

THE MCA KNOWLEDGE BASE GOES WIKI

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BACKGROUND

During 2010, David Worrall began looking at MCA websites that could benefit from changing to a “wiki” approach. One site, <http://www.musiccareer.com.au>, is up and running. It was concluded at the 2010 Assembly that the knowledge base could benefit too, and it has now been duly restructured. The “Wikimedia” software is freely available provided the standard “template” is similar to the Wikipedia encyclopaedic presentation. *A great opportunity.*

PROGRESS

The wiki approach clearly benefits the knowledge base. It provides a flexible structure using the same well-recognised layout and appearance as Wikipedia. The flexibility is assisted by a hierarchy of categories and subcategories which can go to many levels (limited to five or less for the knowledge base from the common top level to a specific topic). Wiki also makes cross-referencing easier, through MCA’s search engine and wikis like the music careers website, and Wikipedia itself.

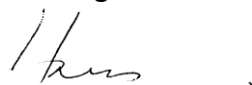
WHAT NEEDS DOING

The knowledge base needs to be updated, augmented and refreshed, which will be easier in the wiki environment with the help of all councillors and their friends and colleagues:

- 1 ***Many articles are out of date.*** YOU can help using your own expertise. PLEASE LOOK THROUGH EXISTING ARTICLES AND AMEND THEM.
- 2 ***Many new articles are needed:*** Each topic is ideally tackled in three ways: (a) describing a particular part of the music sector which we refer to as “mapping”; (b) defining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for that activity or genre (SWOT analysis); and (c) key issues. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE IN WHICHEVER WAY YOU PREFER.
- 3 ***There is an urgent need for statistics*** of any kind. CAN YOU HELP WITH DATA SOURCES?
- 4 ***What are your ideas*** about the directions of the knowledge base, and for that matter of the whole information content of the MCA websites to which the knowledge base belongs? HOW DO YOU WANT THE KNOWLEDGE BASE TO DEVELOP?
- 5 ***The 2010 Assembly raised the idea of councillors finding people in their areas of expertise to search for and collate information.*** THAT WOULD BE TERRIFIC!

I am giving a brief presentation on the wiki version of the knowledge base during the Assembly. Wiki makes it possible, in principle, for anyone to contribute.

Looking forward to your thoughts.



PS: ~~We~~ are currently working on a better front page for the wiki site – urgently needed to attract both readers and potential contributors to the knowledge base wiki design.