



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This is a repository copy of *For more reliable AI, academics should edit Wikipedia*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/232978/>

Version: Accepted Version

---

**Article:**

Finney, D. [orcid.org/0000-0002-3334-6935](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3334-6935) and Baleta, T. (2025) For more reliable AI, academics should edit Wikipedia. *Nature*, 639. p. 306. ISSN: 0028-0836

<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-00715-x>

---

**Reuse**

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence. This licence allows you to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon the work, even commercially, as long as you credit the authors for the original work. More information and the full terms of the licence here:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.

## **For more reliable AI, academics should edit Wikipedia**

*Declan Finney and Tatjana Baleta*

Wikipedia, the “encyclopaedia anyone can edit”, is a fundamental training and reference data set for large language models (LLMs). As LLMs grow in popularity, Wikipedia’s content — both high and low quality — is likely to have more impact. Although the long-term effects of the technology remain uncertain, Wikipedia’s importance and reach has clearly grown since the rise of LLMs.

Wikipedia attracts more than 15 billion views a month. Yet, despite its value for information sharing, contributions from academia have been limited — partly because of a perception that they offer little professional reward.

Funders now strive to support work that has broader societal impact. Wikipedia’s edit and page-view metrics can demonstrate such impact. Meanwhile, reviewing and editing Wikipedia during a research project can help to highlight knowledge gaps, contextualize results and disseminate findings. Support for editing activities is available from Wikipedia ‘chapters’.

There is a greater need than ever for everyone to contribute to an accurate, reliable and robust Wikipedia. Academia can serve as a safeguard as the site continues to shape public knowledge on a profound scale.

### **Competing Interests**

T.B. is employed by Wikimedia UK.