# Wikimedia Foundation adopts AI to support volunteer editors without replacing them



The Wikimedia Foundation has unveiled a new strategy to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into Wikipedia with a clear focus on supporting, rather than replacing, its community of volunteer editors. This approach aims to enhance the experience of those who contribute to Wikipedia while maintaining the platform's core values and editorial integrity.

The foundation announced that its AI-developed features will primarily serve to alleviate the workload of volunteers by automating routine and technical tasks. These include processes such as translating and adapting common topics, which will streamline the sharing of local perspectives and contextual information. The introduction of AI is also intended to assist new volunteers through guided mentorship, helping them navigate Wikipedia's editing environment more effectively.

The overarching goal is to enable Wikipedia editors to dedicate more time to the critical tasks of thinking, building consensus, and carefully creating or updating entries, thus preserving the human oversight that is integral to Wikipedia’s reliability. The Wikimedia Foundation emphasises that even with AI assistance, human agency remains paramount. In their announcement on Meta-Wiki, the foundation stressed adherence to principles such as privacy, human rights, transparency, and a nuanced approach to multilingualism.

"We believe that our future work with AI will be successful not only because of what we do, but how we do it," the foundation stated. "Our efforts will use our long-held values, principles, and policies (like privacy and human rights) as a compass: we will take a human-centered approach and will prioritise human agency; we will prioritise using open-source or open-weight AI; we will prioritise transparency; and we will take a nuanced approach to multilinguality, a fundamental part of Wikipedia."

This strategy comes at a time when AI is often viewed as a threat to human jobs in content creation and beyond. Wikipedia's approach highlights the importance of human creativity, empathy, context, and reasoning—qualities that generative AI tools currently lack. While AI models such as ChatGPT and others rely on large datasets scraped from the internet, which can contain errors leading to misinformation or "hallucinations," Wikipedia continues to emphasise the indispensable role of human editors to ensure accuracy.

The foundation pointed out that Wikipedia itself constitutes a core part of many AI training datasets, further underscoring the need for accuracy and factual integrity in the information presented both on the platform and by AI systems trained on its contents.

The MakeUseOf report underscores that the Wikimedia Foundation’s AI integration seeks to augment human efforts, highlighting that while AI can expedite time-consuming tasks and improve information discoverability, it cannot replicate the nuanced oversight provided by dedicated Wikipedia volunteers. This development signals a commitment to preserving the collaborative and human-centred spirit that defines Wikipedia, while incorporating technological tools to support and enhance the work of its community.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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