



(Open) Knowledge Is Not Neutral

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The Wikimedia Foundation



WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION

Knowledge as a service: To serve our users, we will become a platform that serves open knowledge to the world across interfaces and communities. We will build tools for allies and partners to organize and exchange free knowledge beyond Wikimedia. Our infrastructure will enable us and others to collect and use different forms of free, trusted knowledge.

Knowledge equity: As a social movement, we will focus our efforts on the knowledge and communities that have been left out by structures of power and privilege. We will welcome people from every background to build strong and diverse communities. We will break down the social, political, and technical barriers preventing people from accessing and contributing to free knowledge.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Strategy/Wikimedia_movement/2017



Wikimedia UK



Wikimedia UK currently has four strategic objectives.

Our **strategic aims for 2019 - 2022** are to:

1. Increase engagement with and representation of marginalised people and subjects
2. Work with partners to develop digital, data and information literacy through Wikimedia
3. Create changes in policy and practice that enable open knowledge to flourish
4. Develop our capacity and profile as a leading organisation for open knowledge

https://wikimedia.org.uk/wiki/Wikimedia_UK_Strategy_2019%E2%80%932022

Technology is not neutral
Not everything about open is free
**The historical record is a rigged
game**



Lorna Campbell -

<http://femedtech.net/published/on-open-practice-and-invisible-labour/>

Catherine Cronin has eloquently reminded us that openness is a continually negotiated space, a constantly negotiated practice. We all experience openness differently, from different perspectives and different positions of privilege and discrimination. For some of us, open education is part of our job, for some it's our research, our field of study, for some it's a philosophy, an ethos, a personal commitment, for some it's political. For many it's all of the above.



(and again....)

How much does the open community rely on invisible digital labour?

How far does it exclude those who are unable or unwilling to contribute their labour for free?

And how do we mitigate this?



Alistair G Tough

“The author began work in 1975. A senior colleague gave him two memorable pieces of advice during his first week in the archives profession. Firstly, he was told never to waste time on women’s papers. Secondly, he was urged to make sure that anything he earmarked for disposal was actually destroyed and that no evidence of the matter was kept, lest historians should make a fuss about it later. Clearly, conventional thinking about archives and records has moved on significantly over the last 40 years.”



Pageviews Analysis

Comparison of pageviews across multiple pages

Options

Dates Latest

01/02/2020 - 25/03/2020

Date type

Daily

Project

en.wikipedia.org

Platform

All

Agent

User

Include redirects

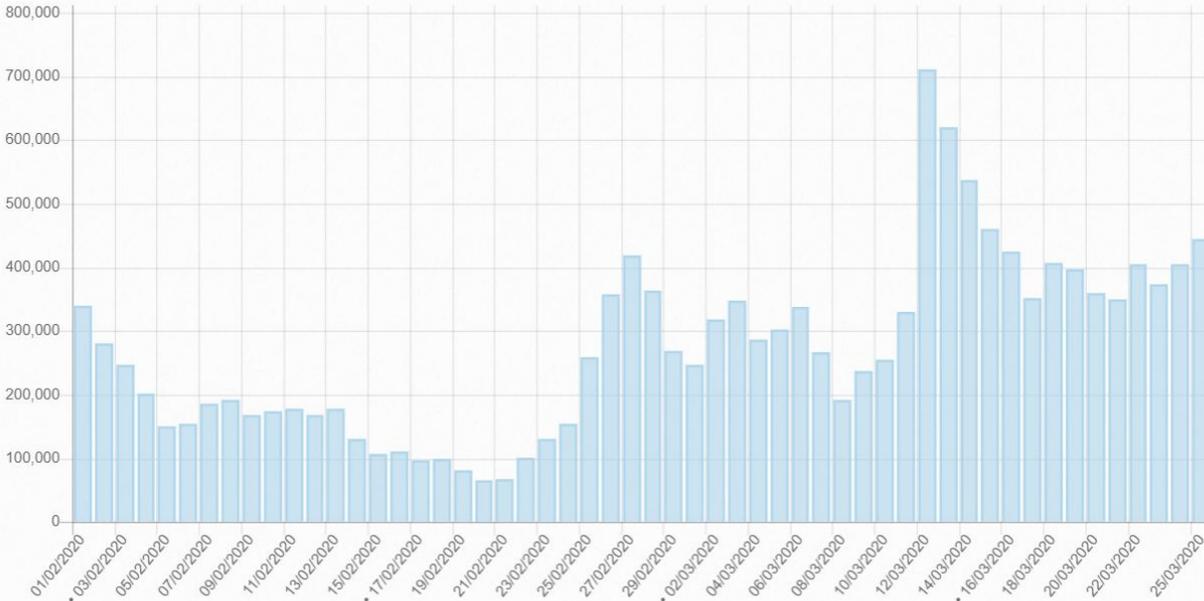
Pages Enter up to 10 pages

* Coronavirus

Clear

Chart type Permalink Download

Show values Begin at zero Logarithmic scale



Totals

Pageviews	
Pageviews:	14,800,908
Daily average:	274,091
Revisions	
Edits:	442
Editors:	181
Basic information	
Watchers:	467
Size:	64,811
Protection:	extendedconfirmed
Class:	C
All languages • Redirects	



