

# The WWW of the WIKI sasCommunity.org

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### ABSTRACT

What is WIKI? Why use WIKI? Who should use WIKI? This paper will explain the 3 Ws of WIKI and try to entice users to go out and create their own WIKI page. In addition to learning how to traverse WIKI pages, readers will learn how to create their very own WIKI pages and join the growing online SAS community of the future at sasCommunity.org.

### INTRODUCTION

sasCommunity.org is a collaborative online SAS Community for SAS Users worldwide and was created by the [SAS Global Users Group Executive Board](#). sasCommunity.org is the single entry point that any SAS user world-wide can go to in order to find any/all resources that might be of value to them in their use of SAS software and its related technologies<sup>1</sup>. That is the definition of sasCommunity.org on its own Web site. The definition is accurate and well-formed, but I do not think it does it justice. I think they should have shouted the word COLLABORATIVE. That is what the site is all about. With a little help from you, it may just become the new home for one-stop shopping and sharing of SAS knowledge.

### WHAT IS WIKI?

A WIKI is a collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content using a simplified markup language.<sup>2</sup> One way to think of WIKI is as a newspaper where all readers have the ability to be the editor, contributor, or to write a letter to the editor. WIKI is a flexible, powerful and easy-to-use tool which facilitates collaboration. The architects of sasCommunity.org chose the right tool for the task when they selected WIKI as the platform. By selecting WIKI they essentially turned over the development and steering committee responsibilities of the Web site to the SAS community. Now it is our turn to go out and explore the potentials of WIKI and develop the community in which we want to be involved.

### WHY USE WIKI?

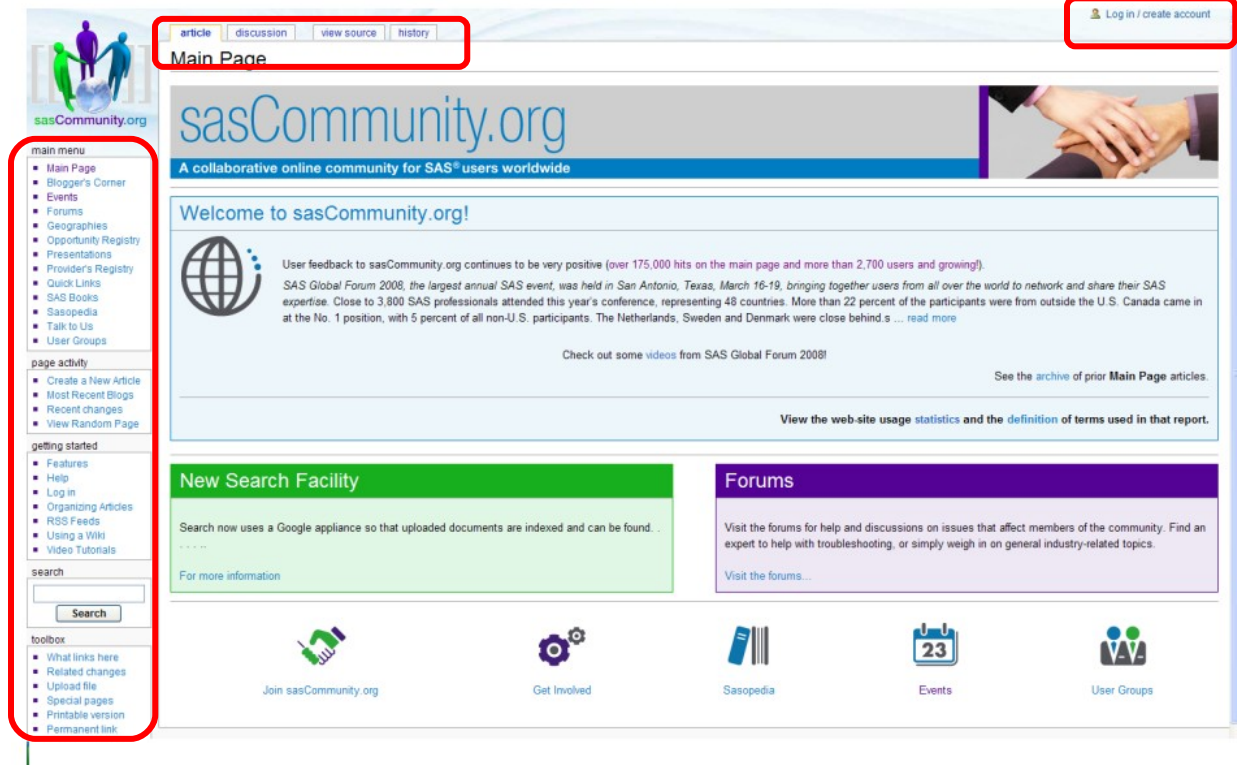
WIKI facilitates and promotes online collaboration. Why should SAS users convert from our current SAS knowledge centers (SAS-L, Google Groups, User Group Forums, etc.) over to sasCommunity.org? We shouldn't! We should in turn use it as a way to enhance our current path to SAS knowledge by using it as a portal. By using the sasCommunity.org as a place to promote and share other currently evolved or newly developed SAS knowledge banks, we will be linking them all together and promoting both the needs of our current interest and sasCommunity.org. One advantage to WIKI is that knowledge can be shared freely, and structure can be added as needed.

