A beginner's guide to editing Wikipedia

A CRUK & Wikimedia UK training module

Your trainer for today

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- Wikipedian since 2005

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http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Today's session

- How to set up your account
- Getting started as an editor
- Adding to the encyclopaedia
- Finding your subject focus

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Setting up a Wikipedia account

- Please create an account, you can see this is the top right corner:

-

Not logged in **Talk** **Contributions** **Create account** Log in

Read | **View source** | **View history** | Search 🔍

Create account

Username   (help me choose)

Enter your username

Password

Enter a password

Confirm password

Enter password again

Email address (optional)

Enter your email address

Security check

piggycrest

↻ Refresh

Enter the text you see above

Can't see the image? Request an account

Create your account

What is Wikipedia?

- Wikipedia is a free encyclopedia that anyone can edit and contribute to

- There are articles written in over 295 languages

- It is one of the largest collaborative projects in history

- It relies on the contribution of people like you

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Why participate?

- We need a diversity of experience
- Wikipedia needs expertise
- ~85% of Wikipedia Editors are male
- Women are generally underrepresented (only 1 in 6 biographies are of women)
- Articles focus on "Global North" subjects and Western culture

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Key points about edits

- No original research
  - Articles should summarise what others have published

- Favour meta-analysis, not analysis

- Give assertions context, e.g use quotation marks to indicate that something is a point of view, not necessarily fact

- Look for the consensus on a subject, not the newest theory

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Key points about edits

- Neutral point of view
  - Articles should be accurate and without bias
  - All significant viewpoints should be considered and included in a balanced way
- Articles should be written in an encyclopaedic style with a formal tone

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Key points about edits

- Conflicts of interest:
- "when advancing outside interests is more important to an editor than advancing the aims of Wikipedia, that editor stands in a conflict of interest"
- Paid contributions without disclosure are against Wikipedia's T&C.
- Always note your affiliation on your user page if it's related to your editing activities.

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Encyclopaedic style

- **Try to stick to all of these**
  - Use plain language
  - Be brief
  - Cite sources to back up factual claims
  - Attribute viewpoints to the people who hold them
  - Avoid stating conclusions
    - Unless attributable to specific sources

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Sources?

- You are allowed to use primary sources…. *Carefully*. Secondary sources are best.
- Scientific journals are preferred
- Original papers can be both primary *and* secondary sources
  E.g the *Abstract* may be a primary source, but the *Introduction* and *Discussion* may be secondary.

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Sources?

Discussion

"The present study shows substance X had an analgesic effect on cats" shows study is primary source.

vs

"The present study shows that substance X had an analgesic effect on cats, thereby supporting the review of Reference1" implying external expert review.

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Sources?

Introduction

"There is ample evidence that X is a risk-factor for Y (Reference1, Reference2, Reference3)."

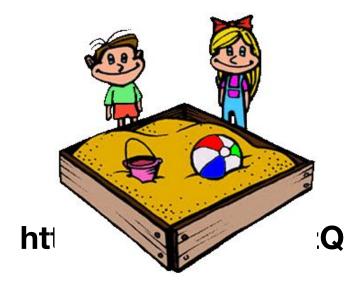So, experts have reviewed the source.

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Your sandbox

- Sandbox pages provide space to experiment with the process of editing Wikipedia pages
- When you are logged in to your User Account you access your sandbox by clicking on the link at the top right of your screen
- The first time you open your sandbox, Wikipedia will automatically create it

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Using your sandbox

- Use your sandbox to practice and experiment
- You can draft new articles in your sandbox first before saving them

ht   :Q

Note: "Edit Source" vs "Edit"?

- Two different types of editing...
  "Edit source" = Wikitext: Like HTML/LaTeX
  "Edit" = Visual Editor: MS Word style writing
- Today we will be using Visual Editor

Read | Edit source | Edit | View history | ☆

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Note: "Edit Source" vs "Edit"?

- On some pages it will default to source editing, if so, go to the pen icon on the far right.

Creating your sandbox

- Go to Wikipedia...

Creating your sandbox

- Go to the sandbox (top right)

StuartPrior   🔔 0   📑 0   Talk   **Sandbox**   Preferences   Beta   Watchlist   Contributions   Log out

Main Page | Talk   Read | View source | View history | ☆ | Search 🔍

Welcome to Wikipedia,

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.

