



# FANDOM



**COMMUNITY  
CONNECT**



# Making Great Articles: a Community Connect Town Hall

"Making the Most of Contribution Tools" — George "Kirkburn"

"Developing Content" — Isaac "FishTank"

"How Templates Make Great Articles" — "CzechOut"

"Article Organization That Draws in Readers" — Angelina "SEOkitten"

# Making the Most of Contribution Tools

Your friendly neighbourhood middle-man

George "Kirkburn" Marbulcanti, Senior Technical Community Support Specialist

# Getting familiar with your wiki

Editing tools

Collaborating with other users

Analytical tools

Advanced editing options

Support from the FANDOM team



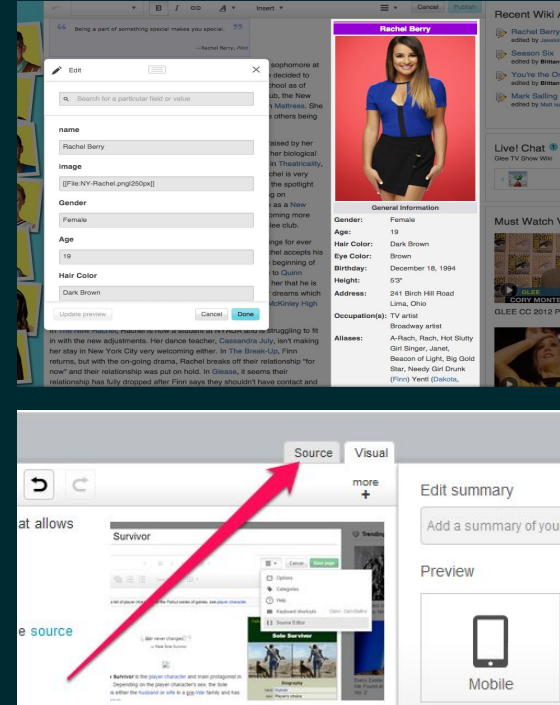
# The convenience of visual editors

Multiple editor types are currently available on FANDOM - you can pick your preference from [Special:Preferences](#) or, often, via the 'Edit' button dropdown.

The **Visual Editor** is a bit like Google Docs, in that visual editing is the primary experience, and it attempts to display the article during the editing process exactly as it would when published. This design helps communities to get quick results without worrying about "what's under the hood". Wikitext is hidden in exchange for easy visualization, but it can be accessed from a drop-down menu.

The **Rich Text Editor** is a little older (and therefore has a more "classic" look), but it is more directly interwoven with wikitext support. Snippets of code the editor doesn't understand are shown as puzzle piece placeholders. Source editing is only a click away via a tab on the upper right part of the page.

**PRO-TIP:** It is okay to have redlinks for articles you expect will be created - it's a good entry point for new editors.



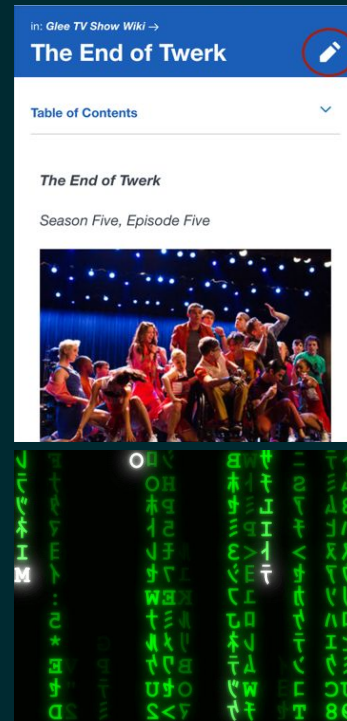
# The utility of source code editing

The **Source Editor** shows the underlying wikitext code of articles. Everything that you see in article content is represented here, and can be edited. This kind of editing is also available on mobile devices.

**Wikitext** is a simple coding language, made up of basic characters like brackets, asterisks and hyphens that tells the page where to put things and how, giving you granular control over its appearance.

When editing CSS, JavaScript, Lua and infobox template pages a special **Code Editor** is shown. It has syntax highlighting, basic error checking, line numbering and more features geared towards specialty editing. It can be a bit taxing on slower devices, but you can switch off this special tool via [Special:Preferences](#).