### WHO SHOULD USE WIKI?

\_ALL\_ SAS users should use WIKI. Whether you are a seasoned SAS user with experiences to share or a newcomer looking to gain knowledge and interact with other users, sasCommunity.org is a great place to get involved. You do not need any special skills or tools. Content can be created collaboratively by using only a Web browser.

# THE 5¢ TOUR

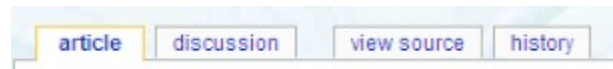
Figure 1-1



For my brief tour of sasCommunity.org, I have divided the main page into three sections (Figure 1-1) for ease of reference.

- 1) The Top Tabs which pertain to the current page
- 2) The Left side menu which contains links to useful content
- 3) The Login status in the top right

Figure 1-2



In the world of WIKI, Web content pages are referred to as articles. The top tabs (Figure 1-2) pertain to the current Web page/article being viewed and represent actions available to the user. Not all actions are available on all pages.

Here is a brief definition of the available tabs at sasCommunity.org

**Article** – Click this tab to view the Web page/article content.

**Special Page** – This tab is visible when there are no actions available.

**Discussion** – Click this tab to discuss the current article.

**Edit** – Click this tab to edit the current page or view the source code.

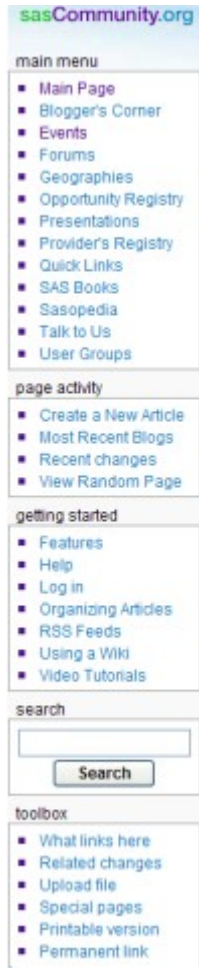
**View Source** – This tab is available when the article is locked and edits are not allowed. Click this tab to view the markup source code.

**History** - Click this tab to see when a page was modified and to view prior versions.

**Move** – This tab allows you to move an article to a different category.

**Watch** – Clicking this tab allows you to add the current article to your watchlist. You can set your user preferences to receive an email if the contents of a watched article are updated.

**Figure 1-3**



The Left Side menu (Figure 1-3) contains useful links divided into five sections:

- 1) main menu
- 2) page activity
- 3) getting started
- 4) search
- 5) toolbox

Under the main menu section, there are links to common categories the original architects thought might be useful. I recommend clicking on “Blogger’s Corner,” “Forums” and “Presentations” to familiarize yourself with how various pages are displayed and organized.

## LET’S GET STARTED

To start browsing sasCommunity.org all you need to do is enter the Web address in your Web browser. To create, discuss or edit pages, you must first create a user account and verify your email address. Once you have created an account, be sure to click on “my preferences” to change the default settings and personalize your experience.

**Figure 1-4**

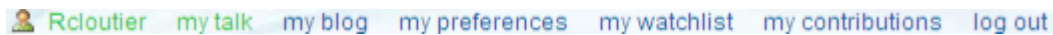


Figure 1-4 shows additional features available to logged-in users. When you setup a user account you are given a homepage (assigned to your username), a discussion page (my talk page), and a page to blog on (my blog). You are also given the ability to monitor pages (my watchlist) and to track your own articles (my contributions).

