

Expanding knowledge on Africa through the Wikimedia movement

Wikimedia has pledged to close the gap in African content as part of their global movement strategy towards a more racially, culturally and geographically inclusive Wikimedia (of which international online encyclopaedia Wikipedia is a key project).



Orelle Kabeya and Exauce Kabeya with Wikifundi 2.0. Photographer: Isla Haddow-Flood.

[Wikifundi](#) 2.0 is now being rolled out to enable Wikipedia networks, schools and other groups, communities and institutions to contribute articles to this expansion of African knowledge, even when contributors or students are offline.

Wiki In Africa empowers and engages the citizens of Africa and its diaspora to collect, develop and contribute open educational and relevant content that relates to the theme of Africa under a free license; and to engage in global knowledge systems by encouraging access to, awareness of, and support for open knowledge, the open movement and the Wikimedia projects, working in collaboration with like-minded organisations.



The startling numbers behind Africa's Wikipedia knowledge gaps

Andy Walker 26 Jun 2018



WikiAfrica is an international movement that takes place on the African continent and beyond. It encourages individuals, interested groups and organisations to create, expand and enhance online content about Africa. This involves motivating for the representation of the continent's contemporary realities and history, its peoples and its innovations on the world's most used encyclopaedia, Wikipedia. WikiAfrica is not owned by one organisation and it belongs to all people and organisations contributing to its scope.

Open source

Wiki In Africa has announced the launch of version 2 of WikiFundi. [WikiFundi](#) is an open-source editing platform that provides an offline editable environment with a similar experience to editing Wikipedia online. This version has been tailored to further assist and support educators and community leaders as they introduce students and members to how local

knowledge is collated, transcribed and shared with global audiences.

WikiFundi provides the ability for teachers, wikipedia communities and NGOs working in the knowledge space to learn about editing Wikipedia and contributing knowledge when internet access and electricity outages fail or are not available at all. It enables individuals, groups and communities to work on articles collaboratively. Once completed and when connected to the internet, these articles can be uploaded to Wikipedia.

WikiFundi 2.0 was released in November 2018, with a beta version released to the Wikimedia community at Wikimania Cape Town in July 2018. This new, streamlined release has seen the addition of a host of new features and resources. The changes provided options for those who are interested in using WikiFundi.

The release was separated into language versions, with updated training and educator guidelines. The larger or "max" releases host additional education elements, such as offline, full text and image versions of Wikipedia, Wikitionary, WikiSource, Wikiquote and Wiki Medicine. The "min" or light versions have just WikiFundi and resources for training and introduction sessions.

WikiFundi is designed to be accessed via a Raspberry Pi 3. For the technically savvy, the releases are available for download and personal set up on own equipment. For those who want the full experience plus additional elements, pre-loaded [WikiFundi boxes can be bought from the website](#).

Projects

After the initial launch of WikiFundi in January 2017, the offline package was dispatched via projects to 14 countries across Africa via three programmes. The first was through [WikiChallenge African Schools](#) (a part of the Digital Schools programme of the Orange Foundation). Conducted in French, WikiChallenge encouraged primary schools to develop articles for Vikidia (www.vikidia.org) that showcased an important local geographical or heritage space.

Primary schools in Guinée, Tunisia, Niger, and Mali entered. The second programme, [WikiAfrica Schools](#), was piloted in South Africa during 2017 using the platform.

WikiFundi was also distributed via the Wiki In Africa project, Wikipack Africa. This package was developed to support the outreach and training efforts of Wikimedia communities across Africa. As part of Wikipack, WikiFund is being used by Wikimedia usergroups and organisations in Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Wikipack Africa is being used to extend their Wikimedia outreach work to rural areas, and to use as a backup during training when vital electricity and connectivity fails in their countries.

Wiki Fundi was conceptualised, created and managed by Florence Devouard and Isla Haddow-Flood at [Wiki In Africa](#) to support the [WikiAfrica movement](#) and Wikimedia volunteers across Africa, and provide an easy-to-use teaching tool for educators across Africa.

This second version of the platform has been developed by Florence Devouard (Anthere), Emmanuel Engelhard (Kelson), Florent Kaisser, Renaud Gaudin, and other members of the community, in collaboration with Kiwix and Wikimedia CH.

The enhancements to WikiFundi have been funded by the Wikimedia Foundation. WikiFundi was initially developed in collaboration with Wikimedia CH and was supported by the Orange Foundation.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>