OLAT / WIKI

1. Overview

A **wiki** is a collection of individual pages (= articles) that are linked together and can be edited and expanded by many people.

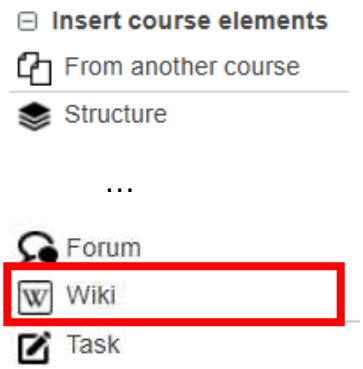
A special feature is that the development of the articles can always be traced: the **version history** records who made which changes to an article and when. Old versions can also be compared and restored.

Another special feature is the **discussion** that is automatically available for each article.

It is possible to **subscribe** to wikis so that a system message is generated whenever a change is made.

2. Setting up the course element

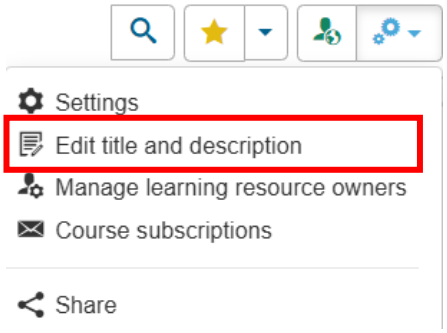
The Wiki course element can be found in the editor view under **Insert course elements**:



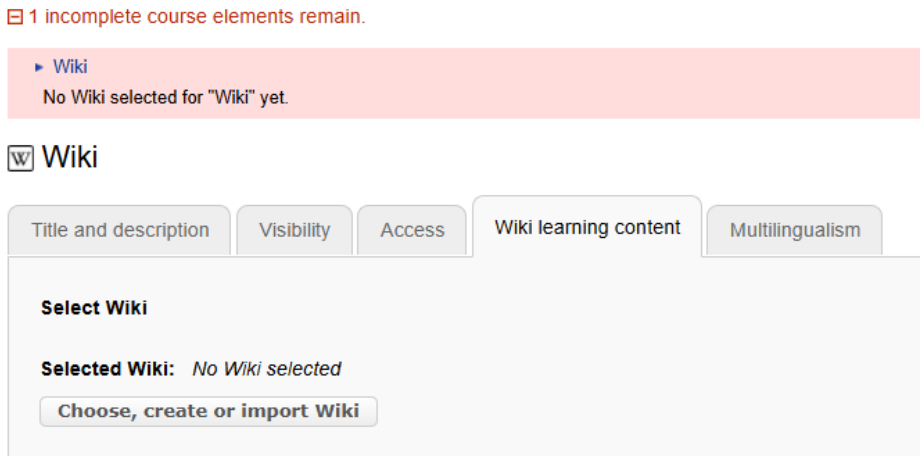
Like any other course element, the element Wiki is added to the course menu.

- Give the Wiki element a **title** and, if desired, a **description**.

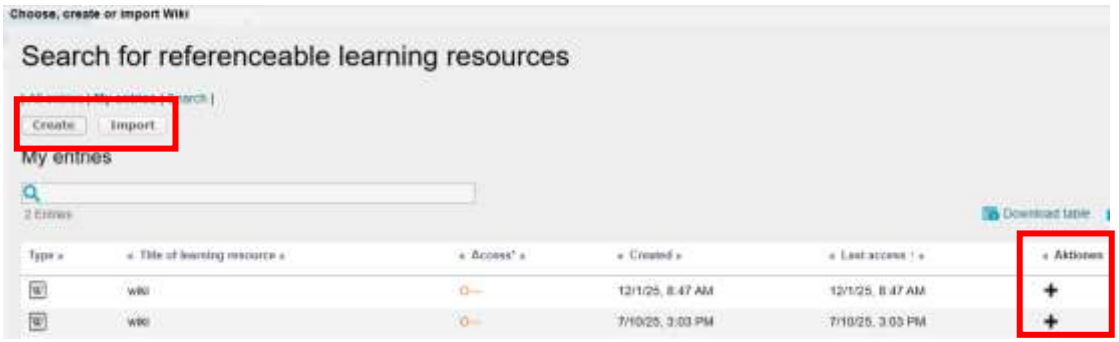
If you want to change the title or description later, you can click on the cog icon and then on 'Edit title and description'.



- If this course element is not subordinate to other elements, set a group-dependent filter in the **Visibility** OR **Access** tab.
- Under the **Wiki learning content** tab, you can select an existing wiki, create a new wiki or import a wiki. (You can find all your wikis under the **Teach & Learn** tab under **My Resources**.)



- You can choose **create** or **import** a wiki.



The Wiki element is edited in the course view (and not in edit mode).

