

## Online Information

This document was created from a number of online resources.

- >>www.collections.org.au [nrm info portal]
- >>wiki.trin.org.au [taxonomy research, Australia]
- >>wiki.gis.com [for GIS professionals to share]
- >>wiki.bdtnrm.org.au [NQ dry tropics info portal]
- >>wikimapia.org [online editable map]
- >>www.wikipedia.org [The Free Encyclopaedia]
- >>MediaWiki.org [free software package]

## GeoSpatial Wikis

- >>wiki.gis.com [for GIS professionals to share]
- >>wiki.bdtnrm.org.au [NQ dry tropics info portal]
- >>www.collections.org.au [nrm info portal]
- >>www.qgis.org

## Compare them all

>>www.wikimatrix.org a good place to start looking for the right software package.

When choosing a wiki to use, consider the following points:

- First use wikis built to interface with a database (e.g. Mediawiki), avoid any that use flat file storage as they won't scale and expand.
- Second, keep in mind that open source wikis may be free but they require a significant "do-it-yourself" factor.
- Third, consider physical resources available. Options for hosting include online/external hosting; internal/inward looking servers; and internal /outward looking servers. Each option has limitations in terms of security, ease of access, maintenance, annual subscription costs and back-ups.

## Contribute to our [www.collections.org.au](http://www.collections.org.au)

The Collections WIKI evolved from a need identified in the [Knowledge and Information Network Project](#) for the *efficient exchange of knowledge and information* between NRM bodies and stakeholders.

The Collections WIKI is not a panacea for this need, rather an opportunity for viable information exchange, stored as a collection with an emphasis on open sharing and collaboration.

Unlike a printed publication, this collection will grow and is not static. What we collectively know will propagate as the sum of all submissions are entered and inter-linked, revealing interconnectivity between disparate bits of information that would otherwise not be evident.

Now that you know what a wiki is, please join us in building our collective knowledge in Natural Resource Management at [www.collections.org.au](http://www.collections.org.au).

