not advance any particular LGBT agenda. - WJBscribe

Mission

To create, educate and inspire.

1. To create neutral but factual coverage of LGBT issues and people on Wikipedia.
2. To educate readers in whatever topics they seek.
3. To inspire readers to be who they are and editors to do what they do.



Wikipedia



Started in January 2001, Wikipedia is the world's fastest growing, most current, and largest encyclopaedia. Currently, there are 6 million articles in over 250 language versions. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by volunteers; its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet. It has steadily risen in popularity since its inception, and currently ranks among the top ten most-visited websites worldwide. Two scholarly studies have concluded that vandalism is generally short-lived and that Wikipedia is roughly as accurate as other encyclopaedias, including the Britannica.

WikiProject LGBT studies!



WikiProject LGBT studies (WP:LGBT) is a group of Wikipedia editors interested in editing LGBT articles, in various areas; from LGBT people to gay marriage to legal aspects of transexuality to the Cleveland street scandal. WP:LGBT brings all these people together to discuss current projects, ask for help, decide common standards, and pinpoint areas that especially need fixing. Wikipedia can become a bit wearing at times, and one of our primary concerns is to support our editors who are under stress or are feeling discouraged. WP:LGBT also acts a centre for LGBT related developments, such as LGBT Articles for Deletion, or to highlight any disputes going on regarding articles within the scope of the project.

Wikipedia:WikiProject LGBT studies

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Welcome to **WikiProject LGBT Studies!** We're a group of editors who aim to improve the general quality and range of Wikipedia articles on LGBT and Queer studies topics, from LGBT people to gay marriage to transgender topics to Cleveland Street scandal. WP:LGBT brings all these people together to discuss what we're doing, ask for help, announce new articles and pinpoint areas that especially need fixing.

We hope that this project page will help to focus the efforts of other Wikipedians. If you would like to help, please add your name to the **members' list!** Any Wikipedian (someone with a user account) - regardless of sexual orientation - is free to join us. Check out **Portal:LGBT** and our **main page** to see what we've accomplished so far. WP:LGBT is focussed on improving and expanding LGBT coverage across Wikipedia, and we would be delighted to welcome you!

If you are new to Wikipedia, or just feeling lost, please read this.

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WikiProject LGBT studies main page

WikiProject LGBT studies press information kit, April 2007.



History

WikiProject LGBT studies was created as a WikiProject in April 2006. However, it lay dormant until November, which is generally considered our nascence. The project pages were revamped, and members recruited. One of our first actions was to implement an assessment system and see just what articles we had to improve and how much work they required. The resulting worklist, with every article graded according to the Wikipedia-wide rating system, has proven extremely helpful in giving us targets to reach for as well as pinpointing what yet needs to be worked on. A partial side-effect of our method of tagging every LGBT article with our banner in order to rate them contributed to our rocketing membership numbers. We gained our hundredth member in February 2007.

Progress

Since its humble beginnings, WP:LGBT has rapidly expanded and developed into one of the most successful WikiProjects on Wikipedia. We have over 170 members and are the twelfth largest WikiProject in this respect. Our coverage currently includes over 6700 articles, with more added every day. We have also had some success in promoting WP:LGBT outside of Wikipedia, the first WikiProject to do so.

Almost all people who identify as LGBT or support the LGBT community suffer persecution and discrimination at some point. Wikipedia is no different, and anecdotal evidence suggests that LGBT articles suffer from above-average levels of vandalism. However, as our project grows this vandalism is being reverted faster, and users who abuse editors on the basis of their sexual orientation or disrupt LGBT articles are regularly blocked without delay. We continue to strive to ensure minimal disruption is wrought on our articles and readers can discover knowledge without fear of it being maliciously falsified.

Our main focus, however, remains the improvement of articles. Our number of Featured Articles, the highest standard of article on Wikipedia that requires a five day rigorous peer review process, have been steadily growing by four a month. Our proportion of stub-class articles, essentially unreadable, has also been steadily reduced. We remain committed to improving LGBT coverage across Wikipedia to a high standard comparable to, and eventually superior than, a paper encyclopaedia.



