

sustainable
sanitation
alliance

Improving Wikipedia's sanitation content for online or offline use

[SuSanA-SEI webinar](#) on 24 Nov 2016



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This user is a member of
WikiProject Sanitation.

Who uses Wikipedia?

- Anyone who needs quick access to a topic that they are not familiar with
- Politicians, academics, journalists, students, you, me, ...
- Some stats:
 - 7th most popular website globally (the first four being Google, Facebook, Youtube and Yahoo) (<http://www.similarweb.com/global>)
 - 500 million people visit per month (<http://reportcard.wmflabs.org/>)
 - 20 billion page views
 - 7 billion of these via mobile

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Welcome to **WikiProject Sanitation**. This is a group of Wikipedia editors who are working on articles related to sanitation. This page was last updated on 10 December of 2014.

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The Wikipedia „WikiProject Sanitation“

- A WikiProject is a group of contributors who want to work together to improve Wikipedia regarding a certain topic ([2,000 WikiProjects](#))
- The WikiProject Sanitation started in December 2014
- Initiated by James Heilman and myself
- **Goal:** Giving everyone information on sanitation-related topics which they can all appreciate, free of charge
- Nearly 500 articles „tagged“ for this WikiProject (and part of the Kiwix offline version Medial Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Sanitation

Objectives of WikiProject Sanitation

- Improve content of all those articles on Wikipedia which have something to do with sanitation
- Raise awareness amongst the general public worldwide about the sanitation crisis and possible solutions
- Add links to sanitation issues to relevant articles
 - For example the articles on [malnutrition](#) and [diarrhoea](#) previously had no or little information on WASH
- Ensure that the lead paragraph of articles is written in basic, clear English
 - Ensures better translation (see [WikiProject Medicine Translation Taskfore](#))

Popular sanitation-related pages (for Oct. 2016)



k ↕	Page	Views ↕	Views (per day average) ↕	Assessment ↕	Importance ↕
1	Bill Gates	259900	8383	⊕ GA	Mid
2	Female genital mutilation	81091	2615	★ FA	Low
3	Water pollution	70952	2288	B	Mid
4	Sustainability	69377	2237	⊕ GA	Mid
5	Cholera	56264	1814	B	Mid
6	Ecosystem	53094	1712	B	Low
7	Soil	48944	1578	C	Low
8	Nematode	46261	1492	B	Low
9	Phosphorus	45394	1464	C	Low
10	Waste management	42720	1378	B	Mid
11	Fertilizer	40268	1298	B	High
12	Diarrhea	40169	1295	B	High
13	Biofuel	39143	1262	B	Low
14	Gastroenteritis	38871	1253	⊕ GA	High
15	Sewage treatment	38593	1244	B	High
16	Biomass	36966	1192	C	Low
17	Millennium Development Goals	36355	1172	B	Mid
18	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	36149	1166	C	Mid
19	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	32271	1041	B	Mid

These are the Top-20 out of a total of about 500 that have been „tagged“ with WikiProject Sanitation so far

How to add a tag:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Sanitation#How to tag articles and connect them to this project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Sanitation#How_to_tag_articles_and_connect_them_to_this_project)

Popular pages list: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Sanitation/Popular_pages

Ten simple rules for editing Wikipedia

- [Rule 1. Register an account](#)
- [Rule 2. Learn the five pillars](#)
- [Rule 3. Be bold, but not reckless](#)
- [Rule 4. Know your audience](#)
- [Rule 5. Do not infringe copyright](#)
- [Rule 6. Cite, cite, cite](#)
- [Rule 7. Avoid shameless self-promotion](#)
- [Rule 8. Share your expertise, but don't argue from authority](#)
- [Rule 9. Write neutrally and with due weight](#)
- [Rule 10. Ask for help](#)

- More information:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Ten_Simple_Rules_for_Editing_Wikipedia

The 5 pillars of Wikipedia

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute
- Editors should treat each other with respect and civility
- Wikipedia has no firm rules but policies and guidelines

Source and more information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars

What is Wikipedia not?