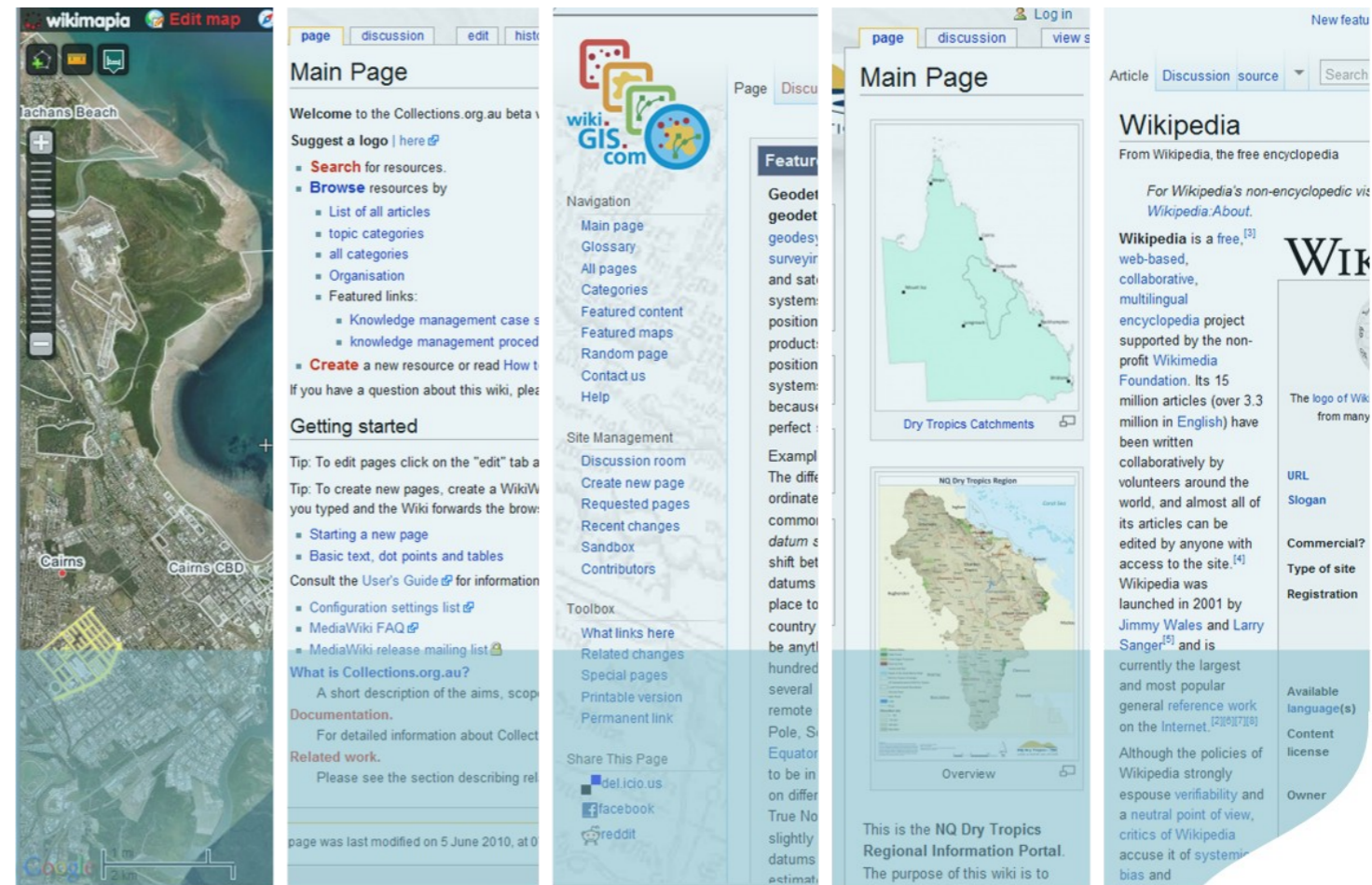


## For further information please contact: Queensland Murray-Darling Committee

Phone: 07 4637 6200  
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Online at: [www.qmdc.org.au/publications/browse/website-pdfs](http://www.qmdc.org.au/publications/browse/website-pdfs) wiki information

For further information, contact QMDC on 07 4637 6200 or visit [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, QMDC accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document.

# A bit about wikis



## A web of ideas

Wikis are good at capturing unstructured information quickly, in a form which can be subsequently re-organised, classified, and structured.

They may look messy at times but this is part of the cycle of information-gathering and categorisation / tagging.

They provide a way to capture, comment on and organise ideas, in a forum where all participants can contribute.

What I know is = wiki



## Just wiki it

Gotten used to having people tell you to just Google it? Well, here's another weird verb with similar potential for enlightenment-to wiki. It's a noun because "A wiki is a type of website that allows users to add, remove, or otherwise edit all content very quickly and easily" ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)).

## Wiki while you work

A wiki will only be successful if it becomes an integral part of day-to-day operations. Personal information management tools (e.g. MS Outlook) manage email, calendar, and tasks and support finding and reminding, but they do not support authoring, knowledge reuse, and collaboration.

Along with saving time in meetings, all staff are now free to contribute project ideas when it suits their creativity and workflow.

*Contribution is simple and unstructured, isn't a side activity and there is permission to participate*

— Mayfield 2006

*"The simplest online database that could possibly work"*

— Ward Cunningham, the creator of the first WikiWikiWeb

## Make a contribution

Wikis rely on those interested adding their knowledge to the mix. Options for contributing include:

- Read and search existing pages for missing info.
- Edit an existing page with new / updated content. You may need to add in links to existing, new or external content or add categories.
- Start a discussion about content on the page if there is some debate.
- Track changes or roll back to a previous version on the history tab.
- Log in to keep a track on contributions and edits.



## How to edit

To edit a page, simply go to that page and hit the edit tab (either at the top of the page or directly to the left of the section you want to edit).

Editing is not that different from your regular word processing program, just not as robust. We suggest that you start off simple:

- Add sentences or text, save (tab at the bottom of the page) and see how edits look.
- Use the star (\*) symbol at the start of a new line to start a bullet point list.
- If you want to create a new section use the equal (=) sign either side of the proposed title. The number of equal signs equates to the section number (eg. 1.0 is created by typing =some text= and 1.1 is created by typing ==some text==)

Look for the Sandbox to play and test your skills.