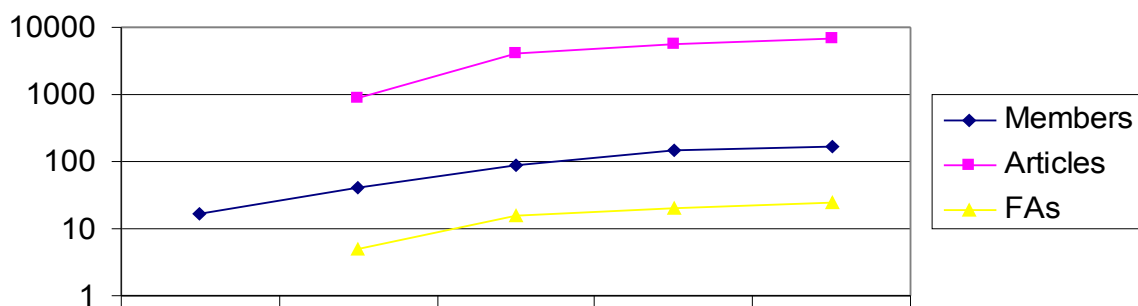
Statistics

Historical counts

All figures given for the end of each month

	December 2006		January 2007		February 2007		March 2007	
★ FA	4	0.46 %	16	0.40 %	20	0.36 %	24	0.36 %
A	2	0.23 %	10	0.25 %	10	0.18 %	10	0.15 %
⊕ GA	10	1.14 %	18	0.45 %	20	0.36 %	24	0.36 %
B	103	11.73 %	515	12.88 %	606	10.94 %	675	10.17 %
Start	304	34.62 %	1,292	32.32 %	1,833	33.08 %	2,328	35.10 %
Stub	455	51.82 %	2,147	53.70 %	3,050	55.04 %	3,570	53.82 %
Unassessed	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	0 %
Total	878		3,998		5,542		6,633	

Statistics November 2006 - March 2007



	November	December	January	February	March
◆ Members	17	40	90	145	165
■ Articles	0	878	3998	5542	6633
▲ FAs	0	5	16	20	24



Departments

Generally, editors on Wikipedia just edit whatever articles they want within their sphere of interest, and come to WikiProject LGBT studies when they need help or wish to collaborate with other editors. To support our members and improve our coverage, we have several “departments”:

Assessment: Measures our progress in improving articles.

Collaboration: An article is chosen, currently once a month, for the entire WikiProject to improve.

Community: Produces a monthly newsletter which keeps everyone up to date, recruits new members and hosts our publicity materials. We also have a “quilt” in which any member can add a patch, containing quotes, images, or whatever they desire.

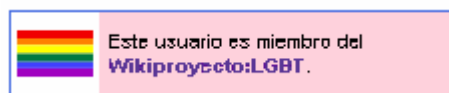
Jumpaclass: A original department of WP:LGBT which has since been copied by others, Jumpaclass is a semi-competition where editors can nominate articles and be awarded points on how much they can improve them in seven days. There is also a direct *head to head* option to encourage friendly competition.

Translation: An effort to end our bias against foreign LGBT articles, the translation department is an attempt to improve our cross-wiki communication. The department can currently cover over ten languages, including French, German, Swedish and Welsh.

Peer review: Possibly our greatest asset to Wikipedia, the peer review system exposes articles to closer scrutiny from a broader group of editors, and is intended for high-quality articles that have already undergone extensive work. It helps editors spot what they need to work on.

WikiProyecto LGBT

In February 2007, A Spanish LGBT WikiProject set up, and has experienced rapid growth. It has proven a excellent example of a small but resilient project and we are committed to helping other language Wikipedias and Wikimedia projects set up their own LGBT projects if help is needed.



Testimonies

Members of WikiProject LGBT studies come from all backgrounds and all over the world. The following testimonies are to give an idea of who we are and what we do.

"Who writes Wikipedia?" A search for that question on Google returns thousands of hits. The answer: you do. I do. Everyone does. Wikipedia is a communal signpost; a place to share information with each other. The LGBT WikiProject takes this goal and runs with it on every article that is of interest to our community. The topics range from Andy Warhol to the Daughters of Bilitis to Exodus International to GayFest.

Who writes Wikipedia? I do. I am a law student, a photographer and a writer. I am a New Yorker, an Internationalist, a Liberal and a dog owner. I bring my history and who I am to every article I effort to write with a neutral point of view. I learn about myself in the process. That is what brought me to join the LGBT WikiProject. I have done portraits of lesbian and gay leaders, befriending them in the process. I have edited articles on gay rights, gaining a deeper understanding of the nuance in the arguments. I have made friends, and I have encountered adversaries. I have grown intellectually and I have learned how to better communicate my thoughts and ideas in the wake of 10,000 edits, photographs and articles I have added to the site.

