

DU Learning Guide

Wikis

'I can actually add my knowledge to the web!'

What's it all about?

A Wiki is named after the Hawaiian word for 'fast'. It is a website that anyone can add to, correct, or change, while looking at it in a web browser. It doesn't need special software, or a lot of skill to do this. Wikis are often used to enable collaboration between people on different computers, for community events, and have even been used to help people contribute to the writing of books.

The most famous Wiki is Wikipedia, an Internet based encyclopaedia. One person, or a group of people, start it off and others contribute to pages, edit other people's contributions and comment on the content. The idea is that a consensus is reached over time about the subject being described, which ensures that there are few inaccuracies. Due to the large numbers of people, facts can be checked and verified in a collaborative way.

Try this

- Type www.wikipedia.org into the address bar of your browser
- Press **Enter** to display the Wikipedia home page
- Click on the link **English**
- Move your mouse to the word Search on the left hand side of the screen, and click in the box below it
- Type a topic that you are interested in. Note that a list of word appears beneath the Search Box to prompt you. Press **Enter**.
- A page will be displayed with information and links to other pages on related topics.

If you would like to create your own Wiki, see Learner Guide: **Set up a Wiki**

More Wikis to explore

Wikiquote http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page	A collection of quotations from famous people contributed by internet users
List of Wikis www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wikis	A list of Wikis on different subjects and with different purposes
Wikia www.wikia.com	This is a 'Wiki farm', a collection of Wikis on a wide range of subjects