Appropedia:Original content

The details of this policy are being worked out, but the essentials are in place. Please leave comments on the talk page.

Appropedia allows for the hosting of significant original content, i.e. documents authored by specific people or organizations. This includes thesis papers, journal articles, technical briefs, project descriptions and more.

Original content has its own namespace - page titles beginning with "Original:". The content can be used in other pages, as long as it is attributed.

This is one of the key distinctions between Appropedia and Wikipedia in content policy.

Original content can be reused on other, editable pages; it should be referenced (pointing to the "Original" page on Appropedia is good). It is good practice when porting a page, to:

- Protect the original
- Make a copy in mainspace.
  - Choose a page name that reflects the content, not the name of the source. We want to encourage contributions to the article, and having the name of an organization in the title or across the top will make many people feel that is an "owned" page rather than an open page.
  - Add an attribution notice at the bottom (best done with a template, which can be used on all pages containing content from the same source). See Category: Attribution templates for examples.
  - Integrate (with other articles on the same topic) or split as appropriate. Any article containing a significant amount of content from the page (more than 2 sentences?) should contain the attribution template.

The exception to this rule is the open access pages, which are not under a compatible license, and should not be copied or modified.

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Original content policy summary

The "Original" page:

- is locked, for editing by admins only.
- has a notice at the top, which:
  - gives attribution, linking to the source document off-site, or explaining where it can be found.
  - explains that this is a locked, original page.
  - suggests places to find editable content based on this
  - links to an explanation of how to use this content, with attribution, on other Appropedia pages.

In order to simplify and promote the referencing of content within Original articles, each Original article should provide appropriate text string for copy/pasting to the point of reference. That is, a string like the following should be located near the bottom of the article: `{{Original ref|OriginalContentPagename|<author name>|<org name, if any>}}` (replacing OriginalContentPagename with the actual pagename).

Pages using the content (generally in the mainspace)[1] are identified in these ways:

- An attribution template at the bottom of the page content, but before the links sections.
- The attribution template links to the "Original" page on Appropedia;
- On the original page, there is a "What links here" link (in a template, at the bottom or top?), making it easier for readers to find where the content has been used and attributed on the wiki.
- Links in attribution templates should be "raw" - they should not be piped in order to hide the "Original:" prefix. This helps maintain the distinction, and acts as a reminder that these pages should always be attributed.

Permission

Before any content is ported, permission must be granted by the copyright holders for publishing under GNU-FDL, which is the license used on Appropedia. See Appropedia:Copyrights. (Exceptions may apply for open access content - see that page for details.)

Naming

The author or organization, or a unique abbreviation, should be mentioned in the page name, to make it easier to identify the content in links and in categories. The standard approach is... (in brackets at the end?)

Planned developments

- Appropedia (as well as individual users) can use CSS "skins" to give the Original namespace a different "look", again highlighting the original nature of the article.
A footer section, with categories and perhaps links, can be transcluded from an editable page. This is often done in Wikipedia's template space, e.g. [[Template:Templatename]] transcludes [[Template:Templatename/docs]] at the bottom. (Check how this is done on Wikipedia - does transclusion have to be enabled for the namespace?)

**Reasons behind this policy**

- The Appropedia community works hard on opening up content which is locked up in PDF and other document formats. Having the original available in the wiki makes it more easily accessible than if it needs to be downloaded as a large file and then opened with a suitable program. The wiki content can also be copied with formatting more easily - copying from PDFs and preserving formatting normally requires a special program such as Acrobat Reader Professional.
- It is sometimes difficult to find the original page online - or it may be in a different format, and not as straightforward to compare. Having the original in the same MediaWiki format is very handy for this, and it also allows the user to browse a relevant original document while staying within Appropedia.
- It is also possible to create diffs between pages on the wiki (like a diff created from the history page, but they don't have to be the same article. This requires a "url hack" with the "oldid" i.e. revision ID of each page version being compared). Using a separate page for the original makes it much easier to find the original's "oldid".
- It's possible to create RSS feeds of new pages via Special:NewPages, and select for individual users and certain namespaces, e.g. All pages created by Steven M. in the mainspace. A good time to do this is when someone in the community is porting original content, such as the Practical Action Technical Briefs. If we want a feed of only editable pages, we need to have any "non-editable" pages in a separate namespace. Then when they are copied in their entirety into mainspace, this editable page will show up in the feed.

**Questions and unresolved issues**

Issues related to page format:

- Will these be categorized in the usual categories? --Chriswatreguy · talk 21:58, 15 April 2007 (PDT)
- Should we wikilink key words in the original articles? I'd suggest at least linking the key topic phrase when it first occurs in the document... beyond that I'm not sure if we should limit it, but some wikilinking would be useful. --Chriswatreguy · talk 17:36, 16 April 2007 (PDT)
- Do we use "Interwiki links" and "External links" sections on original content pages? What about comments? The most important place for this is in the mainspace articles (e.g. on the Rainwater page rather than on Rainwater management). Is that enough? (If we do this, either it needs to be maintained by an admin, which adds to their workload, or a "docs" section is transcluded into the page - see #Planned developments, above.

**Review**

This is from the older version of the proposal - to be reviewed & incorporated or deleted.

**Appropedia's approach to Original Content**

Original Content may be hosted at Appropedia using several techniques.
• When permission has been granted by the copyright holders for publishing under GNU-FDL, Original articles may be hosted in their entirety on their own article page (or article pages, for especially long articles) within Appropedia's Original namespace.
• Clearly identified extracts from original works that are hosted in Appropedia articles (as just described) may be included in other articles as long as appropriate attribution is provided.
• Clearly identified extracts from original works that are NOT hosted at Appropedia may be included in Appropedia articles so long as doing so does not violate the terms of the copyright for that work.

Original articles

Appropedia provides a separate namespace for Original articles. This provides for a clear distinction between "Original content" articles and other articles. The article name (beginning with "Appropedia:")) itself calls attention to the original nature, and

Protection

Original documents are protected, and can only be edited by admins. Special permission may be granted to the person porting the page, and in some circumstances to the author(s).

This is for two main reasons:

• to give original copyright owners peace of mind, that they won't be misquoted or misrepresented, or have their work vandalized.
• because there is less need for open editing of these documents. This can be done on the relevant topic pages, (which should be linked from the Original document using the {{used in}} template).

Note also that alerts can also be set up to watch all pages on your watchlist, by editing your preferences, giving an additional check.

See also

• Help:Original content FAQ
• Appropedia:Content types
• Appropedia:Open access content on Appropedia
• Appropedia:Permissions
• All pages in the Original namespace

Notes

1. i.e. the main namespace, with no prefix