

Guide to Adding Digital Collections Links to Wikipedia Articles

Why Add Links to Wikipedia?

- To bring Web traffic to Acumen
- To promote use of specific materials
- To promote use of our Digital Collections generally
- To promote use of Hoole Library and the Williams Collection
- To promote UA Libraries

How to Find Items or Collections to Link

1. Think about materials that you
 - a. are currently working with
 - b. have worked on in the past
 - c. know exist in Acumen
2. Consider if they contain
 - a. information on notable people, places, events
 - b. information on timely subjects (e.g., next year, WWI, since it's the centennial of that war)
 - c. really cool resources other people might want to see
3. Check the article(s) in question (or the spreadsheet) to see if a link already exists. Is there no article for the subject/person, but you think there should be? You can create one (see Creating a New Article below).

Creating a New Article

If there is no article for the given topic, you can create one. This should be done only when you're very sure the topic is worth a article and are surprised it doesn't already have one.

Please refer to Wikipedia's guidelines for when and how to construct a new article:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Starting_an_article

When to Add Links to Wikipedia

Criteria to consider:

1. The material is unique to our University's collections
2. The material is substantial -- most of the time, collection-level links are the most appropriate, but a single important item from a collection can be linked, too
3. It contributes to the article as it is or could contribute to it (if you added content to the article) or our understanding of the subject
4. There aren't already an overwhelming number of External Links to similar materials or comparable resources (although this criteria can be waived if the others pass)

Examples of collections and whether to link them:

- The Basil Manly Sr. papers were linked to his article because it is presumably the only (passes criteria 1) substantial collection (passes 2) of his personal papers in existence, and he was President of our university. (It also passes criteria 3 and 4.)
- The Wikipedia article for Land Grants doesn't really need a link to our collection of 106 Early Alabama Land Grants. Granted, it's unique (passes 1) and there's nothing else like it there (passes 4), but in this case the article is more general (fails 3), and our collection is also small potatoes (fails 2).

Examples of items and whether to link them:

- The Robert F. Kennedy speech from Emphasis has been linked on his article, since he's a prominent figure, the speech is unique to us (passes criteria 1), it is a significant unit of material (passes 2), and it refers to his presidential run, an important period in his life (passes 3).
- The Jefferson Davis letter in the H.D. Clayton collection is unique (passes 1) but will not be suitable for linking, since it's just one random personal letter (fails 2) to a random recipient (fails 3).

How to Add Links to Wikipedia

- Sign up for a Wikipedia account (preferred over editing anonymously); the account should not be explicitly tied to your position as an employee of the unit or Libraries – we're not hiding our identities, but we're also not doing this in an official capacity, in part to avoid the appearance of bias

- Type of link to add
 - General link
 - Used if you just want to make a resource available
 - Add to External Links section or, for articles without this section, you can add an unnumbered, general link to the References list
 - Avoid adding to Sources or Further Reading lists, especially if they are solely lists of published books and articles
 - Citation link
 - Used if you need to cite our material because it corroborates a piece of information already in the article, or if you can add information from our material to the article, requiring a citation
 - Add to the article where the citation appears, and it will populate in the References or Notes section
 - **Be aware that different articles use different terminology for link sections.** They can be External Links, Sources, Resources, References, or even Notes. (They will NEVER be See Also links, which are internal to Wikipedia.) Just go with the conventions of the article in question.

- Information to include
 - Collection title or item + collection title, W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, and The University of Alabama
 - If necessary, include explanatory text and/or a date, so that readers know what the material is and or/ why the link is there

- General links (frequent, easy)
 - formatted like this: inside brackets, with the URL first, then a space, then the link text
 - Example (with two links):

Sheet music for [<http://purl.lib.ua.edu/14408> "Parthenia to Incomar"],
 Macon, GA: John C. Schreiner & Son. From
 [http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/u0004_0000001/ Confederate Imprints Sheet
 Music Collection].

- Sheet music for "[Parthenia to Incomar](http://purl.lib.ua.edu/14408)", Macon, GA: John C. Schreiner & Son. From [Confederate Imprints Sheet Music Collection](http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/u0004_0000001/).

- Citation links (less frequent, less easy)
 - See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources for detailed information on how to incorporate citations and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_templates on how to format them.
 - The markup should be typed in at the place you'd normally drop a footnote number – at the end of the sentence that references it.
 - Enclose your content like the below example:

```
<ref>{{cite web |
url=http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/u0008_0000001_0000013 | title
=Emphasis (1968), Robert F. Kennedy, who discusses America at the
crossroads | author =Robert F. Kennedy | publisher =University of
Alabama | year =1968}}</ref>
```

- Above example, in line and in the Sources section:

not being traditional allies of Democratic ideals or initiatives. In a speech at the University of Alabama, he argued, "I believe that any who seek high office this year must go before all Americans: not just those who agree with them, but also those who disagree; recognizing that it is not just our supporters, not just those who vote for us, but all Americans, who we must lead in the difficult years ahead."^[88] He aroused rabid animosity in some quarters, with J. Edgar Hoover's

88. ^ Robert F. Kennedy (1968). "Emphasis (1968), Robert F. Kennedy, who discusses America at the crossroads" [↗](#). University of Alabama.

- Type of URL
 - Use the PURL for a collection when you can, rather than the filename-based URL, as it's more stable
 - In some cases, you may want to link to a list of results rather than the regular collection article, especially if there's not actually a Finding Aid there. Add to the URL this way (and you might look to see if there's already a PURL for this results URL):

http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/u0001_2007010

http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/c/u0001_2007010