- Another separate Wiki (like Appropedia, Akvopedia, Energypedia, IWA Water Wiki) – it is the main Wikipedia
- A place to get famous (**authorship is tracked** but not advertised)
- A place to earn money (mostly volunteer based although some work could be done during work time)
- A place to protect one's IP (all content, including images, are **open access, CC BY SA licence**)
- A place to advertise, lobby or push your hobby horse (objectivity and sources are key)

Quality control (1 of 3)

- Wikipedia is heavily referenced, more heavily than journal articles or textbooks!
- This is required as we do not verify that our authors are experts (even though much of the time they are).
- We require our text to stand entirely on the references provided.

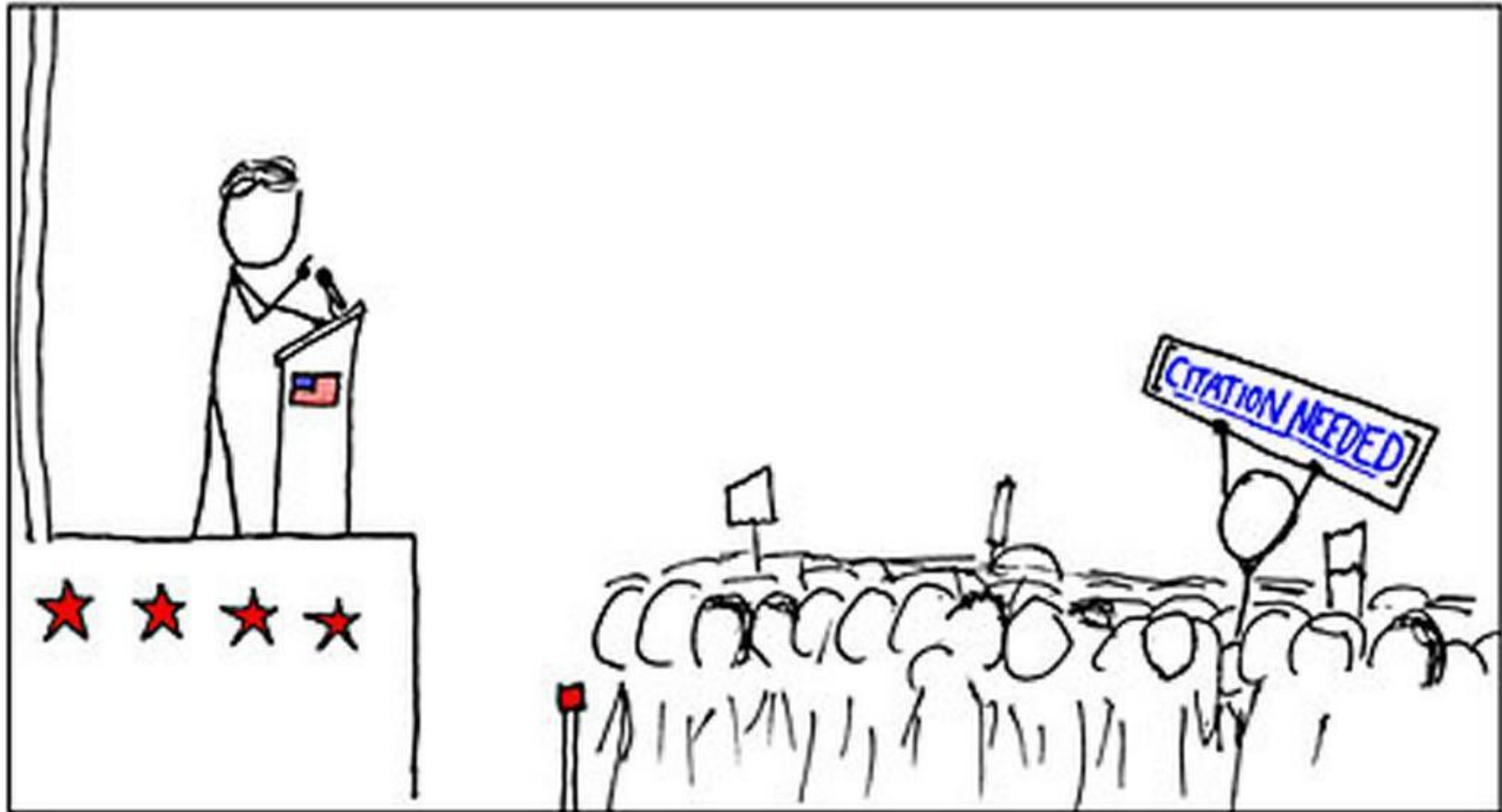
→ *Have you ever noticed the little numbers at the end of sentences in Wikipedia and the reference list at the bottom of the article? I didn't used to take any notice of those but now I do!*