5,098,685 articles in English

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- **All portals**

From today's featured article

Ellen Wilkinson (1891–1947) was a British Labour Party politician, Member of Parliament (MP) for Jarrow from 1935 to 1947 and Minister of Education from July 1945 until her death. In 1936 she was a leader of the Jarrow March, an iconic symbol of 1930s unemployment and impoverishment. On graduating from the University of Manchester in 1913, Wilkinson worked mainly as
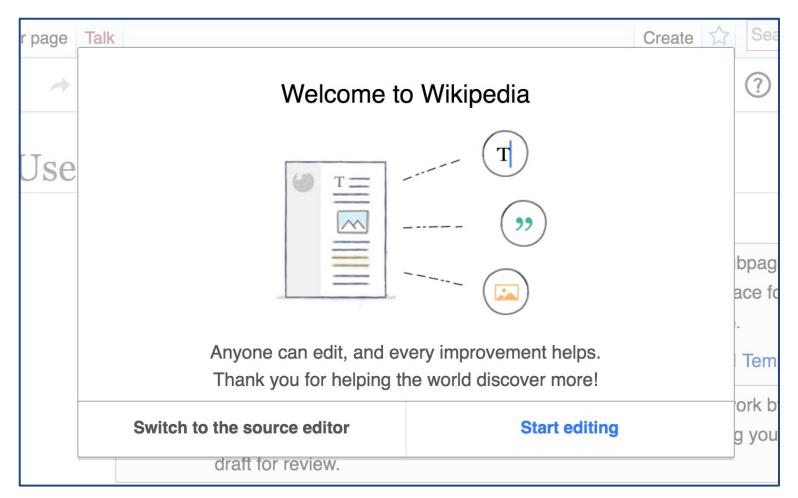
In the news

- The Human Rights Protection Party, led by Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi (pictured), wins a landslide victory in the **Samoan general election**.
- Astronomers announce the

Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi

Pop-Ups

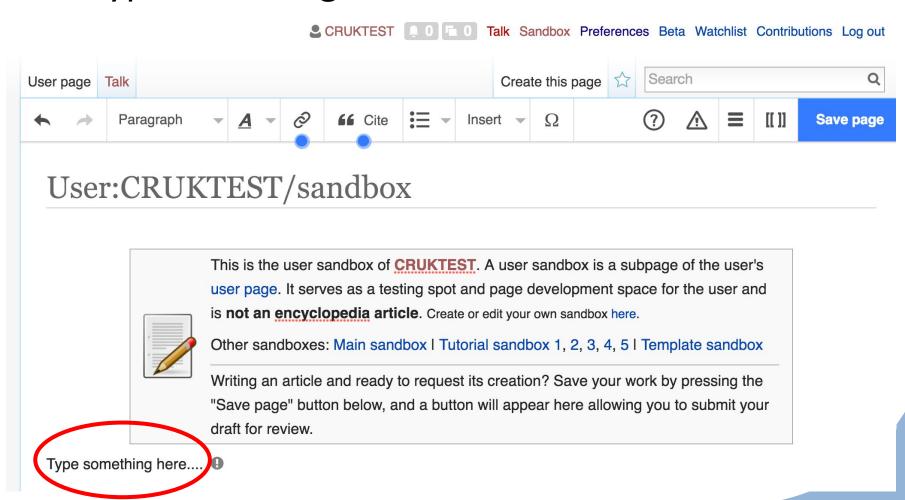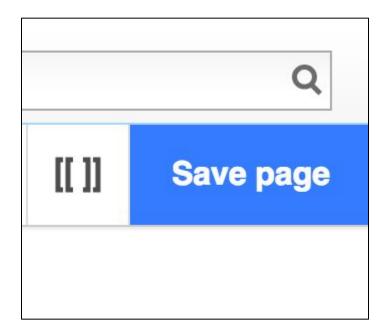**http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ**

Creating your sandbox

- Go to the "Create"...

Creating your sandbox

- Type something below the box...

Creating your sandbox

- Then Save page (top right)...

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Creating your sandbox

- Describe your edit briefly and save again.

Resume editing   Save your changes   **Save page**

Edit summary (Briefly describe your changes)

New page

✓ Watch this page   247

By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the Terms of Use and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the CC BY-SA 3.0 License and the GFDL with the understanding that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution.