3. Wiki markup

OLAT wikis use **wiki markup** to 'control' the content of the wiki. This simple markup language uses certain characters to format text, insert links or display images, for example. You can find an overview in **6. Formatting with markup (excerpt)**.

Wiki articles are always written in markup, i.e. the text is not formatted in edit mode and the control characters are visible.

The toolbar makes it easier to use the commands and inserts the corresponding markup characters. The actual display can be checked using a **preview**.

4. Wiki structure

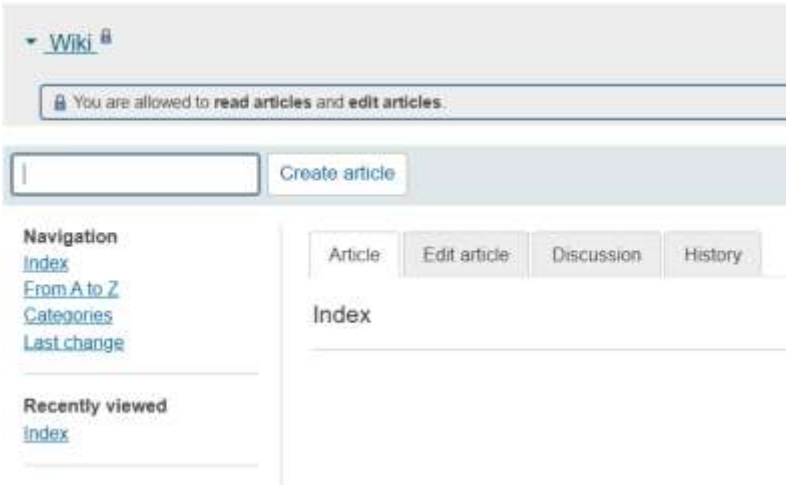
Wikis always have a home page called **Index**. This article cannot be removed. It makes sense to collect introductory texts there and link to the individual articles from there, e.g. in a structured list. The index page must be filled in manually.

All articles are also listed in alphabetical order (**from A to Z**), which corresponds to an alphabetically ordered table of contents.

Categories also allow articles to be grouped by topic, making it easier to navigate the wiki.

The entries in the **navigation** menu cannot be changed and always contain the entries **Index**, **From A to Z**, **Categories** and **Last change**.

By editing the always-present and non-deletable Menu article (found under 'From A-Z') once, you can create a custom wiki menu that appears as an additional block in the sidebar.



5. Edit wiki

New articles can be created by entering the name and clicking **Create article**.

PLEASE NOTE: Article names must not contain colons or question marks.

