This is supplementary material for the webtext "Wikipedia as Editorial Microcosm" by Joshua DiCaglio et al., published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 29(1), available at http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/29.1/topoi/dicaglio-et-al/index.html.

Flow of Community Editing

How do wikipedians edit? We have to understand some of the flow of community editing to understand how to intervene. This handout is to provide you with some examples of community editing in order to highlight some good practices for you to use while engaging and working with other editors, as well as how to provide space for other editors to work alongside and after you.

Policy Pages

WP:Conduct

Aspects to consider:

1. ## What gets worked on and when?

Some articles will be stalled for years with very few edits made, while others are constantly being edited. Sometimes certain things and events will spur the editing process.

Example: Psychologist Before + After
  The early edit structure that was put in place and the content that was "left" after moving it to another article caused this article to stall. It just didn't have room for other editors to come in. It needed a large overhaul of the content and structure to get it to move forward even though it's a high interest article.

Example: It (novel) Before + After
  This article gained a lot of new editors after the new *It* movie came out. Because of this, the article did move forward significantly, but was subject to some fancruft.

2. ## When certain editors care a lot

Some editors care a lot about an article and that can lead to them policing it, or having a problem with other editors coming in to work on it.

Example: Cats in Ancient Egypt (before + after + article history)
Here, an editor came in to begin working on it and an active editor on the page saw someone working on it which spurred them to come and make a lot of large changes.

- (cur | prev) ○   22:55, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,753 bytes) **(+625)** . . (→*top: extended with ref*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   22:55, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,128 bytes) (−371) . . (→*Expeditions and excavations: moved ref*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   20:08, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,499 bytes) (+23) . . (→*Expeditions and excavations: + int link*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   19:38, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,476 bytes) (−4) . . (→*Expeditions and excavations: - int link*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   19:37, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,480 bytes) (+4) . . (→*Cat mummification: + int link*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   19:32, 10 March 2019   BhagyaMani (talk | contribs) . . (27,476 bytes) (−4) . . (→*Expeditions and excavations: rem duplicate int link*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   19:26, 10 March 2019   NZMKZ (talk | contribs) **m** . . (27,480 bytes) (0) . . (*Reorganisation. Information does not belong in the lead.*) (undo | thank)

Example: Ghost Hunting Before + After + Talk Page
A student went to the talk page first (which is what they were supposed to do) but an active editor came in and gave sources for the student to look at (WP:FRINGE, etc), but they didn't really see eye to eye on a lot of issues. This obstructs positive change on the article because it's not any one editor's article.

@Audentis.Fortuna.luvat. The main topic (the belief you can detect spirits with gadgets) is a fringe theory, so the article falls under our WP:FRINGE guideline, which is part of WP:NPOV. We are required to clearly identify how the fringe theory differs from the mainstream view. In this case, the mainstream view is that ghost hunting is a pseudoscience. Which is why we can't characterize it a "controversy" or give "both sides" equal weight. - LuckyLouie (talk) 20:19, 28 February 2019 (UTC) [reply]

> @LuckyLouie. After looking over the two pages you linked (parapsychology and WP:FRINGE), I would have to disagree. parapsychology relies more on psychic, telepathy, and things of that sort rather than using specific equipment such as EVP recorders and EMF detectors, and full spectrum cameras to make observations intended to prove the existence of paranormal activity. Additionally, although ghost hunting is considered a pseudoscience, I don't see that issue with explaining what ghost hunting is because, currently, the article doesn't really address this at all, despite that being the main topic. Whether or not someone believes ghost hunting to be real or a hoax, it is something that people engage in. By writing about what ghost hunting is and what it consists of, I don't believe that this would be violating any neutrality or the WP:FRINGE guideline. That's why I made a point to say that it's important to keep sections such as the skepticism section because it as important to the topic as explaining the topic, itself. — Preceding unsigned comment added by Audentis.Fortuna.luvat (talk • contribs) 21:08, 28 February 2019 (UTC)
> [reply]
>
>> If you follow the policies I've referred to above and use reliable sources per WP:RS and WP:FRIND, there shouldn't be any problem. - LuckyLouie (talk) 21:37, 28 February 2019 (UTC) [reply]

3. Community Examples of Developmental Editing

Some articles need a large overhaul of content (developmental edits) and when editors begin to work together to make those large changes, the article often becomes much better than it could have with just one editor. In the two examples below, student edits and proposed edits caused active editors on those pages to come in and help with a large developmental edit that the article needed to improve.

