Help: Types of content

This page can serve to guide you as you contribute to Appropedia. These are the most common page types, each described below.

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Topic page

From Appropedia:Content § Topic pages  edit

Topic or knowledge pages are usually intended to help readers expand their knowledge about a specific subject. They can relay knowledge, but they are not encyclopedic articles. They must provide the following:

- A general overview of a concept, technology, skill or procedure.
- A starting point to introduce the general concepts of a subject, subdivisions and other considerations.
- Lists of examples and most common cases in the literature, including cases on Appropedia that may serve guide research on the subject or the selection of a technology to replicate.

Readers may use a topic page as a useful resource to explore the variety of use cases and experiences documented on Appropedia about a technology or a procedure.

Structure

Check that a topic (or knowledge) page complies with the following criteria:

- All topic pages must contain the Template:Page data databox.
- Overview (describe the subject)
- Instances on Appropedia (list of examples on Appropedia). For devices and projects, you can use Template:Instances of to display a list.

Recommendations

To create a stellar topic page, consider the following:

- Technical considerations such as how they are built, alternatives and difficulties associated to its use.
- Cultural considerations
- Environmental considerations.
- External documentation sources.

Some of the best practices for writing a knowledge-based article are:
This literature review describes some of the face mask requirements to solve the lack of supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Literature reviews

Literature reviews are the heart of how Appropedians research. It involves looking for source material such as papers, patents, and other second-hand information. This is where researchers show their knowledge of the subject they're researching. A literature review is a discussion of existing material in the subject area. Therefore, it will require a collection of published works (printed or online) related to the selected research area.

Structure

Literature reviews that are part of a project or device page must be placed as a subpage, for example at DIY masks/literature review.

- Template:Page data with parameter type=Literature review.
- List of sources and references.

Recommendations

The preparation of a literature review includes several steps which can be traced back to three phases as described below:

- 1st phase - Preparation of a literature review
  - Choose the topic, define the problem and formulate the question.
  - Identify and select the items to include.
  - Select the citation model
  - Organize the included items.
  - Summary tables of data extraction for analysis.
  - Development of a concept map
- 2nd phase - Write the revision
  - Introduction.
  - Central body of the revision.
  - Conclusions.
Citations and references

3rd phase - Check the revision
  - Content review
  - Write the review in good style

Check Category:MOST literature reviews for a guide on how to make literature reviews.

Devices

Structure

- **Template:Project data** to describe the context under which the device was built.
- **Template:Device data** with references to its technical files and other resources to reproduce.
- **Template:Page data** with a description of the documentation authors.

Basic documentation

- Overview
- Photo of finished device
- Bill of materials
- Assembly instructions
- Downloadable files.

Recommendations

- Regional considerations: Such as climate, locating raw materials, etc, as well as cultural, social and political context.
- Bill of materials: a list of materials, quantities and costs required to replicate a device.
- Status tagging: For project pages it is important to note the status. Often the investment cost of recreating or building an appropriate technology is high. There must also be a successful history of implementation before an investment in time and resources to employ an innovation can be made. By following the instructions on the page Appropedia:Status, the status of a particular appropriate technology can be shown easily to help users decide on the use of a device, or whether more work is needed before deployment. See Appropedia:Status for details.
- Assembly instructions: there must be adequate information and schematics for a user to trust that there is due diligence in a given design and that the designed device can perform to specifications. For example:
- Simple how-to sections for building or using a technology or material
  - Product name and general description of the device, its intended use, and intended users.
- How does the device work? Has it been proven?
- If it is going to be used in combination with other devices, describe how.
- General description of the functional elements, e.g. components (software, if applicable).
- Include visual representations (photos, drawings, diagrams, etc.), clearly indicating components and explanations for a better understanding of the visual material.
- Technical specifications such as dimensions, etc.

**Using photographs and diagrams**

The most effective contents of an organization are visual ones. For this reason it is recommended to use visual material to communicate documentation.

We recommend to see [OSHWA's best practices](external). See a list of devices on Appropedia here: [Category:Devices](external)

**Ported material**

Main pages: [Appropedia:Porting](external) and [Help:Porting](external)

**Structure**

- Mark original material as ported-from
- Check copyright licenses and permissions: Before you want to publish a photo, article, etc. you need to verify what you can share, re-use, or copy with a license that is compatible with the ones allowed on Appropedia.
- We recommend editing content to fit the format on Appropedia. This will allow content to be more easily reutilized by others.

**Considerations**

- You can upload as raw images or documents. A scanner, however, can't do what OCR software does, a scanner isn't enough to extract the relevant information and transform it into a Word format for editing. All it is able to do, in fact, is to create an image of the document, that's nothing more than a set of white and black or colored points ([raster graphics](external)). The OCR technology is able to
recognize the characters present in the image and transform them into words to edit them.

- We recommend porting using an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. This allows you to transform different types of documents, such as digital photos or PDF files into editable texts very quickly and, above all, effortlessly, into editable formats.

## Skill pages

Main pages: Help:Skill pages and How to create a skill page

These pages describe and exemplify how to do something. It shows the description of a series of steps that others can learn, by using text or video.

### Structure

- Page data
- Course data
- Video with annotations

### Recommendations

- Make videos as short as possible.
- Accompany all media content with text-based instructions to ensure portability into other formats and accessibility for people without good bandwidth, small screens; as well as visual or language barriers.
The materials in this course encompass the psychomotor skills necessary for becoming eligible to sit the NREMT national certification exam, as well as the supplemental skills necessary to become a certified EMT in the state of California.