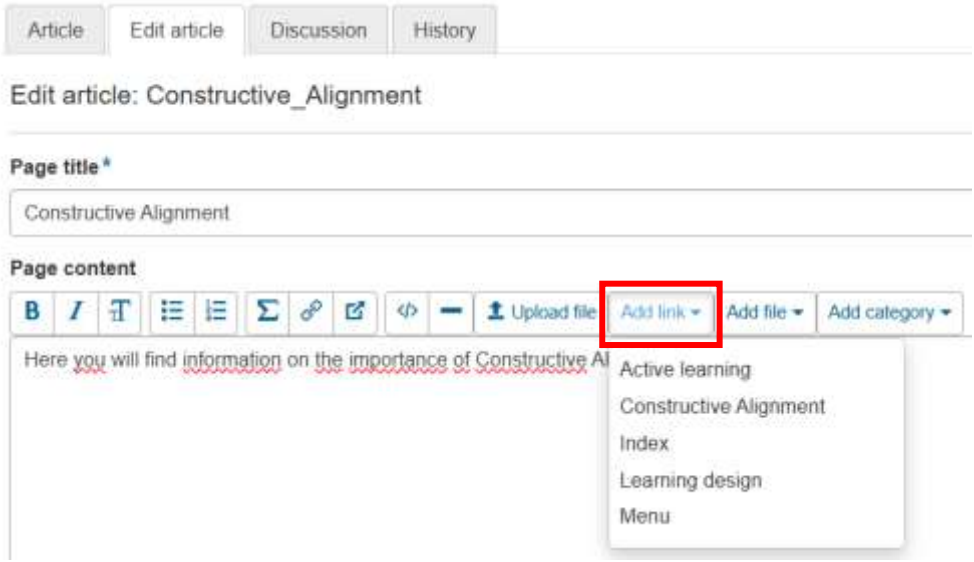


Creating links

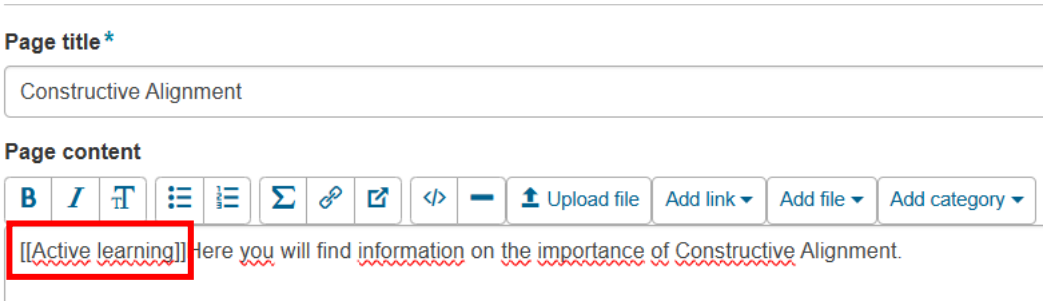
A wiki thrives on interconnected articles.

- You can add link an article to other articles via the Add link button. Links to articles are marked with square brackets: `[[Article]]`

  Example: You create a link from the article *Constructive Alignment* to the article *Active learning* by clicking on **Active learning** beneath **Add link**.



  The link can be found at the beginning of the article.



- Links to images are created using `[[Image:Image name.png]]`.
- Links to files are created using `[[Media:Text.pdf]]`.
- Text links are created using `[[link destination|linked text]]`.
- External links to web addresses `http://...` are recognised automatically.

PLEASE NOTE: Images and files must first be uploaded to the wiki using the **File management** button.

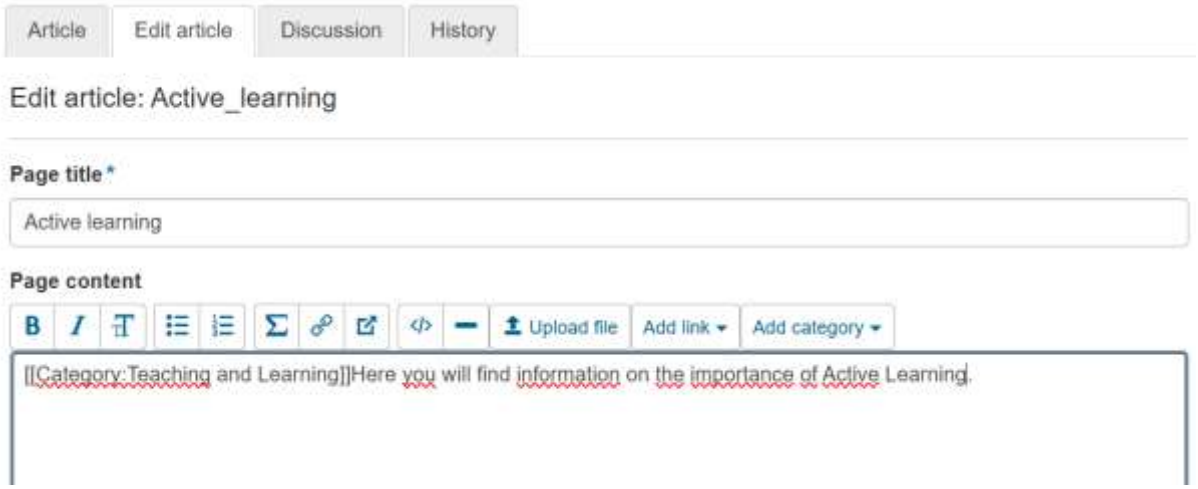
Links to articles that do not yet exist appear in **red**. Clicking on such a link automatically creates the new article and opens it for editing. Therefore, a red link should always be understood as an invitation to create the missing article and thus, expand the wiki.

Creating categories

Categories are displayed as buttons at the end of an article and serve as quick access to other articles in the same category.

An article is assigned to a category via a link with `[[Category:Example]]`, which creates the category and displays it in the corresponding menu.

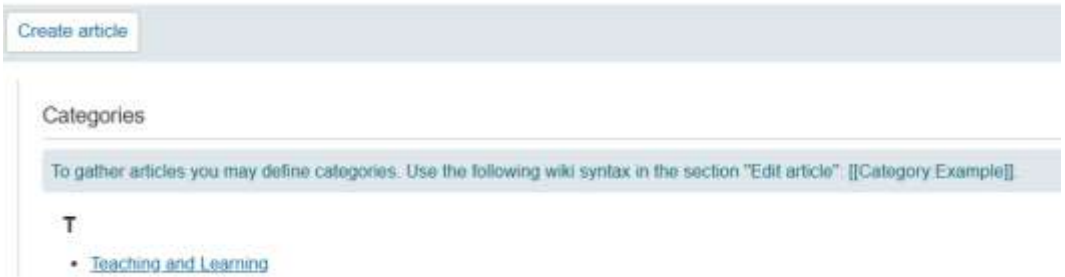
Example: Write `[[Category:Teaching and Learning]]` at the beginning of the article.