Use the [Show preview](#) button to see how your edits are looking. See example below

```
=Top Heading=
* A Bullet
** A Sub Bullet
*** A Sub Sub Bullet
* Another Bullet

# A number
## A sub number

External page links
[http://www.rgc.org.au]

Internal page links
[[Knowledge management case studies]]

New page using an internal link
[[new page title]]

''Table caption text''
{| border="1" align="left"
|-
|
| A Cell
|
| A nother Cell
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|
| Anext
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==Sub Heading==
===Sub Heading===

=A New Heading=
```

Edit view..... Page view

**Contents [hide]**

- 1 Top Heading
  - 1.1 Sub Heading
    - 1.1.1 Sub Heading
- 2 A New Heading

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## Top Heading

- A Bullet
  - A Sub Bullet
    - A Sub Sub Bullet
  - Another Bullet
- 1. A number
  - 1. A sub number

External page links [1] [↗](#)

Internal page links [Knowledge management case studies](#)

New page using an internal link [new page title](#)

*Table caption text*

A Cell	A nother Cell
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### Sub Heading

Anext
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### Sub Heading

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## A New Heading

## Build a web

How to link—it's this feature that helps make wikis extra special. There are two types of linking, internal wiki link and external wiki link.

- Internal links to existing (blue link) or new pages (red link) in the current wiki. Content included in searches.
- External links.

>>[www.collections.org.au](http://www.collections.org.au) For more information online search or navigate to **Help: Basic text** page.

>><http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Link>

**Catchment area**

The Dry Tropics Catchments present quite a challenge in terms of delivering resource condition outcomes over such a large geographic area. The Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research was commissioned by NQ Dry Tropics to undertake a number of activities related to water quality through the region. To complete this task ACTFR aggregated catchments into 52 manageable subcatchments. These subcatchments have been adopted by NQ Dry Tropics as a means of prioritizing on-ground action monitoring projects across the region.

The following Table shows the 52 subcatchments with their approximate area in kilometres.

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**ACTFR**

The ACTFR (Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research) is a research and consultancy centre established within James Cook University of North Queensland in 1987 to promote water research, technology and information transfer to industry. Since its inception, the ACTFR has grown steadily and expanded to fill a largely vacant niche in tropical ecological research and consultancy in Australia. In parallel with this growth, the ACTFR has shifted from being solely a centre for water research, to one that has an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to environmental projects.

**Links**

- [Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research](#) ↗
- [James Cook University](#) ↗

## Order from chaos

Tags (categories) are usually single words used to classify information alphabetically and or by importance. They are usually hyperlinks that lead to a collection of similar items.



A number of extensions display categories. The cloud shows a moving rank of popularity by times viewed.

## How to create a new page

What if you can't find your topic or subject? Simply type the name of the page you want to create in the **search box** and hit the "go" button. You'll get the search result in the image below. Click on the red text to open the new page and start editing. Hit the Save button at the bottom and you're finished.

You can also create a new page by creating an internal link in an existing page. Click on the red link (see below) and go the new page.

Edit view:	New page using an internal link
Edit view:	[[new page title]]
Page view:	New page using an internal link new page title

*Individuals might see the centralisation and sharing of knowledge as the surrender of wisdom they may see as their exclusive value to an organisation*

— Jennifer Conzalez\_Reinhart

*The learning and knowledge that we have, is, at the most, but little compared with that of which we are ignorant*

— Plato

## History and rollbacks

The MediaWiki software is a large database that keeps a history of each and every page created. At the top of each page is a "History" tab that shows major and minor modifications made to the page. So if you make a mistake, you (or we) can simply rollback to an earlier version of the same page.

## Practice in the sandbox

Use the search box to find the sandbox page. The sandbox is a place where you can practice your skills adding information to the wiki. Administrators will periodically clean out this page.

## Who owns the content

Copyright limitations vary between wikis but in general contributions may be edited, altered, or removed by other contributors.

If you don't want your writing to be edited mercilessly, then don't submit it to open wikis.

You also promise that you wrote the content yourself, or copied it from a public domain or similar free resource.

Don't submit copyrighted work without permission.

## Training & manuals

The wiki can replace paper copies of manuals and handwritten notes in the margins. For formal training sessions scribbled margin notes can be added to the wiki agenda both as an aide-memoire for participants and informative notes for others. This can form a natural part of the training process. Because the wiki is dynamic, there is little value in printed copies, so the natural place to write notes is within the wiki itself.

*A weakness of print culture is its stand-alone nature.*

Once a book is published, it is set in stone until a second edition comes out. Online, changes can be made incrementally. This keeps better pace with knowledge and expands all the time.