

The Wonderful World of Wikis

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The Free Encyclopedia

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Centre for Bioscience

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article is **orphaned** as few or no other articles link to it.

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The **Centre for Bioscience** is one of 24 subject centres within the [Higher Education Academy](#). The Centre supports teaching in UK higher education to improve student learning across the biosciences.

The Centre is based at the [University of Leeds](#) and works across the UK with individual academics, bioscience departments, professional bodies, employers and students to enhance and share effective practice to improve the student learning experience.

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Activities

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Publications and Resources

[\[edit\]](#)



Why am I interested in it?

- 1st year student essay on “why studying cells and tissues is important in science?”
- I was amazed how many students cited Wikipedia in their references and Turnitin identified it as a common source of similar information.

Aims

- Analysis of Turnitin reports to see the extent of the problem?
- What were students' perceptions of using it?
- Should students be using it?

Turnitin Analysis

- Use of W in reference lists and whether W was identified as a similar source.
- Only assessed significant matches i.e. >2% similarity.
- Caveat – T might actually be underestimating:
 - Doesn't always go to 1y source of info.
 - Doesn't always identify news or very recent info.

Citing Wikipedia?

- Out of 76 students:
 - 29% cited W in their reference lists.
 - 4% cited W more than once.

5

In most gene therapy studies, a "normal" gene is inserted into the genome to replace an "abnormal," disease-causing gene. A carrier molecule called a vector must be used to deliver the therapeutic gene to the patient's target cells. Currently, the most common vector is a virus that has been genetically altered to carry normal human DNA. Viruses have evolved a way of encapsulating and delivering their genes to human cells in a pathogenic manner. Scientists have tried to take advantage of this capability and manipulate the virus genome to remove disease-causing genes and insert therapeutic genes. 5

1

Target cells such as the patient's liver or lung cells are infected with the viral vector. The vector then unloads its genetic material containing the therapeutic human gene into the target cell. The generation of a functional protein product from the therapeutic gene restores the target cell to a normal state.

Besides virus-mediated gene-delivery systems, there are several nonviral options for gene delivery. The simplest method is the direct introduction of therapeutic DNA into target cells. This approach is limited in its application because it can be used only with certain tissues and requires large amounts of DNA. 4

1

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- 2 15% match (internet from 02/11/06)
<http://www.njstemcell.org>
- 3 8% match (internet)
<http://stemcells.nih.gov>
- 4 6% match (internet)
<http://www.ishc.net>
- 5 4% match (internet from 01/12/06)
<http://en.wikipedia.org>
- 6 3% match (internet from 28/11/06)
<http://www.wchs8.com>
- 7 2% match (internet from 10/10/06)
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Overall Similarity Index: 77%

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mode:

One very important application of

the study of cells and tissue is the science of

5

pathology. Pathology

is the study of the processes underlying disease and other forms of illness, harmful abnormality, or dysfunction. Within biology but also a branch of medicine, it means specifically the study and diagnosis of the structural and functional changes in cells, tissues and organs that underlie disease. Pathology as a field of knowledge forms the basis of the scientific reasoning behind the practice of medicine.

5

Without pathology hospitals would not be able to function as it would be almost impossible to diagnose diseases.

Essential to everyday surgeries, pathologists are responsible for processing and reporting on all specimens generated during surgery. Tissue samples are taken from the submitted specimens, stained, and processed for microscopic evaluation. Microscopic examination searches for disease of any type and this information is returned to the surgeon via a pathology report.²

