



Wikis

Creating Collaboration in Libraries

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What is a wiki?

- Allows people to collaboratively develop a Web site without any tech-savvy (no HTML)
- Like a content management system
- Wiki = quick (in Hawaiian)
- All community members can add to or edit the work of others



Good things about wikis

- Easy to use
 - Web-based
 - Simple syntax
- Anyone can make changes
- Free and open source options
- Searchable and browse-able



Not so good things about wikis

- Disorganized
- Too open
- No control
- Vandalism and spam

Wikis aren't for everyone. If control is a major issue with the site you're developing, then a wiki may not be right for your project.

Wikis in Practice

Wiki as Subject Guide



The screenshot displays the main page of 'The Biz Wiki'. At the top left is the 'The Biz Wiki' logo. The main heading reads 'Main Page' and 'Welcome to the Ohio University Libraries Biz Wiki'. Below this, there are navigation links for 'General Business', 'International Business', 'Company Information', 'Industry Information', 'Marketing Information', and 'Research How-To's', along with a 'Browse A-Z' link. A search bar is present with the instruction: 'Select a Category to get started, or use the search box to the left. For more Biz Wiki tips, please visit the Help Page.' A descriptive paragraph follows: 'The Biz Wiki is a collection of business information resources available through Ohio University Libraries. It is designed to assist business researchers including the links resources for their projects or topics. The Biz Wiki contains articles about business reference books, databases, websites, and other research guides. Nearly all of the resources will only be available to current members of the Ohio University community, as many of the resources are subscription databases at local reference resources. To learn more about the Biz Wiki, visit the About Biz Wiki page.' At the bottom, there are two featured sections: 'Latest Business Blog Post' with the title '50 Start-Ups to Live With' and 'Featured Biz Wiki Article' with the title 'No good Deeds Research Reports: Report Cards Research Reports'.

Wiki as Website/CMS



Wiki as Course Management System



Wiki as Staff Intranet

Public Services Wiki

This guide is for the public service staff at Norwich University to provide better reference, ILL, and circulation assistance to our patrons.

[Contents page](#)

[Reference Resources](#)

[Assignments](#)

[Known Technology Problems](#)

[Technology Fixes](#)

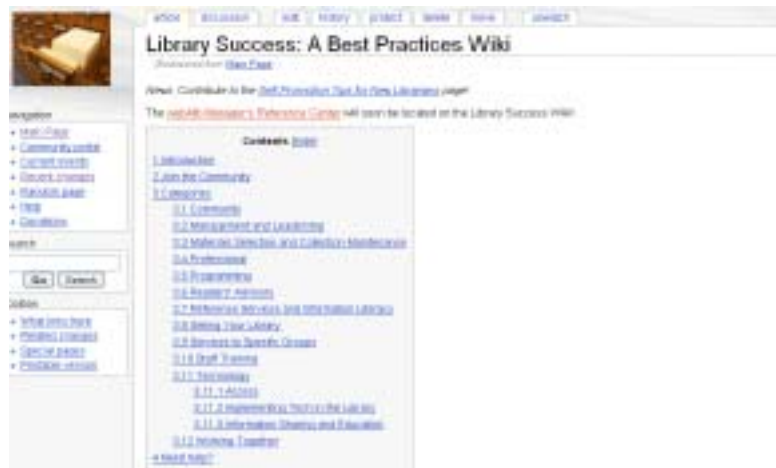
[Announcements](#)

[Miscellaneous Information](#)

[Answers to Common Distance Learning-Related Questions](#)

[OGP Residency FAQ & Suggested Improvement Page](#)

Wiki as Knowledgebase



The screenshot shows a MediaWiki page titled "Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki". The page content includes a "Contents" page link and a list of topics such as "1. Introduction", "2. Join the Community", "3. Categories", "3.1. Comments", "3.2. Management and Licensing", "3.3. Metadata, Services, and Collection Maintenance", "3.4. Professional", "3.5. Professional", "3.6. Residency Services", "3.7. Reference Services and Other Online Library", "3.8. Being Your Library", "3.9. Services to Specific Groups", "3.10. Staff Training", "3.11. Technology", "3.11.1. ILL/RSB", "3.11.2. Implementing ILL/RSB in the Library", "3.11.3. Information Systems and Education", "3.12. Outreach, Outreach", and "4. Next Steps". The page also features a search bar and a sidebar with navigation links like "Main Page", "Community Portal", "Recent Events", "Recent Changes", "Random Page", "Help", and "Guidelines".

Wiki as Guidebook



Other Uses of Wikis

- Conference planning
- Collaborative document editing
- Technology Instruction Manuals
- Meeting management



Starting Your Own Wiki

1. Choose wiki software

- Wiki Farms: Managed on a company's server. Less control but easier to use.
 - PBWiki (pbwiki.com)
 - WetPaint (www.wetpaint.com).
- Server software: You install it on your own server. More control and flexibility. More work involved in management.
 - MediaWiki (www.mediawiki.org)
 - PmWiki (twiki.org)
- The [WikiMatrix](#) can help you choose the right software for your needs



Starting a Wiki (cont'd)

2. Install software to prevent spam
3. Seed the wiki with content
4. Create documentation for wiki novices
5. Start publicizing it!



Questions? Comments?

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