How to create a Book from Wikipedia

by Jeromy-Yu Chan

Help:Books

This page shows you how to create a book from Wikipedia articles in three steps. Books can be created in PDF form or ordered for printing on the PediaPress website.
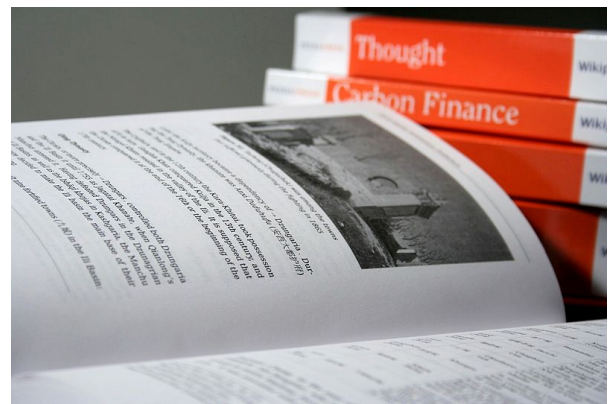
Printed PediaPress books of Wikipedia content.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1 - Creating the book from a collection of articles

The book collection menu, entitled "Create a book", can be seen on the left-hand side of the browser screen towards the bottom. It contains two links by default: "Add wiki page" and "Books help". (See Fig 1).

By clicking on the "Add page to book" link, the page currently being viewed is added to the collection. To add more pages, you must navigate to the next desired page and click the "Add wiki page" link again. You can also add all

Fig.1 - the portlet

pages in a category with one click. The number of pages in the book is shown in the menu on the left and is updated automatically.

If required, specific revisions (versions) of pages from their histories can be specified in your book. See the experts page for details.
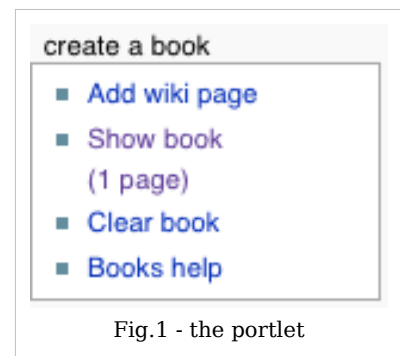
Step 2 - The book title

Once all the desired pages have been added, click the "Show book" button to review your book. Furthermore, it is possible to add a book title and change the ordering of the wiki pages of the book (see details of how to do this in the Advanced functionality section).
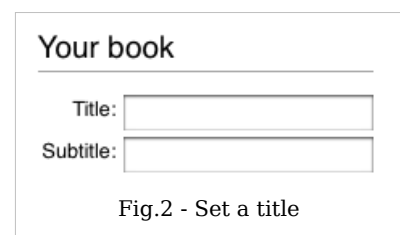

Fig.2 - Set a title

Step 3 - Download or order a printed copy of your book

The finished book can be downloaded or ordered as a bound book. You can download the book in PDF and OpenDocument format (viewable using a range of office software, such as OpenOffice.org) by clicking the "Download" button (see Fig 3). To order the book as a bound book, click the "Order book from PediaPress" button. Further information about printed books can be found in the FAQ.

Fig.3 - Click to download

Advanced functions

Changing the order of wiki pages

To change the order of wiki pages in your book, simply move the pages in the list entitled "Your Book". To do so, hover over the page title to move, click and drag it to the new location. Release the mouse button to finish moving the page to its new location. You can also automatically sort the books into alphabetical order.

Saving and sharing your book with others

To save your book, you must have a registered account on Wikipedia (see Why create an account? for details on how to create an account). You can save your book on the "Book" page, which can be reached by clicking the "Show book" link in the menu on the left hand side. In the "Save and share your book" section, choose one of the location options and then provide a title for the book collection. It will then be saved by clicking the "Save book" button.

Further information

Further information on the books feature can be found on the for experts page. This page explains how the presentation of books can be changed and how to process saved books at a later date.

Printed books from PediaPress

By clicking the "Order book from PediaPress" button, your collection of wiki articles can be printed as a bound book. You will be forwarded to the website of PediaPress, a service that prints books based on wiki content. Further information about the printed books, including the cost and format, can be found on the FAQ page.

In 2007 the Wikimedia Foundation and PediaPress agreed upon a long-term partnership aimed to improve the availability of Wikipedia and other wiki-based project content, in the form of high-quality print products or text documents in the OpenDocument format.