## GETTING ORGANIZED

Before we create our first page we will first discuss how pages are organized and structured using WIKI. Articles are arranged into categories and listed on the category page listings. If you would like to have your page listed under a specific category listing, simply add the category tag to the bottom of your markup page. Here are a few sample category tags and their syntax:

**[[Category:Opportunity Registry]]**  
**[[Category:User Group Meeting]]**  
**[[Category:Local User Group Meeting]]**

Articles can be listed in more than one category. If the above three category tags were placed at the bottom of an article's markup code, the article would be listed on the "Opportunity Registry," "User Group," and "Local User Group Meeting" category listing pages. Although it is allowed to list the article on these category pages, it may not be appropriate.

At the time of researching this paper there were 387 active categories. I encourage you to browse the category list: you might be surprised with what you find.

## HELLO WORLD

You are now ready to create your first sasCommunity.org WIKI page. Follow these six steps to create your first page:

- 1) Login
- 2) From the Main Page, click on the "Create a New Article" link on the left-side menu in the "page activity" section.
- 3) Enter a title for your new article in the text box to the right
- 4) Click the "Create article" button
- 5) Begin typing your article in the large text box and add HTML tags to style the page content to your own taste.
- 6) Click the "Save Page" button

Give yourself a pat on the back. You have just created your first sasCommunity.org content page!

Now that you have created your first page, you need to find the appropriate Category(s) to have it listed on so that other SAS minds can view and discuss.

The easiest way I have found to view the category listing is to click the "Special pages" link on the left under the toolbox section. Then click the "Category" link. Browse this list and select the appropriate category for your new page to be listed. At the top of each category listing page, you will see the verbiage: "To add your contribution to this page, cut and paste the following tag to the end of your article/page/category: **[[Category:Texas]]**. **DO NOT** edit this page to add your article. Just add the category tag to your article."

To return to editing your page, click on the "My Contributions" link in the top right of the page, then click on your page title and click the Edit tab. Now scroll to the bottom of your markup page and add the category tag you feel is appropriate. Feel free to add more than one tag if your article appropriately should be listed under several categories.

If you cannot find a suitable existing category, feel free to create one. To create a new category, simply add a new **[[Category:My Super Duper New Category To Save the World]]** to the bottom of a page.

To create a link to a new page, simply add a new tag such as **[[my even better page]]** to your page. Then view the page and follow the link to "my even better page," and you will be prompted to create the page content.

## GETTING FANCY

While editing a page, the WIKI markup toolbar icons (Figure 1-5) will provide basic functionality to help format your content. Not all HTML tags will produce the expected results, so make sure to click the preview button before you save your content. Now that you know the basics, feel free to experiment and get fancy. Browse the WIKI pages and when you see a style or format you like take a look at the source

code to see the tags employed. If you are looking for a place to experiment, browse to: <http://www.sascommunity.org/wiki/Sandbox>. I created the page for just this purpose.

Figure 1-5




Icon	Function	What it shows when editing	What it shows on the page
	Bold or strong emphasis	<code>'''abc'''</code>	<b>abc</b>
	Italic or emphasis	<code>''abc''</code>	<i>abc</i>
	Internal link	<code>[[abc]]</code>	<a href="#">abc</a>
	External link	<code>[abc.com]</code>	
	Section heading	<code>== abc ==</code>	<b>abc</b>
	Insert image	<code>[[Image:abc.jpg]]</code>	
	Insert media	<code>[[Media:abc.ogg]]</code>	<a href="#">Media:abc.ogg</a>
	Mathematical formula	<code>&lt;math&gt;abc&lt;/math&gt;</code>	<i>abc</i>
	Ignore wiki formatting	<code>&lt;nowiki&gt;abc '''[[Bold text]]'''&lt;/nowiki&gt;</code>	abc '''[[Bold text]]'''
	Sign talk comments (with time stamp)	<code>~~~~</code>	<a href="#">Gareth Aus</a> 22:49, 11 February 2006 (UTC)
	Horizontal line	<code>----</code>	

Table Credit: [http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing\\_toolbar](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing_toolbar)

## CONCLUSION

You are now ready to begin collaborating. While browsing sasCommunity.org feel free to:

- share your experiences by posting papers you've written
- add links to external content
- join discussions
- create new content
- modify current content
- add comments on the discussion pages to let others know what you think

After all, you've been given developer and steering committee privileges.

## REFERENCES

1. <http://www.sascommunity.org/wiki/sasCommunity>About>
2. ^a b c d “wiki”. Encyclopedia Britannica 1. (2007). London: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc..
3. Figure 1-5 table credit: [http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing\\_toolbar](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing_toolbar)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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