**PRO-TIP:** With great power comes great responsibility: when editing wikitext, be careful to make sure tables, brackets and tags are closed, or strange things can happen!



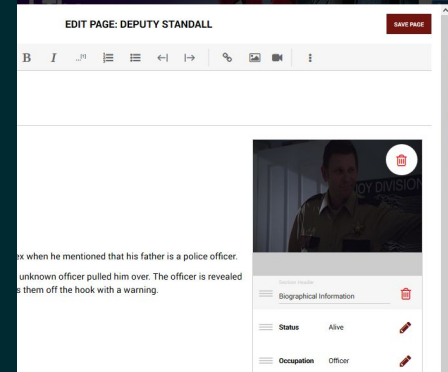
# The intrigue of the experimental editor

The **FANDOM Creator** is an experimental editor, currently in development, that we are running on a few new communities to explore different ways of composing articles. While not based on wikitext, everything an editor would need to do would be available via the user interface without learning special coding.

- The data-centric structure natively allows functionality that would previously require complex tools like Semantic MediaWiki and Dynamic Page List.
- Templates, infoboxes, and other elements are created with clicks, not code.
- Mobile editing would be as fully-featured as the desktop experience.

The experiment is still in early stages and is unproven, and significant work is still ongoing. The future of this experiment strongly depends on reception during testing, and lessons learned during the development process. Don't worry, no changes to your wiki are imminent!

**PRO-TIP:** Only a handful of communities use FANDOM Creator, but you can check it out on <http://fandom-labs.wikia.com>. Your feedback is incredibly important.



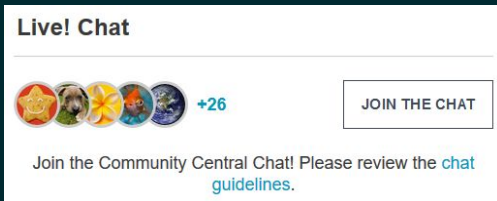
# Let's talk about it...

Article **Comments** are designed for chat about the topic, but you can use **Talk** pages for article content improvement. Most pages, even templates, have a Talk page.

The **Project** namespace is often used for info about wiki itself, like guidelines and policies. Project Talk pages can be used to refine policies, vote, or to review issues like potential code and template changes. (e.g. [Community Central:Staff](#))

Many wikis use **Special:Chat** to coordinate. (It can be activated via [Special:WikiFeatures](#).) Instant conversations with other editors, allowing you to collaborate in real-time. Some communities use third party services like Slack, Discord, Skype, and IRC; we encourage you to use whatever works best for your community.

FANDOM's **Discussions** service continues to improve and add features. The ability to post images is coming soon to all platforms!



**PRO-TIP:** Did you know that even if your community has Comments enabled that every article still has a Talk page? Prefix the article name with Talk: to access it. (If you use this often, dev.wikia.com has a script to make it easier.)

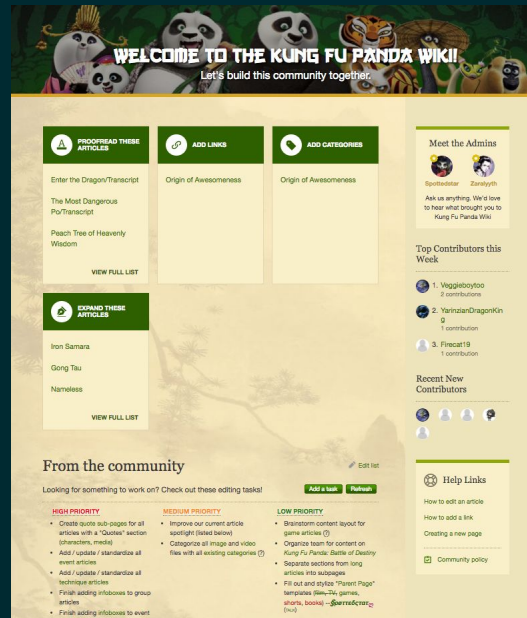


# Get into your special community

The **Community Page** (found at [Special:Community](#)) is designed to aid collaboration, listing:

- local admins and moderators,
- a selection of suggestions on where to start editing,
- an information area that admins can fill out,
- a leaderboard of recent editors,
- and links to important help pages.

