


What Is A Digital Wiki Book?

A Digital Wiki Book is a crowd-sourced publicly authored book that has the following features:

- It exists as a digital publication on the web, hard drives, thumb-drives, torrents and other digital media.
- It is an open-source project
- Any member of the public can contribute to it
- It can easily contain videos, images and multi-media
- It constantly updates itself with the latest information
- It's content is search-able electronically
- It is fair-use public domain news material
- It uses folders to hold content elements
- It can be read in any order by sorting the elements by name, date, topic, section, etc.

A **wiki** ( [/ˈwɪki/](#) *wik-ee*) is a [website](#) that provides [collaborative](#) modification of its content and structure directly from the [web browser](#). In a typical wiki, text is written using a simplified [markup language](#) (known as "[wiki markup](#)") and often edited with the help of a [rich-text editor](#).^[1] A wiki is run using [wiki software](#), otherwise known as a wiki engine. There are dozens of different wiki engines in use, both standalone and part of other software, such as [bug tracking systems](#). Some wiki engines are [open source](#), whereas others are proprietary. Some permit control over different functions (levels of access); for example, editing rights may permit changing, adding or removing material. Others may permit access without enforcing access control. Other rules may also be imposed to organize content. A wiki engine is a type of [content management system](#), but it differs from most other such systems, including [blog software](#), in that the content is created without any defined owner or leader, and wikis have little implicit structure, allowing structure to emerge according to the needs of the users.^[2]

The online encyclopedia project [Wikipedia](#) is by far the most popular wiki-based website, and is in fact one of the most widely viewed sites of any kind in the world, having been ranked in the top ten since 2007.^[3] Wikipedia is not a single wiki but rather a collection of hundreds of wikis, one for each language. There are at least tens of thousands of other wikis in use, both public and private, including wikis functioning as [knowledge management](#) resources, [notetaking](#) tools, [community websites](#) and [intranets](#). The English-language Wikipedia has the largest collection of articles; as of September 2016, it had over five million articles. [Ward Cunningham](#), the developer of the first wiki software, [WikiWikiWeb](#), originally described it as "the simplest online database that could possibly work".^[4] "[Wiki](#)" (pronounced [[ˈwɪki](#)]^[note 1]) is a [Hawaiian](#) word meaning "quick".^{[5][6][7]}