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Clear

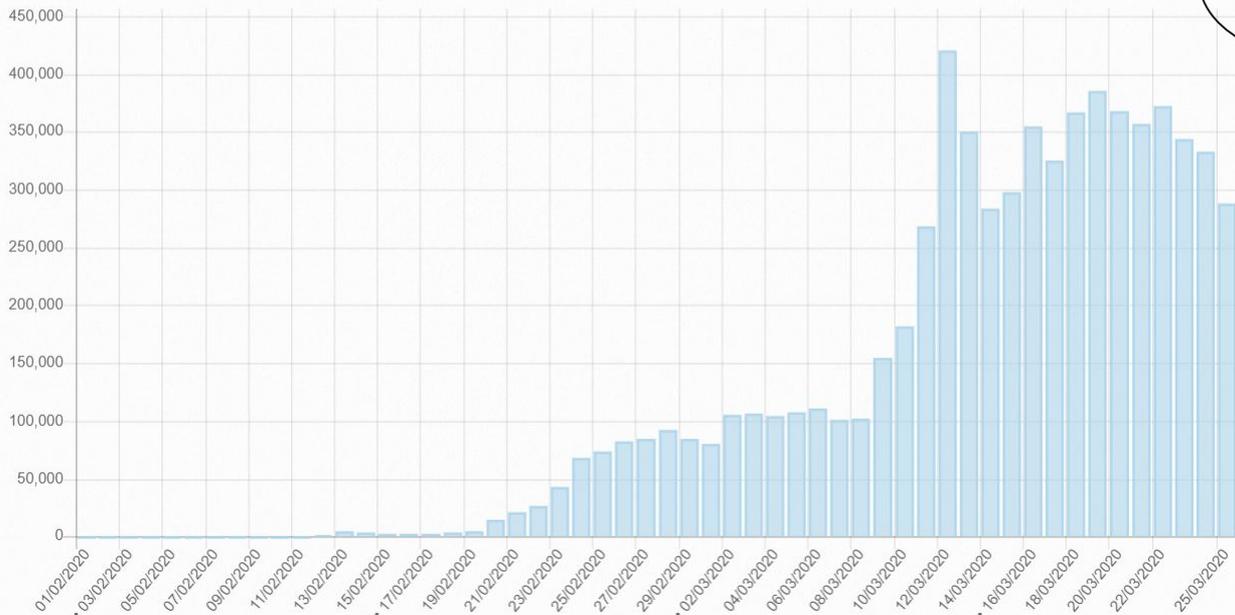
Coronavirus disease 2019

Chart type

Permalink

Download

Show values Begin at zero Logarithmic scale



Totals

Pageviews

Pageviews:	6,886,635
Median:	104,473
Daily average:	127,530

Revisions

Edits:	2,483
Editors:	604

Basic information

Watchers:	462
Size:	138,981
Protection:	autoconfirmed
Class:	B

All languages • Redirects



Pageviews Analysis

Comparison of pageviews across multiple pages

Options

Dates Latest ▾

01/02/2020 - 25/03/2020

Date type

Daily ▾

Project

en.wikipedia.org

Platform

All ▾

Agent ⓘ

User ▾

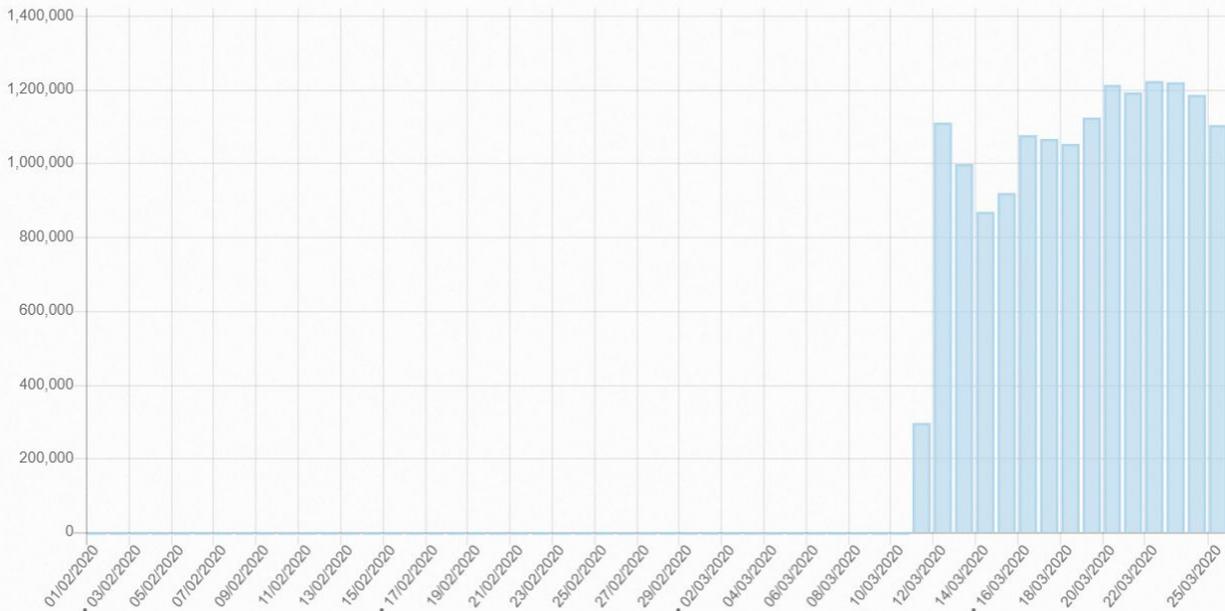
Include redirects ⓘ

Pages Enter up to 10 pages

✕ 2019-20_coronavirus_pandemic ✕ Clear

Chart type Permalink Download ▾

Show values Begin at zero Logarithmic scale



Totals

Pageviews	
Pageviews:	15,653,976
Median:	1,102,968
Daily average:	289,888

Revisions	
Edits:	11,134
Editors:	1,634

Basic information	
Watchers:	1,200
Size:	323,744
Protection:	autoconfirmed
Class:	B

All languages • Redirects

TLDR;

**People are in search of
information**

Neutral point of view

WP:NPOV

“which means representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without editorial bias, all the significant views that have been published by reliable sources on a topic.”

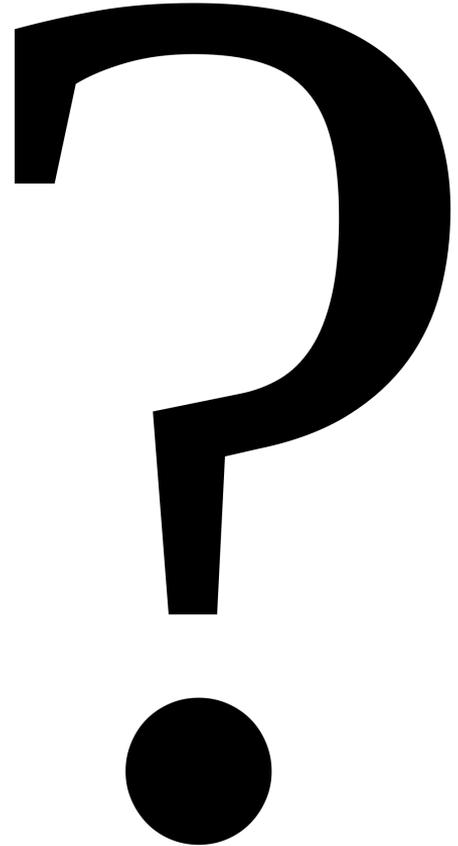




Notability

WP:NOTE

*Information on Wikipedia must be **verifiable**; if no **reliable, independent** sources can be found on a topic, then it should not have a separate article. Wikipedia's concept of notability applies this basic standard to avoid **indiscriminate inclusion** of topics. Article and list topics must be notable, or "worthy of notice".*