Who writes Wikipedia? You will. Join us and contribute what you know. Explore life. Challenge yourself. Do interesting things and meet interesting people and bring it all back to Wikipedia...and share it with the global community. You write Wikipedia, and you should do so right now. - **David Shankbone**

I'm a great believer in the anarchist roots of Wikipedia. Since it's an encyclopedia that anyone can edit, it is the ideal manifestation of a product "of the people". It's not some person or corporation telling everyone the truth - it's everyone coming together to discuss, argue, and come to consensus. That's one of the main things that attracted me, not only to Wikipedia, but also to the LGBT project.

At the WikiProject, I meet other Wikipedia editors that have varying backgrounds, from transsexuals to musicians to PhD students to photographers. And I gain a better understanding of our shared history and love of knowledge, as well as a sound community to bounce ideas off of and to learn from.

I find my time at Wikipedia to be most enjoyable! I'm the consummate WikiFairy, which means that most of my editing falls into the category of cleanup. I'm the one that makes sure articles are categorized, have a standard look and feel, include the date of birth on biographies, all the little things that make articles useful. The main tool I use for doing all this little work is something called a "bot" - a program that can examine a multitude of articles to find similarities, differences, missing information, and other odds and ends.

Occasionally I take a break from the details and focus my energies on a particular article. I'm quite proud of the few times that I've managed to take a "stub" article -- one that only has a couple sentences -- and fleshed it out to have a full array of useful information. - **SatyrTN**



This article is within *WikiProject LGBT studies*, which tries to ensure comprehensive and factual coverage of all **LGBT** related issues on Wikipedia. For more information, or to get involved, visit the [project page](#).

NA

This page is not an article and does not require a [rating](#).

WikiProject LGBT studies press information kit, April 2007.



Testimonies

Members of WikiProject LGBT studies come from all backgrounds and all over the world. The following testimonies are to give an idea of who we are and what we do.

I feel that Wikipedia is an extremely important place to write neutral factual articles on LGBT issues. Encyclopedias throughout time have minimised or even erased our part in the world and our history. I once read a blurb for The Happy Prince which managed to mention Oscar Wilde's trial and imprisonment without once saying what for! On Wikipedia, we have the chance to correct such expurgation, and as we are the tenth most popular website in the world, we have a massive global audience to read our work. I want everyone on Earth, especially those for whom all facts are restricted, not just LGBT information, to have access to verifiable truth.

Education is the key to acceptance of others and self-improvement, and Wikipedia, I firmly believe, is part of that.

There's a great satisfaction to be had in writing a great article, knowing that millions of people will read it. I am a student offline and I appreciate the breadth and depth of knowledge that Wikipedia can provide me, and I find what it could possibly provide tremendously exciting. As with all my fellow Wikipedians, I am contributing to the sum of all human knowledge, and knowing that makes the occasional downsides, such as vandalism, homophobia and stress, all worth it. Even if WP:LGBT failed now, we'll have written articles that never made it into Britannica, at least not without being highly censored. We've been written out of the history of the world for millennia. Wikipedia is seeking to change that, and I, for one, intend to be there. - **Dev920**

Contacts

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Press kit was created by Dev920, and contains contributions from others released under the GFDL licence, available at www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html.

WikiProject LGBT studies press information kit, April 2007.

Millions of people around the world contributing to the sum of human knowledge. An endless task for which no editor receives monetary compensation. Why then join at all?

I, like others, love the idea of collaborating on such an endeavour. I am a psychologist, and I know every person has a wish to leave something behind. And some kind of immortality is achieved when we are able to transmit knowledge to other people. It may be a bit naive to think Wikipedia performs this task, but it does. Against all reason, it works.

I am your typical 24 year old Spanish girl. I like Grey's anatomy, I have a blog and my ipod. I love going out with my friends every day and I travel as much as I can. How did I join Wikipedia? Like most, occasionally making a minor edit here and there. Nothing major. Then I found an article. It wasn't poorly written, but it wasn't complete. And I thought, I can improve this. After weeks of patiently researching, finding references and adding to it, it became a Featured Article, one of Wikipedia's finest. I was hooked. I began to create new articles, improve existing ones and, contribute as part of a close-knit, hard-working community, gaining several good friends in the process. Later, I joined the Spanish Wikipedia. With all the experience I possessed, I founded a thriving LGBT WikiProject, creating important missing articles and improving the existing ones to unprecedented levels.

So why join Wikipedia? Because it matters, because it is very rewarding and, especially and most surprisingly, because it is fun! - **Raystorm**

