Wikipedia:
The Free Encyclopedia

And its relation to free software, by User:Habst

Wikipedia: larger than you think?

- Over 7,000,000 English articles
- Over 40,000,000 articles under other-language Wikipedias (↗)
- Sister projects for dictionaries, how-tos, educational material, etc.
- Articles are generally subject to notability guidelines
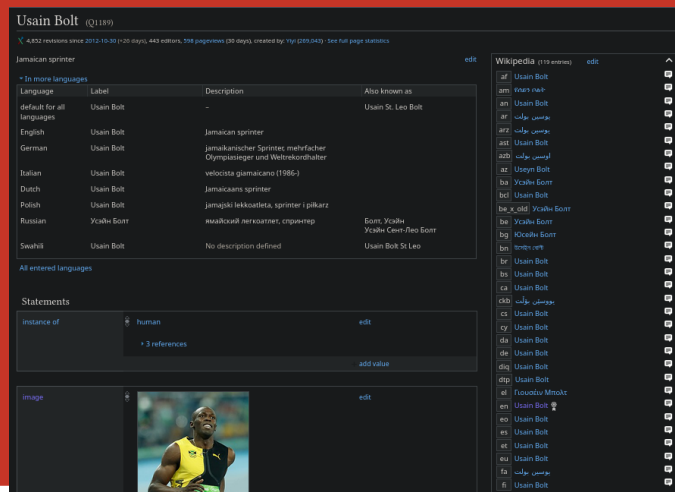- Nearly* all content is freely licensed freely under CC-BY-SA 4.0 or GNU FDL

Wikipedia is backed by Wikidata: CC0

- Each Wikipedia article is linked to a Wikidata item, a structured database (also run by the Wikimedia Foundation) with an even broader scope
- Example for Usain Bolt: (Q1189 ⬈)
- Wikidata:
  - Used to link all the multi-language Wikipedia articles about a topic to the same item
  - Can host arbitrary structured data, subject to certain property constraints
  - Is also editable by the public

The Wikipedia community and free software

- The Wikipedia community is often at the forefront of identifying and compiling freely licensed information on nearly all topics of note
- Ex: SpongeBob case identified by Wikipedians

    - [[Wikipedia:Requests for comment/Spongebob Squarepants is now freely licensed!]]

Automated editing

- Established editors can register bots via a manual review process
- There are also tools like JSWB to do global rule-based editing (⬈)
- My bot: WikiTrackBot https://wikidata.org/wiki/User:WikiTrackBot
- Related: Dozens of "semi-automated editing" scripts (⬈)

Achievements and titles

National finals	
	2016 German U16s
	• 100m, 3rd 🥉
	2019 German U20s
	• 100m, 4th
	2020 German Champs
	• 100m, 6th
	• 200m, 8th
	2020 German U20s
	• 100m, 1st 🥇
	2021 German Champs
	• 200m, 6th
	2021 German U23s
	• 100m, 2nd 🥈
	2022 German Indoors
	• 60m, 8th
	• 200m, 3rd 🥉

Scripts

- User:Habst/getInfoboxNationals.js
- User:Habst/WorldAthletics2Wiki.js
- User:Habst/WorldAthletics2Medalists.js
- User:Habst/getNationalRecords.js
- User:Habst/athPodiumMedalTable.js
- User:Habst/getNCAA17.js
- User:Habst/getNcs.js
- User:Habst/getWaMedalTable.js
- User:Habst/getProgression.js
- User:Habst/getMeetEditions.js
- User:Habst/getWaTour.js
- User:Habst/getKarmarush.js
- User:Habst/getPetscan.js
- User:Habst/mapLocations.js
- User:Habst/generateMarks.js
- User:Habst/getKbr.js
- User:Habst/routes.js
- User:Habst/getWaNews.js
- User:Habst/getWikilinks.js
- User:Habst/getNCAAWinners.js
- User:Habst/roadTo.js
- User:Habst/matchWdWa.js
- User:Habst/matchWdTfrrs.js
- User:Habst/bracket.js
- User:Habst/gbrTable.js
- User:Habst/newspapersCom.js
- User:Habst/getWikiWinners.js
- User:Habst/mostLinks.js
- User:Habst/nameToIOC.js

Threats to Wikipedia

- Wikipedia has been censored (content blocked) in 12 countries: [[Censorship of Wikipedia]]

- In April 2025, USADC Ed Martin threatened revoking Wikipedia's 501c3 status, per [[:wikisource:Letter from Ed Martin to the Wikimedia Foundation]]

- Lastly, organized and unorganized vandalism can be an issue
  - Many mobile data networks are blocked from account creation – start editing on a private or home network if experiencing issues

How to get involved?

● Find a WikiProject that interests you

– Over 2,000 interest-specific communities

● Fix typos and other simple errors

– [[WP:Typo Team]], or
   [[WP:Adopt-a-typo]] provide guidance

● Be [[WP:BOLD]]!

Wikipedia has grammatical and orthographic mistakes! See? Were this a serious publication, I would send a letter to the director, and another to the editorial chief!

Wouldn't it be easier and faster to just correct them yourself?

Staying in touch

- Wikimedia NYC: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/NYC/Discord

- WikiProject Athletics Discord: https://discord.gg/drdrpyXNv5

- My user page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Habst

- My email: habs@sdf.org

Questions?