

The Wikipedia of Public Libraries: A quickie wiki primer, the PLWiki Project, and You

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What is a wiki?

- At it's most basic, a web site
- Driven by web-based software
- Easy to edit using a form in a web browser
- Can be edited by literally anyone
- Self-healing community
- Can be private or public
- A version of the content management system (CMS)

Web 2.0? Library 2.0? Huh?

- Web 2.0
 - Web as an application of it's own
 - Ultimate interconnectedness
 - User influenced and directed
 - May someday replace desktop apps
- Library 2.0
 - User-centric library change
 - Better connections with patrons
 - Technology helpful but not required

Why it matters to you

- Encyclopedic or institutional knowledge storage
- Collaborative documentation creation and management
- Information power to the (or, specifically, *your*) people
- Can be so very easy if you want it to be
- Wikipedia fostered the wiki as an everyday tool

Using wikis for yourself

- Project management anywhere you are
- Keeping in touch with family and friends
- Collaborating with other librarians
- Wikis for librarians:
 - Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.com>
 - Library Success Wiki: <http://www.libsuccess.org>
 - Library 2.0 Wiki: <http://wiki.library2.net/>
 - Library Instruction Wiki: <http://instructionwiki.org>
 - Blogging Libraries Wiki: <http://tinyurl.com/pvzvp>
 - Library and Information Science Wiki: <http://liswiki.org>

... at your library

- Instant intranet: policies, procedures, links
- Department planning and documentation
- Living draft site for collaborative editing efforts (developing new policies, ideas for programs)
- Storage for frequently accessed staff information (contact information, hours, schedules, staff suggestions)
- Don't have a web site? Use a wiki:
<http://bullrunlibrary.pbwiki.com/>

...for your patrons

- Patron item reviews (for libraries with catalogs that don't offer this feature)
- Patron- and/or library-run book club information management and sharing
- Organizing and sharing library classes and subject guides

Setup & Policy Planning

- Applying the tool to the right job
- Designed for group management
- Loose but present process development
- Staff training
- Various user access levels available
- IT involvement varies
- Good strategy: try it yourself, demo, then convince... 😊

A few of the *many* options

- MediaWiki - <http://www.mediawiki.org>: wiki software (used by Wikipedia) installed on server, IT coordination a *must*
- Externally hosted options:
 - Wikispaces - <http://www.wikispaces.com>
 - PBWiki - <http://www.pbwiki.com>
 - Free and pay account options
 - Easy set up
- More sandboxed wikis:
<http://www.opensourcecms.com/>

The Public Library Wiki (PLWiki)

- A wiki of public librarianship
- Create an information architecture, categories
- Seed content, committee volunteers from PLA
- Editorial administration, oversight and management a la Wikipedia
- [A wiki for public libraries: your feedback requested](#) PLA Blog, posted 1/29/2007

We need your feedback!

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PLA Blog

<http://www.PLABlog.org>

Reference & Techie Librarian
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<http://www.readingpl.org>

See also:

- <http://www.LibraryTectonics.info>
- <http://del.icio.us/librarytectonics>
- <http://www.myspace.com/librarytectonics>