Research Wiki at St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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Director News Research
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
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INTRODUCTION

• When: We’ve been tinkering off and on since April, 2005.
• What: A department reference guide – for research and standard procedures.
• Who: News Research Department only
• Why: We were excited about wikis. We needed a reference. We thought this would be a good fit.
• Where: Our wiki lives on the intranet server
TECHNOLOGY MATTERS

• Include your technology department; ours was very helpful.

• Select
• Install
• Begin
# Comparison of Wiki software on Wikipedia

A comparison table of different wiki software platforms is shown, detailing their compatibility with Windows, ease of installation, web-server requirements, and other software requirements. The table compares Confluence, CorendalWiki, coWiki, DidWiki, DokuWiki, FlexWiki, Instiki, JSPWiki, and MediaWiki.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confluence</th>
<th>CorendalWiki</th>
<th>coWiki</th>
<th>DidWiki</th>
<th>DokuWiki</th>
<th>FlexWiki</th>
<th>Instiki</th>
<th>JSPWiki</th>
<th>MediaWiki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runs on Windows</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, with Cygwin</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of installation</td>
<td>Easy, Configuration Wizard</td>
<td>Moderately simple</td>
<td>simple</td>
<td>Moderately simple</td>
<td>Moderately simple</td>
<td>Trivial</td>
<td>Moderately simple</td>
<td>Moderately simple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web-server required</td>
<td>Tomcat included, or use your own servlet container</td>
<td>Tomcat, Oracle Application Server</td>
<td>Apache with PHP</td>
<td>None (built-in)</td>
<td>Should work on any web server with PHP</td>
<td>IIS</td>
<td>None (built-in)</td>
<td>any servlet 2.3 compliant web server</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other software required</td>
<td>Java 1.4</td>
<td>Java, MySQL or Oracle, Tomcat or Oracle Application Server</td>
<td>MySQL, PHP</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>PHP</td>
<td>ASP</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Java 1.4</td>
<td>MySQL, PHP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table provides a comprehensive overview of the compatibility and setup requirements for these wiki platforms, aiding in the decision-making process for choosing the most suitable wiki software for specific needs.
Features of Openwiki

- Open editing (no password protection yet)
- Tracks changes
  - All edits on a single page
  - All page edits site wide
- Displays differences
- Title Index
- Word Index
- User preferences
## Recent Changes

### Last 7 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Diff</th>
<th>Changes</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 2006</td>
<td>00:23</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wiki Template</td>
<td>Stilmeinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>00:11</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wiki Rules</td>
<td>Stilmeinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>00:08</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Military Casualties</td>
<td>Stilmeinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9, 2006</td>
<td>23:52</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Front Page</td>
<td>Stilmeinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17:39</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Government State</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Government Local</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16:27</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Courts Page</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15:03</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Courts Federal</td>
<td>Stilmeinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:09</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Public Records</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2006</td>
<td>18:12</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Courts State</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>[diff]</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Courts Local</td>
<td>stbolhs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index of all pages
User preference options
Openwiki: Pros and Cons

**PROS**
- Easy to install
- Easy to learn
- Easy to use
- Easy to edit

**CONS**
- Can’t customize very much
- Can’t use images
- Can’t delete or rename pages
- Only simple searches
Editing a page

- Access with a double-click
- Very simple markup language
- Easy linking uses naming convention or brackets.

ThisLinks to the page titled ‘ThisLinks’

[ThisLinks Links] to the same page but will display it as ‘Links’

- You can substitute a URL for Wiki links
Our template

Wiki Template

This is a heading

Headings should be followed by indented texts or lists that may or may not contain links to the web or other wiki pages. This is a link to the Front Page. This is a link to Google.

**Bold Text** can be used for emphasis and breaks are created by a space lines between blocks of text.

This is another heading

You can add a bulleted list when needed by using the asterix:

- Bulleted Item
- Another one
  - Subbulleted item
  - And another one

Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field1</th>
<th>field2</th>
<th>field3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field1</td>
<td>field2</td>
<td>field3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field1</td>
<td>field2</td>
<td>field3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field1</td>
<td>field2</td>
<td>field3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our template in edit mode

--- This is a heading ---
: Headings should be followed by indented texts or lists that may or may not contain links to the web or other wiki pages. This is a link to the FrontPage. This is a link to [http://www.google.com Google].