→ *Example:*

Down syndrome (DS or DNS), also known as **trisomy 21**, is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all, or part of a third copy of chromosome 21.^[1] It is typically associated with physical growth delays, characteristic facial features, and mild to moderate intellectual disability.^[2] The average IQ of a young adult with Down syndrome is 50, equivalent to the

Reference, Reference, Reference

...If only the rest of the world worked like Wikipedia!?



Quality control (2 of 3)

When a change is made to an article:

1. The first level of quality control is by **bots** that automatically check it for vandalism and copyright problems.
 2. The second layer of quality control is the **new changes patrollers** who look briefly at all new changes.
 3. The third level of quality control is people who put articles on their **watchlists** and are then notified by e-mail when changes are made (like myself). For major topics like [HIV/AIDS](#) this number is ~ 1000 people watching but for less known topics can be rather low.
 4. Those who consistently make poor edits can **lose** their ability to edit (i.e. can be banned)
 5. Certain pages are **restricted** to editing by established editors only (pages on “political” topics, like Barack Obama, or pages attracting frequent vandalism like menstruation).
- A review of the research on the quality of Wikipedia is here:

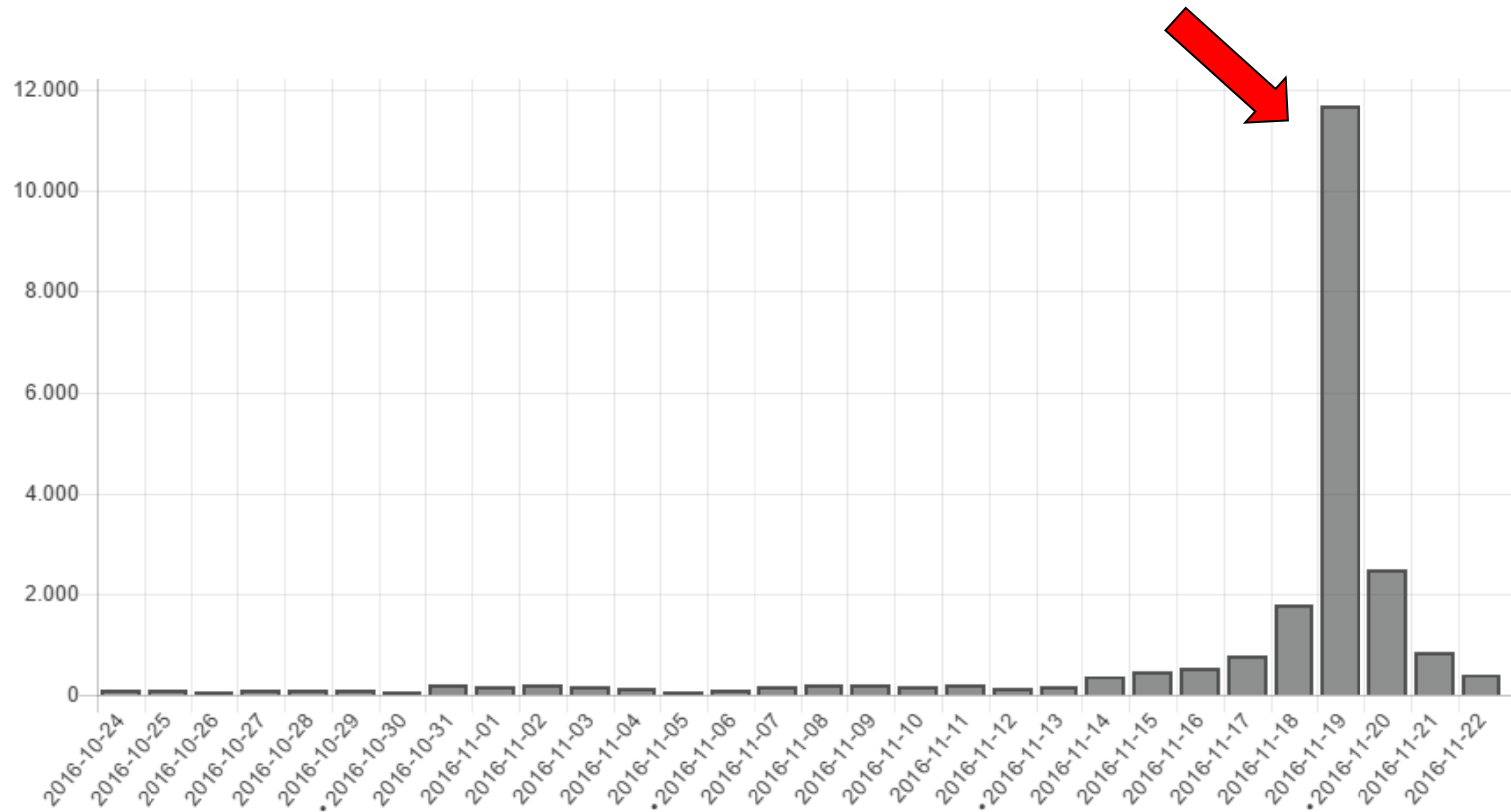
http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/978618/1/WikiLit_Content_-_open_access_version.pdf