See also

- Help for experts - details about the advanced/expert functions of the Book tool.
- FAQ about the Book tool.
- Feedback - for reporting and tracking of bugs
- Wikis Go Printable - Wikimedia Foundation press release, 13 December 2007
- Examples of PediaPress books on Wikimedia Commons
- Technical documentation of the Collection extension.
- Wikipedia:WikiProject Wikislice

Help:Books/for experts

Book tool: help for beginners | help for experts | FAQ | give feedback | explore books | browse category

This page gives experienced users details on the advanced functions of the Book tool. Among other things, it explains how the layout of books can be improved and how books are stored on Wikipedia.

Printed PediaPress books of Wikipedia content.

Adding articles to a book

Add a particular revision to your book

Older revisions of a page can be added to a book collection instead of the current version by using the history tab. By choosing to load the relevant older revision from the history page, the wiki page can be added to the book in the same way as before, by clicking the "Add wiki page" link in the menu on the left. (See the step by step guide for more help). If an older revision has been added, this specific revision will always be used. If you add the most current version of a wiki page, always the latest revision will be used.

Add the entire contents of a category in one click

To add the entire contents of a category in one click first navigate to the relevant category page. Then click the "Add category" link in the "Create a book" section of the menu on the left hand side.

Saving books

Format of stored book pages When you save a book, it is stored in the format shown below. You can also manually create a book from scratch by using the same format.

A book with the title "My book" and the subtitle "Example", with two chapters named "Foo" and "Bar", each containing three articles, with the last article having a fixed revision number would be shown using the following syntax.

```
== My Book ==
=== Example ===
;Foo
:[[AA OKKADU]]
:[[PRARAKYUDU]]
:[[Third article]]
;Bar
:[[Fourth article]]
:[[Fifth article]]
:[{{fullurl:Sixth article|oldid=20}} Sixth article version:20]
[[:{{ns:category}}:Books]]
```

To create a book from scratch, start a new page, named something like [[User:Myusername/Books/Mybookname]]. Use only the following wiki syntax:

Title	The title is contained in double equals signs. *Example:* `== Title ==`
Subtitle	The subtitles is contained in three equals signs. *Example:* `=== Subtitle ===`
Chapter headings	Chapter headings are preceded with a semicolon. *Example:* `;Chapter name`
Add an article	An article is inserted as a wikilink after a colon. *Example:* `:[[Article]]`
Use a fixed article revision	To use a fixed revision of the article you can use: *Example:* `:[{{fullurl:Article name|oldid=Version number}} Article title]`
Renaming of articles	You can use a pipe ('|') to rename the article in the book. *Example:* `:[[Python (Programming language)|Python]]`

Location of books

Books can either be saved in the user's namespace [[User:Name/Books/Bookname]] or as a community book at [[Wikipedia:Books/Bookname]]. To be recognised as a book, it must belong to the category Category:Wikipedia:Books.

Loading books

Each wiki page that is a member of the category Category:Wikipedia:Books can be loaded by clicking the "Load book" link on the left hand menu on the page.

Improving the book layout

Some wiki-markup can lead to problems in the generation of PDF documents as part of the book feature. This mainly applies to templates, which will be displayed differently in the PDF version compared to how they look in the online version of an article. This can be fixed by either substituting the current template or removing the template from the content that cause problems in the PDF. As a rule of thumb, all content (especially templates) that is not useful for an offline version of the document, should be excluded from the print version.

There are four ways to resolve issues caused by templates:

- **1) Exclude templates**

  A template can be excluded from content by adding it to the Category:Exclude in print or by listing it on MediaWiki:PDF Template Blacklist.

  Note: Many templates use other templates to function. Therefore groups/types of templates can be excluded by adding the commonly used template to this category.

- **2) Exclude certain specific content**

  By using Template:Hide in print, certain specific content, such as a few words or an image, can be excluded from printing.

  `This content will be printed.{{Hide in print|This content will not be printed.}}This content will be printed.`

- **3) Include certain specific content only in print versions**

  The Template:Only in print can be used to insert content that shall only be visible in offline versions.

  Example: `print this and display it in the browser {{Only in print|this is only visible in PDFs or printed books, *not* with the browser}} this is visible in the browser and in print as well.`

- **4) Substitute templates**

  You can create a print version of a template under the name "Template:TEMPLATENAME**/Print**" with "Template:TEMPLATENAME" being the name of the original template.

The layout of printed books and the Open Office export version differ from the PDF version, but also use the above features.

A linked table of contents in the pdf version of a book

A table of contents can be added to the pdf version of a book by including it as a subpage. This pdf table of contents also can include links to the applicable articles in the book by including wikilinks in the table of contents subpage. However, piped wikilinks produce links to the Wikipedia url of the article, rather than the applicable section of the book. This issue can be bypassed by using an unlinked version of the article name intended for the book, with or without being followed by a simple wikilink to the actual article name. If the book includes an "Introduction" or similar subpages, then the toc subpage simply can remove any

wikilinks for them. An example of a alternate article name link might look like this:

```
:Dog coat ([[Coat (dog)]])
```

Examples of this book toc style include Wikipedia:Books/Cat/Table of contents and Wikipedia:Books/Dog/Table of contents.