Review your changes

Creating your sandbox...

- Now the sandbox has some content, it exists and will show up in blue now where it was a red link before

| User page | Talk | | Read | Edit | View history | ⭐ | Search 🔍 |

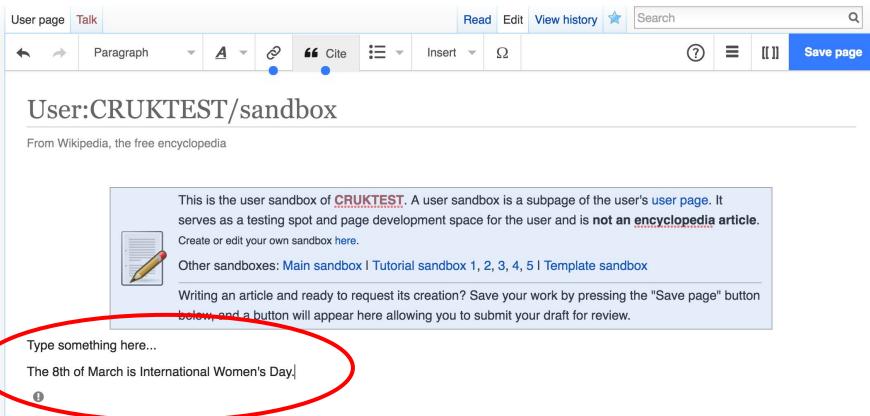## User:CRUKTEST/sandbox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is the user sandbox of **CRUKTEST**. A user sandbox is a subpage of the user's user page. It serves as a testing spot and page development space for the user and is **not an encyclopedia article**. Create or edit your own sandbox here.

Other sandboxes: Main sandbox | Tutorial sandbox 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | Template sandbox

Writing an article and ready to request its creation?

Submit your draft for review!

Type something here...

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Adding citations...

- Go to the "edit" button

Adding citations...

- Type a verifiable statement e.g "The 8th March is International Women's Day"

User page | **Talk** .... Read | Edit | View history | ★ | Search 🔍

↩ → | Paragraph ▾ | **A** ▾ | 🔗 | 66 Cite | ☰ ▾ | Insert ▾ | Ω .... ⓘ | ≡ | [[ ]] | **Save page**

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Writing an article and ready to request its creation? Save your work by pressing the "Save page" button below, and a button will appear here allowing you to submit your draft for review.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day.

ⓘ

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Find an online source to support your statement..

Click the "cite" button...

Add the URL link....

Copy & paste the url of your online source, and click "Generate".

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Congratulations!

Then click "Insert" and you have added a citation.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day.[1]

Back　　　　**Add a citation**

▢ **Website**
"International Women's Day". *International Women's Day*. Retrieved 2016-04-19.

Insert

This page was last m

Text is available unde
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ply. E

Privacy policy　About Wikipedia　Disclaimers　Contact Wikipedia　Developers　Cookie statement　Mobi

http://bit.ly/25XBH2Q

Note: Other citations...

- You can reference using DOI or PMID numbers too with the same method.

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

The Cite tool will auto-populate the PMID/DOI metadata.

Another citation.[2]

Back | Add a citation

☰ **Journal**

Insert

Benson, Dennis A.; Cavanaugh, Mark; Clark, Karen; Karsch-Mizrachi, Ilene; Lipman, David J.; Ostell, James; Sayers, Eric W. (2013-01-01). "GenBank". *Nucleic Acids Research* **41** (Database issue): D36–42. doi:10.1093/nar/gks1195. ISSN 1362-4962. PMC: 3531190. PMID 23193287.

And manual citations...

- The Manual tab will offer you more templates to input data manually..

Next steps?

Please create a Userpage using the same method as you did with your sandbox.

- Please say a little about yourself
- Include profession or field of study
- Affiliated institutions

This helps other editors see your edits in context and be less concerned about conflicts of interest.

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

Create a user page

http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ

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Next steps?

Relevant Wikiprojects for you may be:

- Wikiproject Medicine (enwp.org/WP:MED)

- WikiProject Computational Biology (enwp.org/WP:WCB)

- WikiProject Missing encyclopedic articles/Cancer dictionary

   (Or Google them)

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Thank you!

- Please fill in the signup sheets
- It helps us tell how much gets added to Wikipedia
- It helps us tell who we are reaching

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