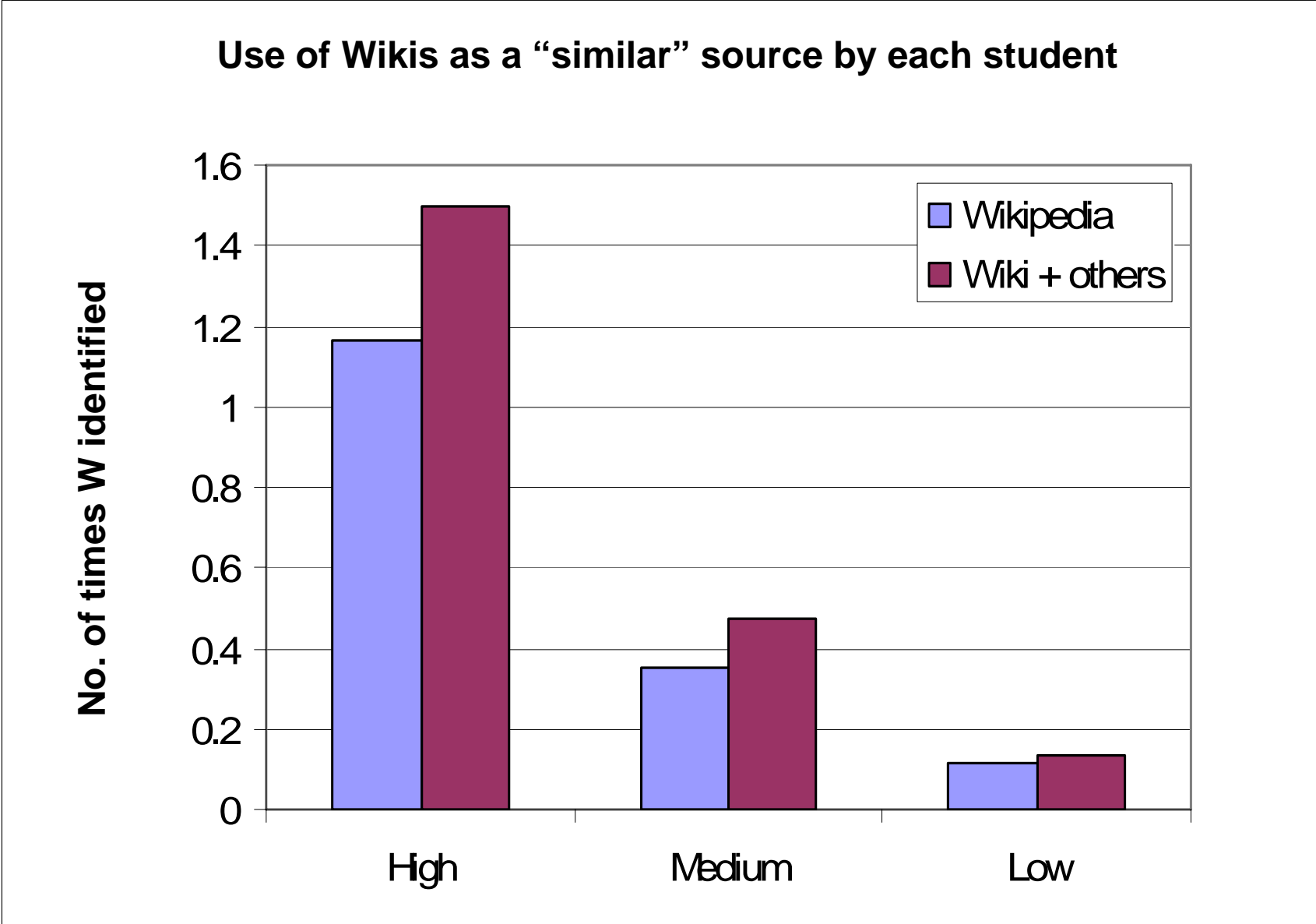
7

There are

- 1 31% match (internet from 14/11/06)
<http://www.cpet.ufl.edu>
- 2 15% match (internet from 02/11/06)
<http://www.njstemcell.org>
- 3 8% match (internet)
<http://stemcells.nih.gov>
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<http://www.ishc.net>
- 5 4% match (internet from 01/12/06)
<http://en.wikipedia.org>
- 6 3% match (internet from 28/11/06)
<http://www.wchs8.com>
- 7 2% match (internet from 10/10/06)
<http://en.wikipedia.org>
- 8 1% match (student papers from 31/03/06)
[Submitted to Queen Mary and Westfield College](#)
- 9 1% match (student papers from 14/12/06)

Levels of similarity	Number of students	Average no. of T similar sources
High (>50%)	6	7.2
Moderate (25-50%)	17	4.0
Low (<25%)	53	1.5

How many times was W cited as a similar source?

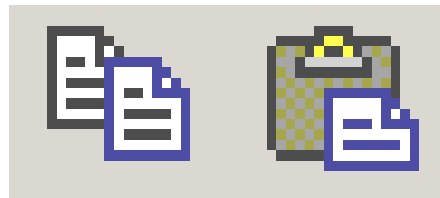


“Others”

- Websites that use Wikipedia information or are alternative Wikis:
- <http://www.witwib.com>
- <http://www.biologydaily.com>
- <http://www.unipedia.info>
- <http://www.encyclopedia.com>
- <http://www.wikifaq.com>

Summary

- Surprisingly (to me) high number (third) of 1st year students cited Wikipedia as a scientific resource.
- There was a relationship between use of Wikipedia and poorer academic practice.



