

## Re: Wiki as A Time Saver for Researchers

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.optics/2004-09/0258.html>

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Although I'm not an official spokesman for Wikipedia, interestingly I met one who really is a Wiki professional and responded to my message ("Wiki as A Time Saver for Researchers") at the newsgroup sci.research.

He ("David Mattison") seems to support my initiative and posted more background information about Wiki under my original message.

I've noticed Wikipedia cofounder Larry Sanger did a lot of work on scientific newsgroups to promote Wikipedia in 2001. (Search <http://groups.google.com> for "author:lsanger@nupedia.com"). That is the first year of Wikipedia, a much harder time to convince people to use Wiki than now.

I posted my original message to several sci.\* newsgroups, and really attracted some discussions on this idea. These discussions make me see a chance of pushing my idea a step toward reality: maybe I should prepare Wikipedia pages for every sci.\* newsgroup.

Some sci/engineering newsgroups (mostly the comp.\* ones) use FAQ (frequently asked questions) pages to organize common problems/solutions and prevent repeated discussions. FAQs are text controlled by newsgroup moderators and thus their content is limited. I think, if every sci.\* newsgroup is equipped with a Wiki main page, it can well serve the original purpose of FAQ. There can be a message periodically announcing the URL and "What's New" of the Wiki page for a newsgroup.