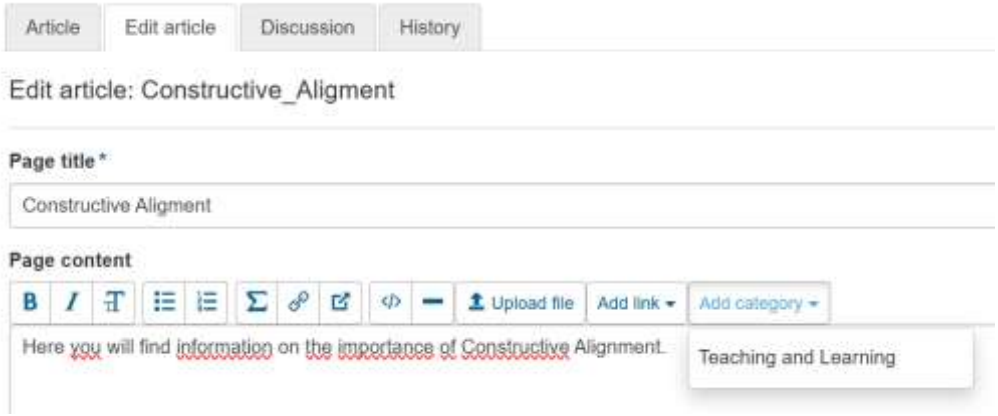
It does not matter where in the article the category link is inserted; the category button always appears at the beginning of the page.

Similar to articles, category names must not contain question marks.

The new category can then be found in **Categories**.



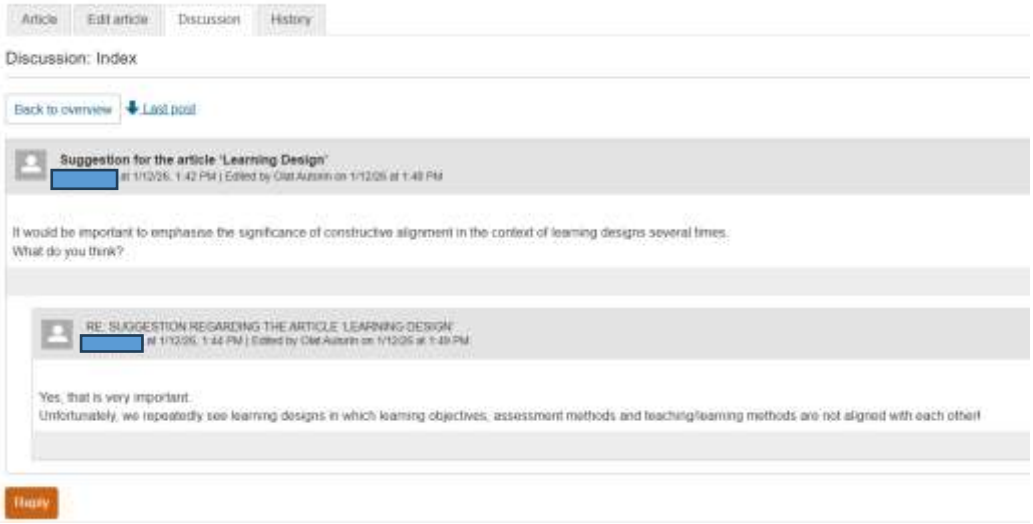
If categories already exist, an article can also be assigned to a category using the **Add category** button.



Discussion

Each article has a **Discussion** tab that leads to a separate forum assigned to the article.

This allows authors to exchange ideas and clarify the final form of an article in a (ideally scientific) discourse.



6. Formatting with markup (excerpt)

Formatting is created using special characters.

Example: *italics*, **bold** and ***bold & italics*** with an apostrophe ‘:

Wiki markup:	''text''	'''text'''	'''''text'''''
Result:	text	**text**	***text***

Headings at different levels are helpful for structuring an article:

== level 2 ==	=== level 3 ===	==== level 4 ====
level 2	**level 3**	**level 4**

Lists can be created with asterisks (*) at different levels:

* item	• item
* next item	• next item
** level 2	• level 2

Numbered lists are created using hash symbols (#):

# First	1. First
# Second	2. Second
## Sublevel: First	1. Sublevel: First

Additional formatting

In addition to wiki markup, which can be written very quickly with a little practice, the wiki also understands (some selected) HTML commands.

italics	bold
italics	**bold**

HTML codes are also interpreted for special characters:

Φ	∞	→
Φ	∞	→

Formulas are implemented using the MathML extension and inserted using the Σ button or $$. LaTeX code can be used between the characters:

$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx$

$$\int_{b}^{a} f(x)dx$$

The markup syntax offers numerous formatting options. Here is an overview of the wiki syntax: https://help.bps-system.de/wiki/Wikisyntax/