Quality control (3 of 3)

*“The quality of Wikipedia is less the point than that Wikipedia is **what the world is reading**. If Wikipedia was already amazing than we would not need to be actively recruiting more volunteers. We know Wikipedia is not yet perfect.”*

James Heilman, 10 Nov. 2016

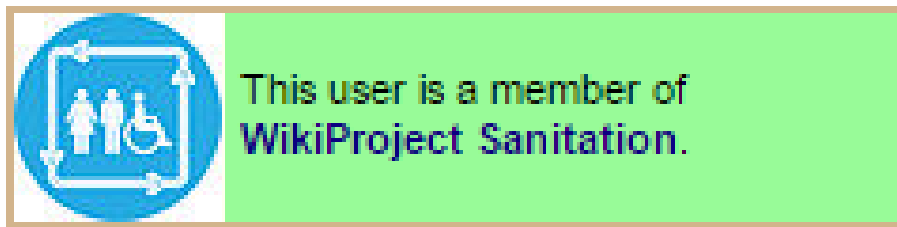
Example: Page views of Wikipedia page about World Toilet Day spikes on 19 Nov each year!



[https://tools.wmflabs.org/pageviews/?project=en.wikipedia.org&platform=all-access&agent=user&range=latest-30&pages=World Toilet Day](https://tools.wmflabs.org/pageviews/?project=en.wikipedia.org&platform=all-access&agent=user&range=latest-30&pages=World%20Toilet%20Day)

How to get involved

- Get a Wikipedia login, start editing (<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CreateAccount>)
- Become a member of this WikiProject: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Sanitation
- Read advice on SuSanA discussion forum: <http://forum.susana.org/forum/categories/166-definitions-wiki-wikipedia-glossaries-dictionaries-mapping-tools>
- I can help you: elisabeth.muench@ostella.de



Flaws with sanitation content on Wikipedia to date:

- Limited number of topics covered, e.g. „Fecal Sludge Management“ did not exist until few months ago (Aug. 2016)
- Content is not referenced well
- Most topics are dealt with in a very U.S.-centric way
- Often developing country issues are not considered
 - Example in the article about flush toilets it said: „Most people in this world use flush toilets and these are connected to sewers and wastewater treatment plants.“
- Topics are not interlinked well, e.g. sanitation and hygiene not mentioned on pages about diarrhoea, malnutrition, stunted growth...
- Few or no images used to illustrate articles

Last words about Wikipedia...

“Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That’s what we’re doing.”

— Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia (Slashdot, 2004)

Appendix

Groundwater pollution

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Groundwater pollution (also called **groundwater contamination**) occurs when pollutants are released to the ground and work their way down into **groundwater**, which creates a contaminant **plume** within an aquifer. Movement of water and dispersion within the aquifer spreads the pollutant over a wider area, its advancing boundary often called a plume edge, which can then intersect with groundwater wells or daylight into surface water such as seeps and springs, making the water supplies unsafe for humans and wildlife. The movement of the plume, called a plume front, may be analyzed through a **hydrological transport model** or **groundwater model**. Analysis of groundwater contamination may focus on **soil** characteristics and site geology, **hydrogeology**, **hydrology**, and the nature of the contaminants.

Pollution can occur from landfills, naturally occurring arsenic, on-site sanitation systems or other point sources, such as petrol stations or leaking sewers. Using contaminated ground water causes hazards to public health through poisoning or the spread of disease.

Different mechanisms have influence on the transport of pollutants, e.g. diffusion, adsorption, precipitation, decay, in the groundwater. The interaction of groundwater contamination with surface waters is analyzed by use of hydrology transport models.



Groundwater pollution example in Lusaka, Zambia where the pit latrine in the background is polluting the shallow well in the foreground

Contents [hide]

- Mechanisms
 - Interactions with surface water
- Pollutant types
 - Arsenic
 - Fecal pollution
 - Nitrate
 - Volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- Causes due to human activity
 - Landfill leachate
 - On-site sanitation systems
 - Others
- Prevention
 - Locating on-site sanitation systems
 - Legislation
 - Environmental protection of groundwater in the U.S.
- Treatment
- Society and culture
 - Examples
 - Hinkley, USA
 - Walkerton, Canada
 - Lusaka, Zambia
- See also
- References
- External links

Example of a new page created on 18 March 2015 by members of this project

Assistance sought by SuSanA Working Group 11 on Groundwater Protection

The world is turning to Wikipedia for medical (and sanitation?) information

- 50% to 100% of physicians use Wikipedia
 - 94% of medical students use Wikipedia
 - 20 to 60% of journalists
- Are they finding the right information about sanitation topics as well?
- Not yet, but we can change that! We can fix the internet

You can also edit

- Find excellent quality source
- Hit the edit button
- Put the ideas in your own words using basic English
- Format the reference
- Explain what you have done in the edit summary

[edit]

The starting point for me to become a Wikipedian (Oct. 2014)

- “Health information on Wikipedia is going from strength to strength” - can we do the same for sanitation?
- „We can fix the internet“
- Having James Heilman – Wikipedia administrator – as a real person to turn to for guidance and mentoring

Why do 94% of medical students use Wikipedia?

- Easy access
- Understandable
- Consumer friendly

Med Teach. 2013 Apr;35(4):337. doi: 10.3109/0142159X.2012.737064. Epub 2012 Nov 8.

Wikipedia use amongst medical students - new insights into the digital revolution.

Allahwala UK, Nadkarni A, Sebaratnam DF.

Wikipedia generally

Anyone can edit but not everyone does!

- 80,000 people contribute >5 edits a month
- 12,000 people contribute more than 100 edits a month
- All volunteers working for free

Why do people edit Wikipedia?

Learning

Positive about
Wikipedia

*+ Awareness raising for sanitation crisis and
for suitable options to overcome the crisis*

Responsibility

Enjoyable

Sources (for medical articles)



This page in a nutshell: Ideal sources for biomedical material include **general** or **systematic reviews** in **reliable, third-party, published** sources, such as reputable **medical journals**, widely recognised standard textbooks written by experts in a field, or **medical guidelines** and position statements from nationally or internationally recognised expert bodies.

No copying and pasting

- Violates our copyright license
- We do not do “fair use” text
- Quotes should be rare
- Read the source -> understand the text -> put in your own words

Manual of Style:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style_\(Sanitation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style_(Sanitation))

- Naming conventions and order of sections for different types of articles
- Writing for the average reader
 - Do not use the term patient or “you”
 - Do not use “jargon”: eg. kidney not renal
- State the facts (do not need to state the journal or author)
- References go after punctuation
- We use very few capital letters

Is Wikipedia Reliable?