To WIKI or not to WIKI, that is
the question?

The Yay's....



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From **The Times**
April 11, 2007

Wikipedia a force for good? Nonsense, says a co-founder

Alexandra Frean, Education Editor

The founder of the Wikipedia online encyclopaedia criticised the Education Secretary yesterday for suggesting that the website could be a good educational tool for children.

Mr Johnson described the internet as "an incredible force for good in education" for teachers and pupils, singling out Wikipedia for praise.

"Wikipedia enables anybody to access information which was once the preserve only of those who could afford the subscription to Encyclopaedia Britannica and could spend the time necessary to navigate its maze of indexes and content pages," he told the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolteachers and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) in Belfast.

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TIMES RECOMMENDS

- > UK headed for cyber 'cold war'
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- > The games helmet that reads minds

Jim Giles, 2005, Nature paper.



The image is a screenshot of a CNET News.com webpage. At the top left is the CNET News.com logo. To its right is a search bar with the text "Search:". Below the logo and search bar is a navigation menu with several green buttons: "Today on CNET", "Reviews", "News", "Downloads", "Tips & Tricks", "CNET TV", "Compare Prices", and "Blogs". Below this menu is a secondary navigation bar with blue links: "Business Tech", "Cutting Edge", "Green Tech", "Access", "Threats", "Media 2.0", "Markets", "Personal Tech", and "News Blogs". The main headline is "Study: Wikipedia as accurate as Britannica" in large, bold black text. Below the headline, it says "By Daniel Terdiman", "Staff Writer, CNET News.com", and "Published: December 15, 2005, 3:35 PM PST". There are social sharing icons for TalkBack, E-mail, Print, del.icio.us, and Digg this. The main text begins with a bolded paragraph: "Wikipedia is about as good a source of accurate information as Britannica, the venerable standard-bearer of facts about the world around us, according to a study published this week in the journal Nature." The next paragraph starts with "Over the last couple of weeks, Wikipedia, the free, open-access encyclopedia, has taken a great deal of flak in the press for problems related to the credibility of its authors and its general accountability." On the right side of the page, there is a blue graphic with a grid pattern and a small "Ad Fe" label.

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Study: Wikipedia as accurate as Britannica

By Daniel Terdiman
Staff Writer, CNET News.com
Published: December 15, 2005, 3:35 PM PST

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Wikipedia is about as good a source of accurate information as Britannica, the venerable standard-bearer of facts about the world around us, according to a study published this week in the journal Nature.

Over the last couple of weeks, Wikipedia, the free, open-access encyclopedia, has taken a great deal of flak in the press for problems related to the credibility of its authors and its general accountability.

Ad Fe

...but actually,

- Jim Giles, 2005, Nature paper.
- Analysed 42 subjects.
- Wikipedia (162 errors) contained a third **more** errors than Encyclopedia Britannica (124 total errors).

Student perception

- Discussions in 4 CAL lab tutorials (n=21).
- Wikipedia is popular with students “one of the first places I look for information”.
- Lack of understanding of what good scientific evidence was and how to identify it.
- I wanted to harvest their enthusiasm for it to demonstrate good scientific practice.

Exercise

- Worksheet on the topic of flatulence (as part of gut physiology lecture series).
- Comparison of Wikipedia to Medline resources, looking at accuracy, currency, authority, etc.

Accuracy...

- Looked at whether a statement was factually correct:
- *“Anything that causes food to be incompletely digested in the small intestine may cause flatulence when the material arrives in the large intestine due to fermentation, particularly if yeast organisms are present”. Wikipedia 2007*

Accuracy...

- *“Certain spices counteract the production of intestinal gas, most notably cumin, caraway.....”. Wikipedia 2007.*

Students' conclusions

- It is not robust scientific evidence.
- Unknown authorship makes citation difficult.
- Could be used to generate key words when faced with a new subject.

