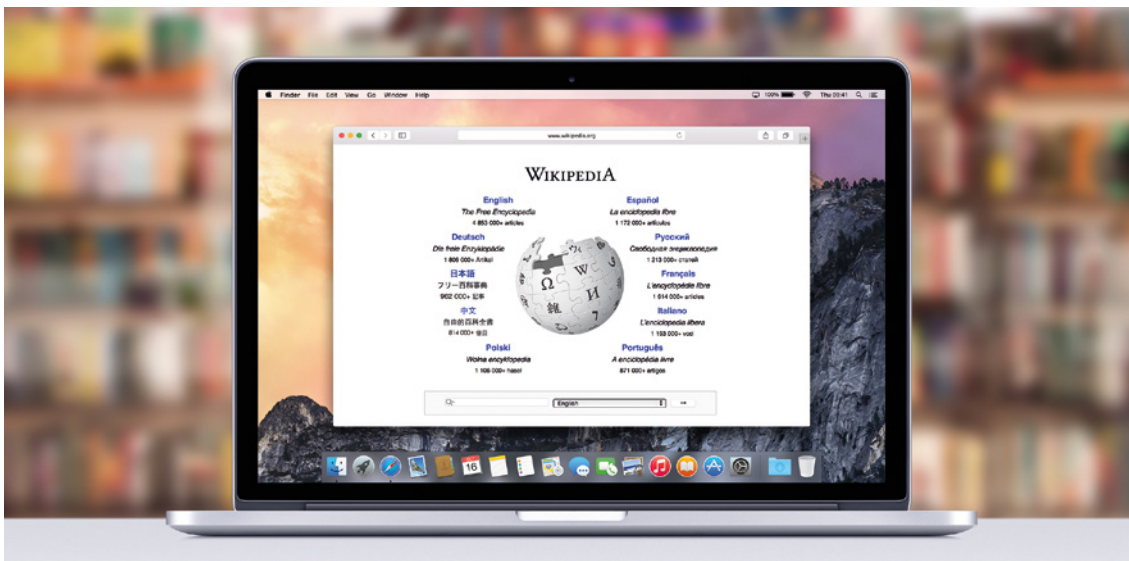# Wikipedia

Wikipedia is a free encyclopedia, which is written collaboratively by its same users. Several people all over the world are constantly amending, feeding and improving it, making thousands of changes per hour. All of these changes are visible and recorded in article stories and 'recent changes' so that everyone can see who has done what.

Like most wikis, Wikipedia is easy to use and anyone can edit almost every page. Everyone can look for something and, if they think it can be improved they make it better. Amendments include spelling, grammar, rewriting for readability, adding content, or removing non-constructive edits. When adding new facts, users need to provide references so they may be verified, or they have to suggest them on the discussion page of the article. Changes to controversial topics and Wikipedia main pages should usually be discussed first. The place where edits are made is called the sandbox: new text can be typed or, if there is already some text there, it can be added. Changes can be tested by clicking Show Preview and if everything looks perfect, it can be immediately published just by clicking Publish Changes.

Wikipedia is allowed to be imperfect because all edits can be fixed or improved later. This is one of the reasons why some people are against it and predict its end. Criticism of Wikipedia has been directed at its content, its procedures, the character and practices of its community and its nature as an open-source encyclopedia that anyone can edit. The principal concerns of its critics are the factual reliability of its content and the existence of biases among the editors. Wikipedia also has been criticized for uneven handling, acceptance, and retention of articles on controversial topics.

ACTIVITIES

1 *Answer the following questions.*
1 What is Wikipedia?
2 Who is it written by?
3 How can users see previous amendments?
4 Who can edit and create Wikipedia pages?
5 What kind of amendments can be made?
6 What is the sandbox?
7 How can changes be tested?
8 Why are some people against it?

2 *Translate the following words into Italian.*
1 To amend ....
2 To feed ....
3 Readability ....
4 Edit (noun) ....
5 Concern ....
6 Handling (noun) ....
7 Uneven ....
8 Retention ....

3 *Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Wikipedia in a short paragraph.*

4 *What is Wikileaks? When and why did it become famous? Do an internet search and write a short text to present your findings.*