

ALSC Wiki Overview
ALSC Division Leadership
Saturday, January 20, 2007
wikis.ala.org/alsc

Overview

- Definition
- History
- Uses
- Examples of wikis
- ALSC Wiki Overview
- How to edit

Wiki Defined

- According to Wikipedia it is pronounce Wick-ee or Wee-kee
- A wiki is two things: a collection of Web pages that can be viewed and edited by anyone with access to the Internet and also the actual software that allows for the operation of this type of Web site.
- The user does not have to be tech savvy nor familiar with HTML in order to edit or create new wiki pages.
- Since it is so easy to use it is an ideal tool for asynchronous group collaboration.

History

- In 1995 Ward Cunningham, while he was with the Portland Pattern Repository, created the first wiki as a way to share programming language and build a knowledge base that could be commented and discussed immediately by those in the industry.
- He named it “Wiki Wiki Web” because wiki is the Hawaiian word for quick. With a wiki you don’t have to wait to upload content, ftp to a server, or have a Webmaster make changes for you.
- A wiki builds and grows from a single page into a collection of pages connected by
- Hyperlinks created and edited by a wiki “community”.
- The wiki belongs to everyone and there is no ownership of pages. However, changes to the wiki are tracked and users can see who made a particular edit. If someone disagrees with an entry, they can make a change and enter the reason why on a discussion page.

Why Wikis are Wonderful!

- Allows for asynchronous group collaboration
 - Perfect for committee work and project communication
- Knowledgebases
 - Collect best practices, documentation and other items.

- The ALSC Wiki has been designed with both purposes in mind.
 - The wiki links out to ALSC Web site for static information that should not be tampered with.
 - Committee pages for group work that continuously evolves.
- But there are some drawbacks
 - Because it is open- need to trust. Rely on collective group to fix errors
 - Ownership of content
 - Rely on subject headings for organization
 - Open to vandals and spam; need to monitor pages

Examples of Wiki Uses

Association for Library Service to Children Wiki (knowledgebase/group collaboration)

<http://wikis.ala.org/alsc>

Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library® Wiki (Best Practices)

<http://wikis.ala.org/ecrr>

ALA 2007 Annual Conference Wiki for Washington, D.C. (Info sharing/Conf planning)

<http://wikis.ala.org/Annual2007>

Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki (knowledgebase)

<http://www.libsuccess.org>

Arbor Wiki- an area guide of Ann Arbor, Michigan. (Area/Travel Guide)

<http://arborwiki.org>

Princeton Public Library's Book Lovers Wiki (book reviews, patron feedback)

<http://booklovers.pbwiki.com>

St. Joseph County Public Library Subject Guides (Part of Web site)

www.libraryforlife.org/subjectguides/index.php/Main_Page

Working with the ALSC Wiki

- Overview of ALSC Wiki
 - Links
 - Committee space
 - Best Practices area
 - Blue links (content added) vs. red links (empty page)
 - Should try to avoid red, visitors want to find information

Editing tips (Also refer to the separate Editing Sheet document)

- Just go into another page and copy and paste to develop your page. Just change the text as necessary.

- Track changes or create a watchlist
- Create an account and under preferences register your email address. You can choose to be notified of changes to the wiki.
- Watchlists- when you edit a page you can check a box before you save the changes to add the page to your watchlist. When you click on your watchlist on the upper right hand corner of the wiki you can view the different pages and see if any changes have been made recently.
- Add your name to the contributor list.
- Ground Rules/Policy Page
 - Administrator can lock down pages (policy/procedures page).
 - File uploads- possible but limited due to security issues. Don't want to have hackers upload inappropriate material. Contact the ALSC Office to have a document uploaded or link to a Web page that has it.

Let's Wiki!

- It's an easy to use, group collaboration/communication tool
- It's ready to use right now
- Feel free to explore and use the wiki in ways we haven't identified
- Seed with interesting material
- Share your knowledge
- Don't be afraid to ask questions!