# Wikimedia Foundation unveils human-centred AI tools to support Wikipedia volunteers



The Wikimedia Foundation has recently announced a new AI strategy designed to enhance the experience for Wikipedia volunteers rather than replace them. This latest move highlights the foundation’s commitment to supporting human editors who maintain and develop the vast range of content on the platform.

The initiative will introduce AI-powered tools aimed at automating repetitive and tedious tasks that can often slow down the editing process. Specific functionalities include assistance with translating and adapting common topics, which is expected to help editors share more localised perspectives and contextual information on their respective Wikipedia pages. Additionally, AI will play a role in improving content discoverability on the site, streamlining the process for both editors and readers.

The purpose of these AI enhancements is to free up editors' time, allowing them to focus more on critical thinking, collaboration, and consensus-building when creating or updating entries. Instead of replacing the volunteer workforce, the tools will provide guided mentorship to help onboard new contributors to the platform.

The Wikimedia Foundation has emphasised that their approach to AI will be guided by the organisation's long-established values, including a commitment to privacy, human rights, and transparency. The announced strategy stresses a human-centred approach, with particular attention paid to human agency and open-source AI technologies. Multilingualism is also a key consideration, reflecting Wikipedia’s global reach.

The foundation’s approach acknowledges current limitations of generative AI, which, while useful for research and data processing, often struggles with accuracy and context—sometimes producing "hallucinations," or fabricated information. Wikipedia's reliance on human oversight is presented as a critical advantage over AI systems. As a widely used source feeding into AI training datasets, Wikipedia understands the importance of maintaining factual accuracy, context, and nuanced understanding to avoid propagating errors.

The Wikimedia Foundation’s plans demonstrate a cautious and balanced integration of AI, designed to bolster volunteer contributions while maintaining the integrity of the platform’s content. The strategy itself is publicly available on Meta-Wiki, where it outlines the foundation’s transparent and principled approach to AI adoption. The MakeUseOf publication reports that this approach upholds Wikipedia’s position as a collaborative and human-driven information resource in an increasingly automated digital age.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence> - This page provides an overview of the Wikimedia Foundation's initiatives in artificial intelligence, including the development of AI-powered tools to support Wikipedia volunteers and enhance content discoverability.
2. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Future_Audiences/Experiments%3A_conversational/generative_AI> - This article discusses the Wikimedia Foundation's experiments with conversational and generative AI, focusing on how these technologies can assist editors in tasks like translation and content adaptation.
3. <https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence/Bellagio_2024> - This document outlines the Wikimedia Foundation's research on integrating AI to support volunteer contributors, emphasizing a human-centered approach and the importance of multilingualism.
4. <https://www.livemint.com/ai/wikipedia-explores-ai-powered-knowledge-access-with-the-chatgpt-plugin-here-s-how-11696145098976.html> - This article reports on Wikipedia's experimental ChatGPT plugin, designed to enhance content discoverability and assist editors, aligning with the Foundation's AI strategy to support volunteers.
5. <https://openfuture.eu/blog/ai-and-the-commons-the-wikimedia-movement/> - This blog post discusses the Wikimedia movement's approach to AI, emphasizing the integration of AI tools to augment human editors without replacing them, and the commitment to open-source AI technologies.
6. <https://www.axios.com/2022/03/30/meta-researcher-ai-wikipedia-gender-gap> - This article highlights Meta's development of an AI model to generate biographical articles, aiming to address content gaps on Wikipedia, reflecting the Foundation's efforts to use AI for content enhancement.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMia0FVX3lxTE1rMmxDd1RQeWN5TmxSQUhra3EtMzY0aXN3MnJmekRobjNEdE9LTEU0WENtODc5alJLRUhUVXRwV2dMNG5pUmI5a3BPTGgwN2FzdFhiYlpfWDdPZ0R5Nzc2dV9MRkphZTZRV3lZ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data