

# Jimmy Wales

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Wikipedia, World, Important, Fun, Community, Real, Speech,  
Numbers, Ideas, Approach, Needs, Kind, Three, Google, Interesting, Internet,  
Views, Tools*

Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing.

~Jimmy Wales

I'm a big advocate of freedom: freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of thought.

~Jimmy Wales

My original concept was to provide a free encyclopedia for every single person in the world.

~Jimmy Wales

The goal is to give people a free encyclopedia to every person in the world, in their own language. Not just in a 'free beer' kind of way, but also in the free speech kind of way.

~Jimmy Wales

The real struggle is not between the right and the left but between the party of the thoughtful and the party of the jerks.

~Jimmy Wales

We are growing from a cheerful small town where everyone waves off their front porch to the subway of New York City where everyone rushes by. How do you preserve the culture that has worked so well?

~Jimmy Wales

Most people assume the fights are going to be the left versus the right, but it always is the reasonable versus the jerks.

~Jimmy Wales

People are not fundamentally bad. It only takes the smallest of correctives to take care of that tiny minority that wants to disrupt the community.

~Jimmy Wales

Love. It isn't very popular in technical circles to say a lot of mushy stuff about love, but frankly it's a very very important part of what holds our project together.

~Jimmy Wales

Everybody tells jokes, but we still need comedians.

~Jimmy Wales

A lot of people who work on open-source software don't mind making money elsewhere. They aren't anticommercial.

~Jimmy Wales

What we won't do is pretend that the work of lunatic charlatans is the equivalent of "true scientific discourse." It isn't.

~Jimmy Wales

To me the key thing is getting it right. And if a person's really smart and they're doing fantastic work I don't care if they're a high school kid or a Harvard professor, it's the work that matters.

~Jimmy Wales

We are still in the very beginning of the Internet. Let's use it wisely.

~Jimmy Wales

I think that reality exists and that it's knowable.

~Jimmy Wales

Things work well when a group of people know each other, and things break down when it's a bunch of random people interacting.

~Jimmy Wales

You know when I think about what I'm doing - what I'm doing and the way I'm doing it is more important to me than any amount of money or anything like that because it's my artistic work.

~Jimmy Wales

We've seen how grassroots journalism by blogs has had an impact at various points politically, as ordinary people have amplified stories that were being ignored by the traditional press.

~Jimmy Wales

I have always liked the idea of going to print because a big part of what we are about is to disseminate knowledge throughout the world and not just to people who have broadband.

~Jimmy Wales

I have said this many times in the past and will say it many times in the future I am sure: some people need to find a different hobby.

~Jimmy Wales

If I had some information, the last thing I would ever do with it is send it to Wikileaks.

~Jimmy Wales

Freedom, liberty, individual rights, that idea of dealing with other people in a matter that is not initiating force against them, is critical to me.

~Jimmy Wales

We've always had a love/hate relationship with numbers.

~Jimmy Wales

It just didn't occur to me, sitting at my computer, that I would end up travelling all over the world.

~Jimmy Wales

Free speech includes the right to not speak.

~Jimmy Wales

Dialing down is not an option for me.

~Jimmy Wales

Almost anything is better than three network TV outlets completely controlling the national discourse with their nightly broadcasts. We've moved a long way from that, and that's important.

~Jimmy Wales

People who have achieved a public voice find it a mixed bag.

~Jimmy Wales

I have no regular schedule. I get up whenever I can.

~Jimmy Wales

People take issue with individual aspects of Wikipedia all the time. But it's kind of hard to hate the general idea of a free encyclopedia. It's like hating kittens.

~Jimmy Wales

It's kind of surprising that you could just open up a site and let people work.

~Jimmy Wales

Given enough time humans will screw up Wikipedia just as they have screwed up everything else, but so far it's not too bad.

~Jimmy Wales

We have to come together, worldwide, and "think". We have a tool - the internet - to let us do that. Let's use it wisely.

~Jimmy Wales

Simply having rules does not change the things that people want to do. You have to change incentive.

~Jimmy Wales

You shouldn't use anything as the sole source for anything, in my view.