: **Bold Text** can be used for emphasis and breaks are created by a space lines between blocks of text.

--- This is another heading ---
: You can add a bulleted list when needed by using the asterix:
  * Bulleted Item
  * Another one
    * Subbulleted item
    * And another one

--- Tables ---
: TABLES can be created by simply delimiting the fields with double bars like below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>field1</th>
<th>field2</th>
<th>field3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field1</td>
<td>field2</td>
<td>field3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field1</td>
<td>field2</td>
<td>field3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Include page in Recent Changes list.]

Optional comment about this change:
Define your parameters
Show them the Wiki already!!!
Backgrounding People

Before You Start

Before you start your search, make sure you have all known information about the subject. Do we have an age, birth date, middle initial, current address, city or state? A past location can help if a current one is unknown.

Ask why you are looking for the person. Do they want a phone number? A criminal record? A full history? Ask what the story is about and this person's role. Make sure you've had an effective Research Interview.

Verify identity first by cross-referencing information using drivers licenses, voter registrations and other public records. Don't waste time and money finding information on the wrong person.

Comprehensive Reports

The following subscription services will give you a broad range of information an an individual including addresses, relatives and neighbors. Accurint is our baseline. We use all of them when needed.

Accurint
Generate a comprehensive Accurint report. It will include current and past addresses, phone numbers, vehicle registrations, driver licenses, property, criminal records, neighbors, associates, relatives and people at work.

AutoTrackXP
Auto Track's comprehensive report with associates will give much of the same information as Accurint. Sometimes an individual can be found in Auto Track who was missing in Accurint and vice-versa.

People Finders
Military Casualties

Local Casualties

We subscribe to the Department of Defense casualty announcements and have a standard routine for checking for local ties.

When you get an announcement or a name from a reporter run a basic report on Accurint and check for relatives to the 3rd degree. Search report for any local ties. You may use other services if you come up empty on Accurint but suspect there are local ties.

If you find a local casualty follow the guidelines in Backgrounding People. Be sure to check PD Archives, and other News Resources.

Results should be sent to the Metro staff and the Editor in Charge, cc: the Research group and save all reports to the shared Research folder.

Casualty Sites

You will find several sites dedicated to military casualties on LINKS. There will be differences between the sites. The one used for our regular published casualty counts is the AP War Casualty Database which contains casualty information for members of all coalition forces during the war in Iraq. Fully searchable by name, home, incident, status, etc. Contains captured and released POWs as well.
Aircraft Accidents

IN ANY CRASH: Monitor the airline's web site and wires for a passenger manifest for local victims.

You should check for information on the following six elements but not necessarily in this order. Information will most likely trickle in, check leads as you get them.

1. The aircraft involved
2. The aircraft's owner
3. The passengers
4. The pilot or pilots flying the aircraft
5. The site of the crash
6. The departure and destination of the flight

1. AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Once the plane is identified there are a variety of resources to check for safety records, owner information, etc.

Check the FAA Registry for the N-Number on the aircraft's tail. There are several other sites for checking N-Numbers. (See iLINKS under Aviation)

Landing.com has multiple databases including international registrations, pilot certifications, NTSB accident reports and FAA Incident Data System. You can look up planes by owner here to see if they have other planes/accidents.

Civil Aircraft
Check for accidents involving the same type of aircraft in NTSB's CIVIL ACCIDENT DATABASE. Data is from 1962 about CIVIL aviation accidents and selected incidents within the U.S., its territories and possessions, and in international waters. Check the Aviation Links on iLINKS for further resources.
Our Local Court Access

Courts Local

Searching local courts is a particular problem. Illinois courts are for the most part not online at all, and the supposedly comprehensive Missouri court site doesn’t include the biggest counties in our Metro area.

