

Guide 2: Selecting and researching a topic/subject

Once you have created an account and understand the principles behind Wikipedia you are ready to start preparing your first article.

Choose a topic or subject carefully. If possible, start compiling reference material ahead of time, so that you are well equipped to start writing at a WikiD writing workshop or edit-a-thon.

- **Further reading and links**

- **Wikipedia: Writing Your First Article**
This includes many links to detailed material
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Your_first_article
- **Wikipedia: Notability**
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability_\(people\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability_(people))
Includes notability criteria for creative professionals, which covers architects
- **Wikipedia: Image Use Policy**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Image_use_policy
- **Wikipedia: Avoiding Plagiarism**
<http://wikiedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>
- **WikiD WikiProject**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_Wikipedia_Design
- **WikiD on Parlour**
<http://archiparlour.org/topics/take-action/wikid>

Choosing a subject

Start off with a straightforward topic – someone who clearly meets the Wikipedia notability criteria, and for whom there are good published references and resources.

Wikipedia notability criteria are not an easy fit for every woman who has made significant contributions to the built environment. However, it is advisable to keep trickier subjects for when you are more experienced with Wikipedia.

1. Identify a suitable subject

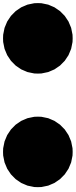
A suitable subject is one that:

- Meets Wikipedia's notability criteria (see below).
- Has good, third-party sources and references to cite and link to. We recommend at least three independent, reputable sources.
(Note: Wikipedia does not accept 'original' research or unpublished interview material.)
- Is about someone/something that isn't already on Wikipedia.
- Is not about you, your company or organisation or your friends. (That is, a subject that you do not have a conflict of interest with.)
- Is not an advertisement, personal essay, or other type of article that you would not find in an encyclopedia.

Subject suggestions

We have crowd-sourced lists of suggested subjects for Australian and German subjects. These are available on the wikiD WikiProject page and in the spreadsheets listed below, which can be accessed through Parlour.

- **Australian subjects**
The wikiD Parlour spreadsheet includes topics, lists of entries that need further work, and reputable sources for some subjects.



- **American subjects**

A good list of American topics is available on the [NYC Women in Architecture Wiki Meetup](#). Also refer to the [Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation's Dynamic Archive](#).

- **German subjects**

The [wikiD German spreadsheet](#) includes suggested topics, lists of entries that need further work, and sources for some subjects.

2. Understand Wikipedia's notability criteria

Notability is 'a test used by editors to decide whether a given topic warrants its own article'. The criteria for creative professionals (including architects) are:

1. The person is regarded as an important figure or is widely cited by peers or successors.
2. The person is known for originating a significant new concept, theory, or technique.
3. The person has created, or played a major role in co-creating a significant or well-known work or collective body of work. In addition, such work must have been the subject of an independent book or feature-length film or of multiple independent periodical articles or reviews.
4. The person's work (or works) either
 - (a) has become a significant monument,
 - (b) has been a substantial part of a significant exhibition,
 - (c) has won significant critical attention, or
 - (d) is represented within the permanent collections of several notable galleries or museums.

• See [Guide 3: Writing an Entry](#) for tips on writing in relation to these criteria.

Wikipedia has extensive material on notability, and it is worth considering closely as you tackle trickier topics.

• Refer to [Wikipedia: Notability](#)

References and sources

Aim to have at least three citations from reliable, independent sources. Articles that do not cite reliable published sources are likely to be deleted.

Remember, sources must be cited, not copied word-for-word. • [Refer to Wikipedia: Avoiding Plagiarism](#).

3. Collect suitable references

It helps to collect sources and references before you start writing the article.

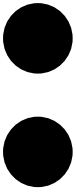
- Collect at least three reliable, published sources for your subject. (Refer to suggestions below.)
- Avoid references to personal blogs and websites, Facebook and YouTube. These are considered unsuitable and material obtained from them may be challenged by other Wikipedia editors and removed.
- Link your article to other Wikipedia pages. This is vital to ensure that the your article doesn't become an 'orphan'.
 - See [Guide 5: Troubleshooting](#)

Australian source material

A range of readily accessible source material on Australian women architects, can be found online or in libraries:

Online

- [Women With A Plan](#)
Material from the 2012 Women's History Month
- [Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth Century Australia](#)
Architecture/design entries by Harriet Edquist
- [Dictionary of Sydney](#)
Includes a number of entries on women architects by Bronwyn Hanna
- [Architects of South Australia database](#)
From the SA Architecture Museum



- **Absence and Presence: A Historiography of Early Women Architects in New South Wales**
Bronwyn Hanna's thesis on early women architects in NSW (UNSW)

Books

- ***The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture***
(Philip Goad and Julie Willis, Cambridge University Press, 2012)
- ***Women Architects in Australia, 1900–1950***
(Julie Willis & Bronwyn Hanna, RAAIA, 2001)

Journal Articles

- Bronwyn Hanna has kindly made her collection of published articles and essays on Australian women architects available [here](#), via Parlour

American source material

A range of readily accessible source material on American women architects, can be found online or in libraries:

Online

- **Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation's Dynamic Archive**
National archive of women architects in the United States

Books

- ***Women in Architecture: A Historic and Contemporary Perspective***, edited by Susana Torre (Watson-Guptill Publications, 1977)
- ***Design and Feminism: Re-visioning Spaces, Places, and Everyday Things***, edited by Joan Rothschild (Rutgers University Press, 1999)
- ***Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches To Women in Architecture***, edited by Lori A. Brown (Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2011)
- ***Architecture: A Woman's Profession***, edited by Tanja Kullack (Jovis Verlag GmbH, 2011)

German source material

For sources for German topics refer to:

- **The German wikiD topic spreadsheet**, which includes suggested sources and links.

International source material

- **International Archive of Women in Architecture**
International in scope, including entries on American and Australian women architects.

General online resources

Wikipedia recommends the following online resources, available through university libraries:

- **Google Scholar**
- **EBSCO**
- **Infotrac**
- **JSTOR**
- **ProQuest**
- **Questia Online Library**

Images

Images are an important addition to Wikipedia articles – both portraits of subjects and images of their work. However, images used on Wikipedia must meet clear criteria. When in doubt about an image's copyright, do not upload it.

- **Refer to Wikipedia: Image Use Policy**

4. Collect suitable images

The Wikipedia Image Use Policy explains that images can be used if they abide by one of the following conditions:

- **Own work:** You own all rights to the image. This usually means that you created it yourself.
- **Freely licensed:** You can prove that the copyright holder has released the image under an acceptable free license. When in doubt, do not upload copyrighted images.
- **Public domain:** You can prove that the image is in the public domain, that is free of all copyrights.

- **Fair use:** You believe that the image meets the special conditions for non-free content, which exceptionally allow the use of unlicensed material, and you can provide an explicit non-free use rationale explaining why and how you intend to use it.

Freely licensed image databases

Online image databases that meet the Wikipedia criteria include:

- [**Wikimedia Commons**](#)
- [**Flickr Commons**](#)

Other image databases

There are many other image databases. Copyright conditions vary, so check before using any image.

- **Trove** A remarkable database from the National Library of Australia, which accesses many other libraries and archives.
- **Digital image database guide** A Monash University Library guide that links to many different image databases.
- **Guide to Architecture Image Databases** A guide from the University of Michigan Library, which links to many different collections of architectural images.

5. Start writing!

- [**Go to Guide 3: *Writing an entry***](#)