Authorship

(talk) (undo)

- (cur) (last)  15:56, 6 November 2007 63.119.100.34 (Talk) (30,100 bytes) (*Who wants to cure farting? It's natural!*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  05:12, 4 November 2007 JackSchmidt (Talk | contribs) m (33,371 bytes) (*Reverted edits by 24.211.112.158 to last version by ClueBot*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  05:08, 4 November 2007 24.211.112.158 (Talk) (33,435 bytes) (*→Composition of flatus gases*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  05:07, 4 November 2007 ClueBot (Talk | contribs) (33,371 bytes) (*Reverting possible vandalism by Special:Contributions/24.211.112.158 to version by Loonymonkey. If this is a mistake, report it. Thanks, ClueBot. (53881) (Bot)*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  05:06, 4 November 2007 24.211.112.158 (Talk) (33,414 bytes) (*→Explanation*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  01:15, 4 November 2007 Loonymonkey (Talk | contribs) m (33,371 bytes) (*Reverted 3 edits by 72.155.228.24 identified as vandalism to last revision by Soulseraph. using r/v*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  01:15, 4 November 2007 72.155.228.24 (Talk) (33,424 bytes) (*→Causes or "Farting"*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  01:15, 4 November 2007 72.155.228.24 (Talk) (33,423 bytes) (*→Causes*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  01:14, 4 November 2007 72.155.228.24 (Talk) (33,411 bytes) (*→Explanation*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  05:45, 3 November 2007 Soulseraph (Talk | contribs) (33,371 bytes) (*Removed snippet about the "Dutch Oven" as an endearing practice.*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  21:39, 2 November 2007 Ctjf83 (Talk | contribs) (33,525 bytes) (*rv vandalism*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  21:38, 2 November 2007 Romeo Girl (Talk | contribs) (33,524 bytes) (*→Explanation*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  21:38, 2 November 2007 Ctjf83 (Talk | contribs) m (33,525 bytes) (*Reverted edits by Romeo Girl to last version by 141.151.24.241*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  21:37, 2 November 2007 Romeo Girl (Talk | contribs) (33,552 bytes) (*→Composition of flatus gases*) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  04:16, 2 November 2007 141.151.24.241 (Talk) (33,525 bytes) (undo)
- (cur) (last)  00:21, 2 November 2007 CounterVandalismBot (Talk | contribs) m (33,371 bytes) (*Automatically reverting possible vandalism by 68.126.153.61 to last good revision by 164.167.34.67*) (undo)

Vandalism

- Barking spiders.
- Barbra Streisand.

My conclusions

- Giving 1st years a free reign to use W is a useful way of discussing scientific evidence and developing critical evaluation skills.
- I wouldn't expect yr 2 and 3 students to cite Wikipedia!
- Too many intrinsic problems to be a reliable source but some of this is changing.
- Universities are using W in creative ways to assess student contributions, rather than a blanket ban.

Bill Gates - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Gates

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Bill Gates

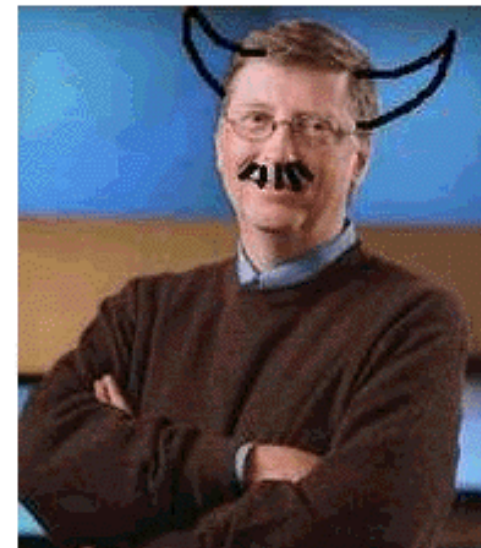
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

For other uses, see [Bill Gates \(disambiguation\)](#).

William Henry Gates III (born [October 28, 1955](#)) is the co-founder, [chairman](#), and [chief software architect](#) of [Microsoft Corporation](#), the world's largest [computer software](#) company. According to *Forbes* magazine, Gates is the world's wealthiest person, with a [net worth](#) of approximately US\$51 billion, as of September 2005^[3].

Gates is one of the best-known entrepreneurs of the [personal computer](#) revolution and has become an iconic figure of late-20th century [capitalism](#). While widely

Bill Gates



December 19, 2005: Another geek with a crayon edits Wikipedia

<http://www.wikipedia-watch.org/vandals.html>