Using a main and supporting articles book content style

One easily definable style of book, in terms of the content it contains, is to include the main article and all supporting articles that are referenced as major expansions of selected sections. Supporting article links typically are included at the top of a section using templates such as {{Main}}, {{See also}} and {{See}}. Books using this content style offer a comprehensive coverage of the main article, usually within a reasonable number of pages. Examples of this book style include Wikipedia:Books/Cat and Wikipedia:Books/Dog.

Template:Book can be used to create a basic main article and supporting articles book. The template also creates links to start subpages for a table of contents and introduction plus a books category based on the main article.

Multi-wiki Books

Using the extension it is currently impossible [1] to create a collection of content from multiple different wikis. However, you can easily create books containing articles from multiple wikis using the bookmarklet offered on this page [2].

See also

- Help:Books for a step by step guide to creating a wiki book
- The Book FAQ
- Feedback - for reporting and tracking of bugs

References

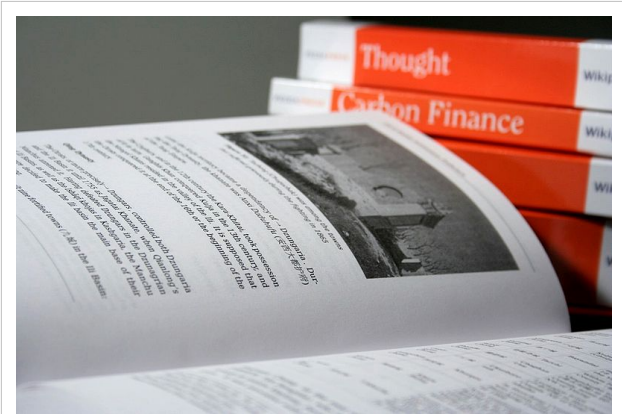[1] http://code.pediapress.com/wiki/ticket/408
[2] http://pediapress.com/collection/

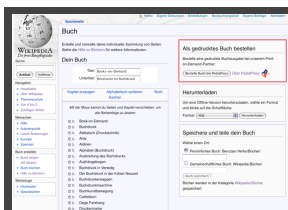# Help:Books/Frequently Asked Questions

Book tool: help for beginners | help for experts | FAQ | give feedback | explore books | browse category

Questions about printed books

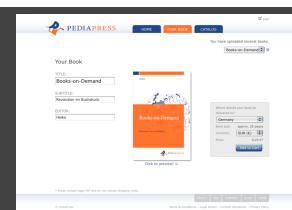Printed PediaPress books of Wikipedia content.
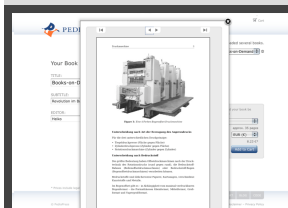
How do I order a book?

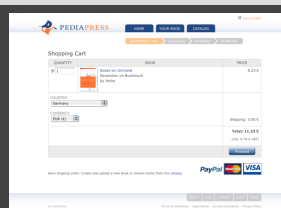

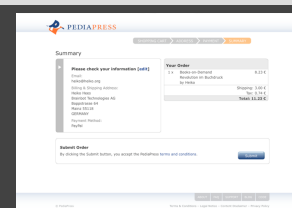|		
1) Click on „Order Book"	2) Book gets loaded by PediaPress	3) Choose country, get price
4) View preview	5) Add to cart	6) Enter shipping and billing information

Printed books can be ordered through PediaPress.

Simply click on "Order book from PediaPress" on the Special:Book page. This uploads your book to the PediaPress website. After choosing the destination country, an approximate number of pages and the price are shown. Title, subtitle and editor can be set or changed here. There is a preview which shows how your selected articles (only the first N pages) will look like in a printed book. (*Note*: The typesetting of printed books differs from downloadable PDFs, since the page size is A5, not A4, and it includes additional features like a table of contents, index, etc.)

At this point, your book can be ordered by adding it to the cart and checking out. Available payment methods are MasterCard, Visa and PayPal. Books are printed within 2-3 business days, and shipping takes another 2-10 days.

How are books manufactured?

PediaPress uses the TeX typesetting system to generate a digital prepress repro. Books are , either in the UK or the USA. Books produced by this technique look just like conventional paperback books.