Wikipedia: Consensus

Decisions on Wikipedia are primarily made by **consensus**, which is accepted as the best method to achieve Wikipedia's goals, i.e., the **five pillars**. *Consensus* on Wikipedia does not mean unanimity (which is ideal but not always achievable), nor is it the result of a **vote**. Decision making and reaching consensus involve an effort to incorporate all editors' legitimate concerns, while respecting Wikipedia's **policies and guidelines**.

NOAM COHEN IDEAS 03.15.2020 07:00 AM

How Wikipedia Prevents the Spread of Coronavirus Misinformation

A group of hawk-eyed experts operate on a special track to monitor medical information on the site.



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Accept



List of Doctors (read more)

Why Wikipedia is winning against the coronavirus 'infodemic'

Against all odds, Wikipedia's eccentric volunteer editors are holding back the tide of coronavirus misinformation

By **Laurence Dodds**, US TECHNOLOGY REPORTER, SAN FRANCISCO

◆ Premium

3 April 2020 - 6:00am

Related Topics

Social media, Fake news, Coronavirus, Wikipedia, Internet

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future tense

How Wikipedia Became a Battleground for Racial Justice

Contributors are rethinking what Wikipedia's commitment to neutrality actually means.

By STEPHEN HARRISON

JUNE 09, 2020 • 5:46 PM

TWEET

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(Open) Knowledge isn't neutral

**But it can be more representative,
and more fair.**



Thanks!

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@lirazelf