~Jimmy Wales

What can we put into the hands of people under oppressive regimes to help them? For me, a big part of it is information, knowledge - the ability to defeat propaganda by understanding it.

~Jimmy Wales

Wikipedia is a non-profit. It was either the dumbest thing I ever did or the smartest thing I ever did.

~Jimmy Wales

I think people have to recognise that the traditional modes of authority weren't that great.

~Jimmy Wales

There's a big tendency to gravitate toward a closed and proprietary approach too easily.

~Jimmy Wales

Massive numbers of people are going to come online from cultures we don't normally interact with.

~Jimmy Wales

People do fun and interesting things because they're fun and interesting.

~Jimmy Wales

There's kind of this real social pressure to not argue about things.

~Jimmy Wales

EssJay was appointed at the request of and unanimous support of the ArbCom.

~Jimmy Wales

While I'm optimistic about the direction the world is headed, generally, I think there is a need for constant vigilance and pressure on repressive governments.

~Jimmy Wales

The core of Wikipedia is something people really believe in. That is too valuable for the world to screw it up.

~Jimmy Wales

When I opened Wikipedia, it had three articles, yet it was called an encyclopedia.

~Jimmy Wales

I'm very much an Enlightenment kind of guy.

~Jimmy Wales

I worry about censorship in many parts of the world.

~Jimmy Wales

Wikipedia is the #5 site on the Web and serves 450 million different people every month - with billions of page views.

~Jimmy Wales

Mostly, I try to take a rational approach to life.

~Jimmy Wales

I'm not real good at the administrative part of running a company.

~Jimmy Wales

To create and distribute a free encyclopedia of the highest possible quality to every single person on the planet in their own language - That's who I am. That's what I am doing. That's my life goal.

~Jimmy Wales

It has become more important than ever that we teach students how to do research, and how to evaluate different sources of information.

(Jimmy Wales, IB World, 68, Sept. 2013, p.10. )

~Jimmy Wales

What you don't get in the mainstream media is so much of the background material.

~Jimmy Wales

When you consider the magnitude of how many people use Wikipedia globally, there is a potential here for really creating some noise and getting some attention in the U.S.

~Jimmy Wales

The Supreme Court has held that code is speech. And it doesn't matter that it's done on a computer or done face to face or done in a newspaper, reporting the facts of the world is protected speech.

~Jimmy Wales

Wikis and social networking are just tools.

~Jimmy Wales

Most people are good. They may not be saints, but they are good.

~Jimmy Wales

Freely licensed textbooks are the next big thing in education.

~Jimmy Wales

I have my team focused on the front end, working on the user experience, and making sure we have all the wiki-like tools people need to work on the site. We're just cranking away.

~Jimmy Wales

I spent lots of time reading the encyclopedia and really kind of an



eclectic approach to learning things - not very structured.

~Jimmy Wales

Myspace hurts my eyes.

~Jimmy Wales

It turns out a lot of people don't get it. Wikipedia is like rock'n'roll; it's a cultural shift.

~Jimmy Wales

I don't worry. It's just not in my nature, really.

~Jimmy Wales

I have zero interest in sports of any kind - professional, college or international.

~Jimmy Wales

I just get up every day and do what seems like the most interesting, fun thing to do.

~Jimmy Wales

I still believe there is a need to open up search and it will come eventually. It is very important to challenge the current models.

~Jimmy Wales

I think it's a mistake to treat different realms of knowledge as if they are some how fundamentally the same.

~Jimmy Wales

I don't come down on any simple place as a deletionist or a completionist.

~Jimmy Wales

I can't do anything quietly anymore.

~Jimmy Wales

I am really accessible.

~Jimmy Wales

If it isn't on Google, it doesn't exist.

~Jimmy Wales

If you see a blatant error or misconception about yourself, you really want to set it straight.

~Jimmy Wales

We don't need secrecy.

~Jimmy Wales

A huge amount of what goes on in the Middle East has to do with people being fed really bad information.

~Jimmy Wales

Our growth rate continues to be staggering.

~Jimmy Wales

IAR is policy, always has been.

~Jimmy Wales

My being some kind of celebrity - not a real celebrity, isn't a welcome part of the job.

~Jimmy Wales

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