

# Internet encyclopedia

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An **Internet encyclopedia** is an [encyclopedia](#) accessible via the World Wide Web. The idea to build a free encyclopedia using the [Internet](#) can be traced at least to the 1993 [Interpedia](#) proposal; it was planned as an encyclopedia on the Internet to which everyone could contribute materials. The project never left the planning stage and it was overtaken by a key branch of old printed encyclopedias.

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## Digitization of old content

In January 1995, [Project Gutenberg](#) started to publish the [ASCII](#) text of the *[Encyclopædia Britannica](#)*, 11th edition (1911), but disagreement about the method halted the work after the first volume. For trademark reasons this has been published as the Gutenberg Encyclopedia. In 2002, ASCII text of and 48 sounds of music was published on <http://1911encyclopedia.org/> by source; a copyright claim was added to the materials, but it probably has no legal validity<sup>[\[original research?\]](#)</sup> . Project Gutenberg has restarted work on digitising and proofreading this encyclopedia; as of June 2005 it had not yet been published. Meanwhile, in the face of competition from rivals such as [Encarta](#), the latest *Britannica* was digitized by its publishers, and sold first as a CD-ROM and later as an online service. Other digitization projects have made progress in other titles. One example is *[Easton's Bible Dictionary \(1897\)](#)* digitized by the [Christian Classics Ethereal Library](#). Probably the most important and successful digitization of an encyclopedia was the [Bartleby Project](#)'s online adaptation of the Columbia Encyclopedia, tenth Edition, <http://www.bartleby.com/65/> in early 2000 and is updated periodically.

## Creation of new content

Another related branch of activity is the creation of new, free contents on a volunteer basis. In 1991, the participants of the [Usenet](#) newsgroup [alt.fan.douglas-adams](#) <sup>[1]</sup> started a project to produce a real version of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a fictional encyclopedia used in the works of [Douglas Adams](#). It became known as Project Galactic Guide. Although it originally aimed to contain only real, factual articles, policy was changed to allow and encourage semi-real and unreal articles as well. Project Galactic Guide contains over 1700 articles, but no new articles have been added since 2000; this is probably partly due to the founding of [h2g2](#), a more official project along similar lines.

## Encyclopedias that are no longer online

- [Interpedia](#), 1993
- [Nupedia](#), a slow-moving project to produce a free peer reviewed encyclopedia. Nupedia shut down on September 26, 2003, and much of its content has since been assimilated by Wikipedia.
- [GNE](#), an initiative which did not come to fruition. GNE was abandoned in favour of [Nupedia](#) once Nupedia adopted the [GNU Free Documentation License](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

## Current online encyclopedias

Main article: [List of online encyclopedias](#)

- [Baidu Baike](#) – a Chinese collaborative online encyclopedia hosted by the major Chinese search engine [Baidu](#)
- [Citizendium](#) – a project opened in March 2007 by [Larry Sanger](#)
- [Conservapedia](#) – a project to create an encyclopedia written from a viewpoint supportive of [Conservative Christianity](#) and [Young Earth creationism](#)
- [Enciclopedia Libre](#) – a [Spanish](#) fork of the Spanish Wikipedia, using [wiki](#) software, released under the [GFDL](#).
- [Everything2](#) – has a wider range and does not exclusively focus on building an encyclopedia; its contents are not available under a [copyleft](#) license
- [h2g2](#) – a collection of sometimes humorous encyclopedia articles, based on an idea from Douglas Adams's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Articles are not freely redistributable.
- [Hudong](#) – remains to be the largest single-language encyclopedia in the world As of June 2009 with 3,142,395 articles. Uses its own HDWiki software.
- [Cathopedia](#) / [Kathpedia](#) – a Catholic Wiki which relies on the Bible as the guiding principle; German and Italian.
- [Metapedia](#) – a [white nationalist](#) encyclopedia; multiple languages
- [New World Encyclopedia](#), sponsored by the [Unification Church](#)
- [Open Site](#) – Internet encyclopedia founded in an effort to build a free categorized community-built encyclopedia, inspired by the [Open Directory Project](#).
- [OrthodoxWiki](#) – a wiki for Orthodox Christianity; multiple languages

- [Project Galactic Guide](#) – inspired by *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, was one of the first Internet encyclopedia projects
- [Scholarpedia](#) – an English-language encyclopedia written by academics
- [Te Ara](#) – the online encyclopedia of New Zealand
- [Theopedia](#) – an encyclopedia of Biblical Christianity; English and Spanish
- [Wikipedia](#) – the largest encyclopedia (in overall number of articles written in different languages), and the largest in English
- [WikiPilipinas](#) – a take on the Wikipedia model from the [Philippine](#) point-of-view

## Limited scope

- [SourceWatch](#) (formerly [Disinfopedia](#)) – a project to expose [propaganda](#) and paid spin doctors
- [Laptopsedia](#) – a [laptops](#) encyclopedia. Contains articles on the subject of [technology](#) and [laptops](#).

Several online encyclopedias focus on mathematics:

- [MathWorld](#) — a proprietary system hosted at Wolfram Research.
- [PlanetMath](#) — a free Wiki-style mathematical encyclopedia which was originally built to replace [MathWorld](#), a proprietary system hosted at Wolfram Research which was down for some time due to legal difficulties. Since MathWorld has returned, PlanetMath has still thrived.
- [The QED Project](#) — was a project to establish a "distributed, computerized repository that rigorously represents all important, established mathematical knowledge."

## See also

- [Digital library](#)
- [List of encyclopedias](#)
- [List of online encyclopedias](#)
- [Reference software](#)

## References

1. [^ The Free Encyclopedia Project](#) gnu.org

## External links

- [NeoDex](#)
- [Bulbapedia](#)
- [L'encyclopédie de Diderot et d'Alembert](#)
- [Ecured](#)

