

http://www.centralfloridafuture.com/news/wiki-page-compiles-facts-about-university-1.2701360 APR MAY NOV
5 captures
24 May 2012 - 24 Apr 2014
2011 2012 2013
About this capture

Wiki page compiles facts about university

By [Megan Cahuasqui](#)

Contributing Writer

Published: Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Updated: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 17:02

Current and prospective UCF students can discover and contribute information about the university in an easier and more interactive way.

Originally inspired by Wikipedia, UCF senior Michael Altfield created a comprehensive wiki website for the home of the Knights. Instead of featuring a single page on Wikipedia, the site contains an unlimited number of articles.

Now, Altfield is taking efforts to promote his project. Recently, he came into the Student Government Association's weekly Senate meeting to share his Knights wiki venture.

"The website right now is mostly stubs," said the computer science major, but he hopes that more students and faculty get involved with it. The wiki system runs on user-created content, which means members of the UCF community can turn the stubs into full-page articles by themselves.

The wiki site makes it easy to find information about things like professors at the school, the different campuses and their buildings. The tag cloud featured on the main page shows links to pages with this material. Font size indicates article count: the bigger the font, the more articles available on that subject. For example, the category of "Campuses" appears in a much larger font than that of "Undergraduate Degrees." However, most of the categories appear small, meaning that they are not covered sufficiently.

The problem may stem from a lack of exposure. Senior Elizabeth Paey did not know the website existed.

"It looked pretty barren. Video game wikis are more filled than that," said Paey, a communication sciences and disorders major.

But she still has high expectations for the site. If the website included "history of the school, news, sports events, lists of majors and pictures," Paey said she'd definitely use it.

Paey's description coincides with Altfield's goals for the site. He wants students and faculty to add things of that nature to the wiki.

"Essentially what that becomes is an encyclopedia of the University of Central Florida," Altfield said.

Of course, students can find these things on the university's actual website. More often than not, though, searches prove difficult to sift through. A single keyword or phrase leads to countless pages and links, and many times the pages do not reveal information the student is looking for.

Recent posts

Share

5 captures
24 May 2012 - 24 Apr 2014

Go APR MAY NOV
24
2011 2012 2013

About this capture

If the page does not exist, anyone can create it without even having to make an account. When a result does not show up, a link in red font appears to prompt the creation of the page.

An edit tab in the upper right corner of each page allows for correcting or adding information. Here begins the concern: If anyone can edit and add onto wiki pages, how can students and faculty count on its legitimacy?

"With enough people looking at it, it's easier to fix mistakes," Altfeld said.

With so many people browsing pages constantly, incorrect information can get fixed within a few minutes. Wikis also have the ability to allow editors to include citations.

Such details should give users some peace of mind. Beatriz Reyes-Foster, an assistant professor in the College of Sciences, sees a lot of potential for teaching with it.

"A wiki can be a very useful tool," Reyes-Foster said.

She feels that when it comes to doing research, using a wiki makes for a phenomenal start. It's where sometimes even she as an instructor starts.

"I think it can be pushed as a really good way to promote internal learning," Reyes-Foster said.

Altfeld intends for the wiki to become a dialogue among the UCF community.

"A wiki is a powerful, comprehensive, and ever-improving repository of information — allowing a large community of users to collaborate and rapidly share and update information," as summed up on the main page's about section.

For more on this website, visit knightswiki.org.