Book specification:

- Content
    - Table of contents
    - The selected articles
    - Licensing information
    - Index

Printed Wikipedia-Book by PediaPress

- Paper size: 8.5 inch × 5.5 inch (216 mm x 140 mm)
- Images are printed in greyscale using the highest available resolution
- Books can contain 50 to 800 pages, larger collections are automatically split up into multiple volumes

There is an example book [1] (PDF), which shows how printed books are typeset.

How much do printed books cost?

number of pages	price
100	US$ 7.90
200	US$ 11.90
300	US$ 14.90
400	US$ 17.90
500	US$ 20.90
600	US$ 23.90
700	US$ 26.90

Pricing for printed books depends on the number of included pages (see table). Shipping costs depend on the shipping destination. To get a detailed quote, simply upload your book to PediaPress and select your country and currency.

The Wikimedia Foundation receives 10% of the gross total for each book sold.

Which shipping options are available?

Books are shipped to most countries in the world using a standard shipping option. Delivery time varies from 2 to 10 business days depending on the destination.

What is PediaPress?

pediapress.com is an online service which offers customized printed books from wiki content. The web-to-print service works on any MediaWiki which has deployed the open source Collection Extension. The company actively supports the MediaWiki community and established a long-term partnership with the Wikimedia Foundation [2]. The company was founded in 2007 and is located in Mainz, Germany. For more information see http://pediapress.com/about/.

Questions about PDF exports

Why are articles displayed differently than in the browser?

Books have no scroll bars, while a browser does, so printed content needs to be split up on several pages. To get an acceptable typesetting result, some page elements need to be displayed differently. This may result in some unexpected layouts, especially for tables and parts of wiki articles that use HTML instead of MediaWiki markup.

How can I improve the appearance?

You can edit the wiki articles themselves to make them print better. See Help for Experts for some ideas.

Questions about the OpenDocument Text export

What is OpenDocument Text?

The OpenDocument format (ODF) is an XML-based file format originally created and implemented by the OpenOffice.org office suite. It is a free and open OASIS standard aimed to replace the proprietary Microsoft Word file format.

Storing books in this format is useful if one wants to modify the books. This option allows editors to generate arbitrarily styled books with additional content. Teachers may find this useful.

Which software is required to open this file?

OpenOffice, KOffice or others. There also is an ODF-AddIn [3] for Microsoft Word. Moreover, Microsoft Office 2007 with the latest service pack now supports the OpenDocument format.

General questions regarding the book tool

Where can I find stored books ?

All stored books are placed in Category:Wikipedia:Books. There is also a bookshelf which allows users to explore the list of compiled and shared books.

How do the exports comply with license requirements?

PDF export

- link to each article and its version
- all contributors are mentioned
- images are linked to their image page on the wiki

    Warning: Authors and licenses of images are not part of the PDF. Therefore, these PDFs cannot be distributed without further manipulation if they contain images.

- inclusion of the GFDL (English)

In printed books

- URL of each article and its version
- all contributors are mentioned
- URL of each image
- all contributors of an image are mentioned
- license name of the image is mentioned
- inclusion of the GFDL (English)

Can I use the book tool with my MediaWiki ?

Yes, the book tool is based on the open source project mwlib [4]. The MediaWiki component Collection extension works out of the box with most MediaWikis and the PediaPress service.

How can I hide the "create a book"-box in the left sidebar ?

Hide: The box can be hidden by inserting the following into your monobook.css.

```css
#p-coll-create_a_book { display: none; }
```

Move down: Adding the following code to your monobook.js will move the box to the bottom of the sidebar:

```js
addOnloadHook(function(){
   var book=document.getElementById("p-coll-create_a_book");
   book.parentNode.appendChild(book);
});
```

Probably there is going to be some kind of gadget to make this easier in the future.

Which known limitations exist?

Skin support

The tool currently only works with the "Monobook" and "Modern" skins. There is a simple workaround: switch to Monobook when creating books.

Limitation of the book size

Currently books can not contain more than 500 articles. Please keep in mind that generation of large PDFs can take a long time and results in high server load. Dividing article collections into multiple books might be a solution.

Infoboxes and large tables

Infoboxes and other large tables are printed at full page size, not "floated" to the side as on the Web. This is a result of the limited size of A5 paper: if the infobox was shrunk to fit, the text within would be illegible.

CSS & HTML

CSS and HTML used in the wiki markup are only partially evaluated when generating PDFs. Templates can be adjusted for print to avoid some of the problems, see Help for Experts for details.

Where to report bugs and give general feedback?

Bugs, feature requests and questions are best reported at the Feedback page.

References

[1] http://pediapress.com/resources/images/samplebook/samplebook.pdf
[2] http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Wikis_Go_Printable
[3] http://odf-converter.sourceforge.net/
[4] http://code.pediapress.com

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