Example: Energy transition (before seen below + after = 2nd image)
Editor integrating some of NShair's Edits + Following edit reorganizing

Energy transition

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article's **lead section** may be too long for the length of the article. Please help by moving some material from it into the body of the article. Please read the layout guide and lead section guidelines to ensure the section will still be inclusive of all essential details. Please discuss this issue on the article's talk page. *(November 2019)*

Energy transition is a phrase that generally refers to significant structural change in an energy system.[1] Historically, these changes have been driven by the demand for and availability of different fuels.[2] The current energy transition differs as it is largely driven by a recognition that global carbon emissions must be brought to zero, and since fossil fuels are the largest single source of carbon emissions, we must change energy systems worldwide to replace fossil fuels.
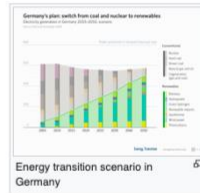
Germany has played an outsized role in the transition away from fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewables. The energy transition in Germany is known as *die Energiewende* (literally, "the energy turn" indicating a turn away from old fuels and technologies to new one.

These have occurred in the past, and still occur worldwide. Historic energy transitions are most broadly described by Vaclav Smil.[2] Contemporary energy transitions differ in terms of motivation and objectives, drivers and governance.

The layout of the world's energy systems has changed significantly over time. Until the 1950s, the economic mechanism behind energy systems was local rather than global.[3] As development progressed, different national systems became more and more integrated becoming the large, international systems seen today. Historical transition rates of energy systems have been extensively studied.[4] While historical energy transitions were generally protracted affairs, unfolding over many decades, this does not necessarily hold true for the present energy transition, which is unfolding under very different policy and technological conditions.[5]

Solving the global warming problem is regarded as the most important challenge facing humankind in the 21st century.[6] The capacity of the earth system to absorb greenhouse gas emissions is already exhausted, and under the Paris climate agreement, emissions must cease by 2040 or 2050.[7] Barring a breakthrough in carbon sequestration technologies, this requires an energy transition away from fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, lignite, and coal. This energy transition is also known as the decarbonization of the energy system or **"energy turnaround"**. Available technologies are nuclear power (fission) and the renewable energy sources wind, hydropower, solar power, geothermal, and marine energy.

A timely implementation of the energy transition requires multiple approaches in parallel. Energy conservation and improvements in energy efficiency thus play a major role. Smart electric meters can schedule energy consumption for times when electricity is abundant, reducing consumption at times when the more variable renewable energy sources are scarce (night time and lack of wind).

Energy transition scenario in Germany

Photovoltaic array and wind turbines at the Schneebergerhof wind

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Photovoltaic array and wind turbines at the Schneebergerhof wind farm in the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz

Contents [hide]

Example: Hobby (Before + After) -- These edits, done months after a student editor worked on the article in March 2019, are examples of volunteer-supplied developmental editing.

- (cur | prev) ○   16:52, 15 October 2019   ParticipantObserver (talk | contribs) . . (25,171 bytes) (+70) . . (→*Making and tinkering: copy editing and adding a citation needed tag*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   16:50, 15 October 2019   ParticipantObserver (talk | contribs) . . (25,101 bytes) **(−568)** . . (→*Activity participation: Removing some unsourced material. Updating the no source template to reflect the presence of a source in this section.*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   16:46, 15 October 2019   ParticipantObserver (talk | contribs) . . (25,669 bytes) (−120) . . (→*Significant achievements: Removing an unsourced claim with a citation needed tag since 2012*) (undo | thank)

- (cur | prev) ○   16:45, 15 October 2019   ParticipantObserver (talk | contribs) . . (25,789 bytes) (−483) . . (→*Activity participation: copy editing for brevity and to remove some strange text that suggested the definition of hobby depended on how much adrenaline you like (which cited a source that did not use the word 'adrenaline' any place in the source)*) (undo | thank)

4. Marginal Editing

Sometimes an article just needs to be cleaned up in the form of marginal edits. These edits don't change the content or organization of the article but go in and clean up the sentence-level issues found.

Example: Aid effectiveness (Before + After) — Aid Effectiveness Revision Comparison

Before

```
The Global Partnership also tracks progress in the implementation of
Busan commitments for more effective development co-operation, through
```

After

```
The Global Partnership also tracks progress on the implementation of
the commitments and actions agreed in Busan through its
```

5. The relationship between articles

Certain articles have two articles that relate to each other, including some content that might contradict.

- For example, see this article on [Crystallite (as it stood in 2020)](). There is a relationship here between this article and the article on Grain Boundaries.
- [Christian Prayer]() - While this is an obviously important topic, with an incredible amount of content that could be included, by [2022]() it had been taken over by sections on "types of prayer" with little clear space for other kinds of information. The result was that contributors were placing information into the lead in an unclear way. This organization was set in place in part by the original structure in [2011](), which focused mostly on types of prayer (the sections not under "types of prayer" remain largely about types of prayer). To move forward, structure needs to be added to make space for other information about Christian prayer.

6. Our project in the view of community editing

Our task is to work within this flow of editing to help transform articles and facilitate future editing so that, even if our articles aren't where they should be at the end of the project, they have a path to be great down the road.

In many cases, the best work will be done on an article AFTER you're finished. For example:

Energy Transitions: In this case, the most important edits came after the student's edits. The student left it at in [this state](). Then another editor came to work on it [here]().

Imposter syndrome: similar in this case: [before]() student work, [after](), then after [more edits from others)]()