Missouri

Casenet

This state-wide court record system is very much a work in progress. On the plus side, they have 38 of the state’s 45 circuits (plus part of another). But the ones they don’t have include St. Louis City and County (they do have probate court records for those, but nothing else), Jefferson County and Greene County (which is where Springfield is located). St. Louis City is searchable below, but for the rest, we are currently stuck with requesting records the old fashioned way. St. Charles County, along with the local Metro Area counties of Franklin, Lincoln, Warren and Washington are all searchable here. Format is not ideal -- you have to click on each of the various tabs separately to get parties, attorneys, docket report, etc.

St. Louis City – 22nd Circuit

St. Louis is the 22nd Judicial Circuit, and has its own searchable website operated by the Court Clerk, Mariano Favazza. Criminal and civil have to be searched separately. There are files here that go back at least to 1988. Not a lot of information, mainly docket reports (lists of hearings and/or document filings with dates and VERY brief descriptions).

St. Louis County – 21st Circuit

Only probate court is searchable here. For anything else, or for older probate cases, contact Tiffany Jenkins in the Criminal / Traffic Division. Best way is to fax a request for documents to her attention at 615-2689. Her phone number is 615-2675. It generally takes 3-5 business days to process a request.

Jefferson County – 23rd Circuit

Call the clerk at 636-797-5443. Clerk will search their database and send copies of documents for $1 apiece.
Department Procedures

This page is meant to provide information on routine tasks performed by the News Research Department.

Check In
Early Feed
Media Grid
Microfilm Procedures
Morning Paper Distribution
Printing Microfilm
Public Requests
Save XTQ

Front Page | Recent Changes | Title Index | User Preferences | Random
Page | Help
Edit this page | View other revisions
Print this page | View XML
Find page by browsing, searching or an index
Edited June 10, 2006 (diff)
Paper Distribution

Morning Paper Sort

Every morning after the bundles are picked up they are to be sorted. We need 8 copies of everything except inserts set aside for specific use in News Research as follows:

- Display - 1 copy (all editions and all zones)
- Production - 1 copy (all editions and all zones)
- Microfilm - 1 copy (all editions and all zones)
- UMI - 1 copy (all editions and all zones)
- Newsbank - 1 copy (all editions and all zones)
- Mike - 1 copy (last edition and all final Metro sections)
- Backups - 2 copies (all editions and all zones)

Here are specific instructions for each copy:

For all copies below please order the zones: West, South, North, St. Clair, Madison, Alton, St. Charles, Jefferson County.

Display - one copy of the Main and Illinois editions should be saved to put on display for newsroom use. (To be designated).

Production - (ALL) Set one copy of each section/edition/zone on the production table for archiving.

Microfilm - (ALL) Save one copy of each edition of the paper, including classifieds and zones for the person doing microfilm. The microfilm copies should be labeled and placed on the production table for processing that day. (See complete instructions on Microfilm).
News Research Accounts

**Passwords** are maintained separately. See Mike if you don't have one you need.

**10 K Wizard**
SEC filings are available here. 10K and 8K filings, which provide financial statements of the company can be found here. Insider trading can be tracked here as well.

**Accurint**
Accurint is a broad-based database for doing background research on a person or company. A person's relatives, personal property, assets and professional licenses can be found here. For businesses, corporate filings are available as well as Dun & Bradstreet Reports. Search for Delaware Corporations can be done on Accurint as well.

**AutoTrack**
Very similar to Accurint, background on people and business can be conducted on AutoTrack. This is another place to check as some information available on AutoTrack is not available on Accurint and vice-versa.

**BigChalk**
Bigchalk is a newspaper and magazine database. Generally check Nexis news and Factiva prior to checking Bigchalk when looking for a specific publication.

**Blackwell Synergy**
This database contains Agriculture and Aquaculture journals, Art, Animal Science, Business, Economics, Engineering, Math, Medicine, Science, Social Science and Technology journals. Check this database for journal articles that Tina Hasman or Eric Hand request.

**BRB Public Records**
BRB is a gateway site that provides links to government and public records sites. Many of these sources are free and can be found elsewhere.
The Future

Project teams
Training materials for other departments
Cops list – Reporter Sources
Institutional history
An encyclopedia on St. Louis?
Thank You!