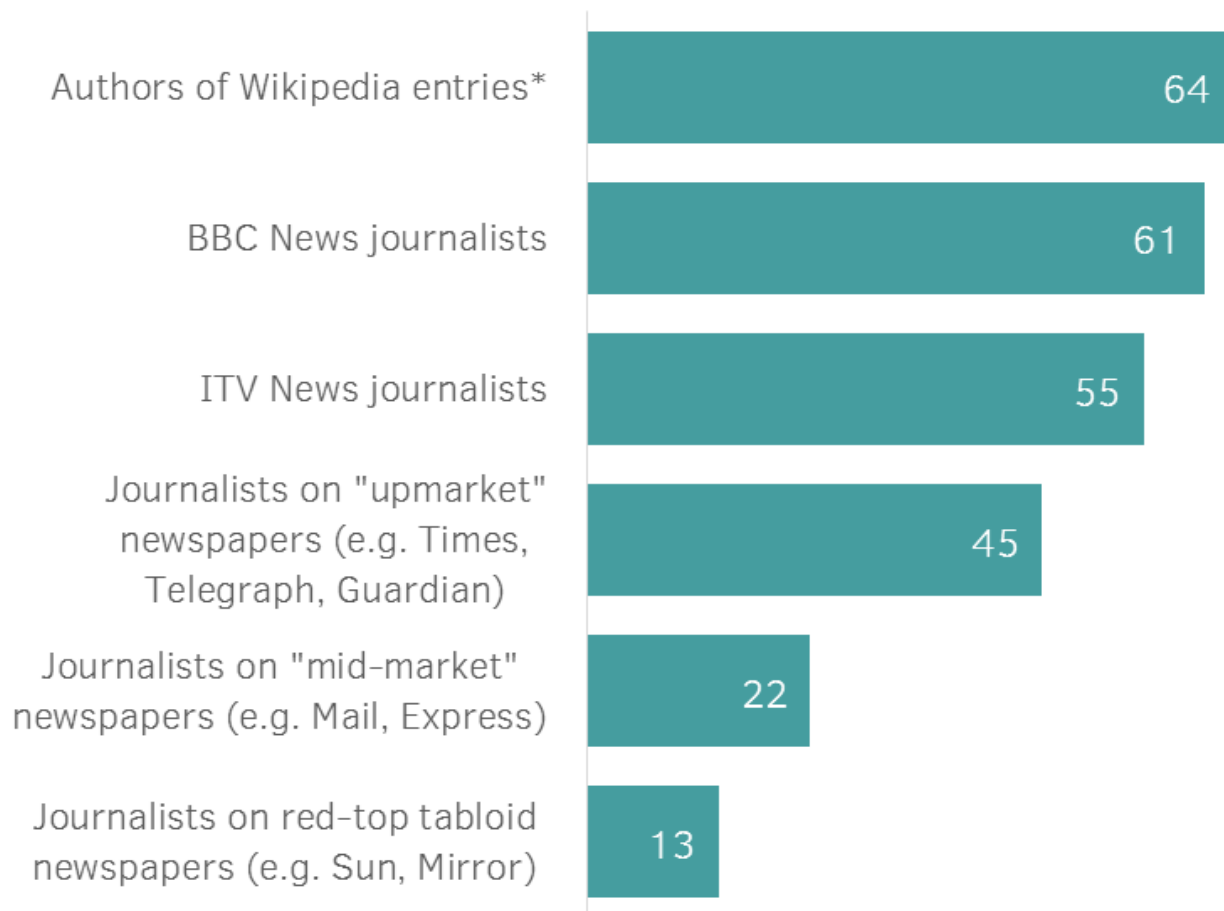
- Depends on definitions and compared to what
- Verifiability not Truth
- As accurate as Britannica in 2005 and 2012
- More research needed

[citation needed]



Trust in Wikipedia authors compared to journalists

Figures show percentages saying they trust each group to tell the truth "a great deal" or "a fair amount"



* Survey for Wikipedia authors conducted 7-8 August 2014; survey for journalists conducted 16-17 October 2013