It's a great entry point to organize both new and existing contributors.



**PRO-TIP:** Most larger wikis have [Special:Community](#) enabled, but it can be activated upon request. It was originally developed to replace the much older [Project:Community\\_Portal](#).

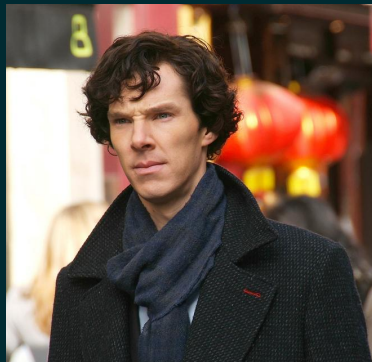
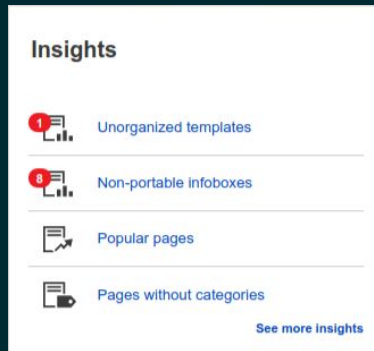
# Get some insight

**Special:Insights** provides links to a variety of useful information about the state of your wiki, including:

- **Popular pages** shows what people are reading most often. These may be pages to concentrate efforts on to give the best impression.
- **Pages -without categories, -without images, -without links:** Not every page needs all of these, but including them can help people get around (and stay around) your wiki.
- **Wanted pages** are pages that have been linked to, but don't exist yet; a perfect opportunity to add a necessary page you didn't know was missing.
- **Pages without an infobox** shows what you'd expect. Most articles that describe something specific should have an infobox to provide context.
- **Non-portable infoboxes** are those that haven't been updated to the newer template syntax; we've talked about these in depth in other Town Halls.

**Special:Specialpages** lists many other automated reports that may be helpful

**PRO-TIP:** Pages with high-quality links and images rank higher in search engine listings; adding related content draws in and keeps visitors. We'll talk more about strategies for this later in the presentations.



# Helpful image tools

**Special:MultipleUpload** can make it faster to upload a bunch of images to your wiki at once.

**Upload via URL** (available on request) lets you upload images directly from external URLs, rather than your device's storage.

**Help:Shared images** (available on request) can be particularly useful for non-English wikis, allowing a community to use all the images from another wiki, without having to re-upload them all.

- For example, a Spanish wiki could use all the images from an English wiki

**PRO-TIP:** If you're using a shared images repository, rename the files responsibly. You won't know where they're in use in the communities that shared the image.

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# Extend your community's capabilities

**Help:Extensions** lists many extensions available on FANDOM.

Frequently requested examples:

- [Achievements](#) encourage contribution by awarding users badges.
- [Variables](#) & [Arrays](#) enable advanced parser functions that can be quite helpful in templates, such as `{{#var}}` and `{{#arraydefine}}`.
- [Simple Calendar](#) adds a basic calendar tool.
- [DynamicPageList](#) adds a way to create custom lists of articles.
- [Recent Changes Patrol](#) makes it easier to monitor whether edits are following community policies.

Send in a note to [Special:Contact](#) if you're interested!

**PRO-TIP:** Some Extensions can slow your communities performance. That's why FANDOM doesn't activate all of them when a new community is launched, and may suggest alternatives when Extensions are requested.



# Bug reports and feedback

**Special:Contact** is a direct line of communication to FANDOM staff.

- Let us know if you spot issues, even if you think we may already be aware – more reports can help us solve issues quicker.
- We generally prefer that you use this method over Message Wall / Talk pages, particularly as reports can be directed to the most appropriate person; after all, not all FANDOM staff are specialized in the same areas.



**PRO-TIP:** FANDOM aims for a short response time, but during some timeframes (such as weekends and holidays) we have more limited staff on hand to address minor issues.



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