

## **Do You Wiki?**

Strange word, but a very useful website. What am I talking about? The Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia. I stumbled across this a few weeks ago searching for something. Once I got there I spent about 2 hours just jumping around from topic to topic. It was so intriguing that I've been back several times and each time I'm just amazed at the amount of topics there are to read about.

So what's so neat about Wikipedia versus other online encyclopedias? Well, for one, its absolutely free. Secondly, the manner in which it is organized is truly unique. I like to pull up a certain year in history and just read about all the events that happened that year. A person could spend hours following links just from a single year. The third thing I like about it is that it is totally user written. That's right, anyone visiting the site can either add a new article or edit an existing one.

This worried me at first because I thought," how credible can these articles be if anyone can write them." When I found out there is no oversight committee monitoring the content I worried even more. But after reading the story behind Wikipedia, I realized that the individual readers and writers are the best control mechanism available. Aside from a few vandals who deliberately post junk and lies, most of the articles are very credible and accurate. The best part I like is that you have the power to change the article or content if you disagree with it or if you feel the article lacks some information. For instance, yesterday I was able to edit their article on Hatch, NM which is where I traveled this last week to get my load of Hatch chile peppers which I roasted Saturday.

So if you're tired of visiting the same old websites on the Internet and are looking for something new to do then just go to [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) and sit back and enjoy.