

# Leveraging SoilWeb200 and Wikipedia for Knowledge Dissemination

Maja Krzic<sup>1</sup>, Julie Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Will Engle<sup>2</sup>, Novak Rogic<sup>2</sup> and Sepand Dyanatkar<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Land and Food Systems, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

## Could online course material be used to promote soil science?

As global issues continue to place increasing demands on soil, increased awareness of importance of soil and better access to soil science knowledge are needed.



The Internet, mobile devices, and social networks are integral to the daily lives of today's generation of postsecondary students.

Digital technologies are becoming a reality in higher education, providing opportunities for students to share their knowledge with authentic audiences (e.g., the general public) through engagement with open educational resources.

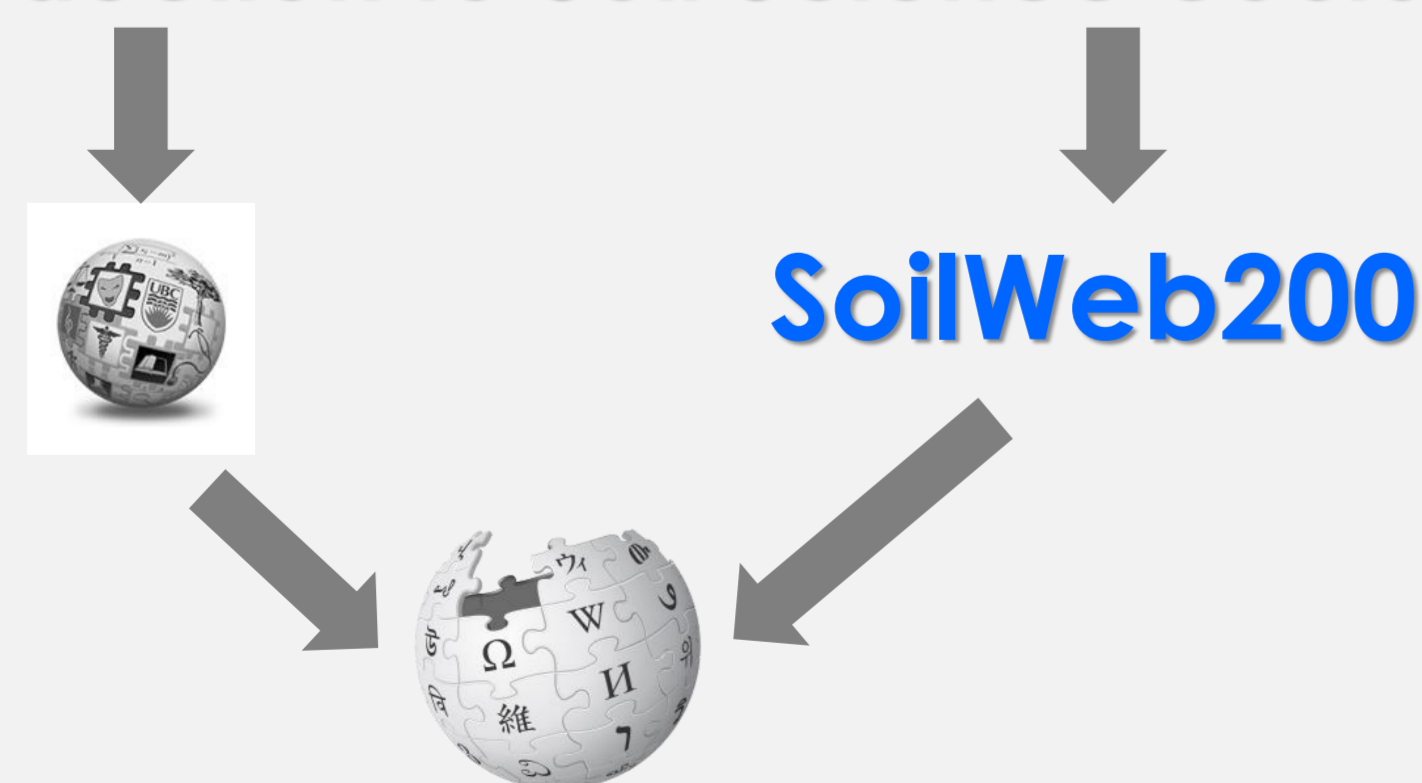


↳ **But, could existing open access, online educational resources be used to promote soil science?**

## SoilWeb200

SoilWeb200 (<http://soilweb200.landfood.ubc.ca/>) is a multimedia educational resource, developed to support the University of British Columbia's (UBC's) Introduction to Soil Science course; and also used in 14 other UBC courses and 17 non-UBC courses offered at 12 other universities/colleges in Canada and internationally.

### Introduction to Soil Science course



Educational resources used in UBC's Introduction to Soil Science course are housed in WordPress and UBC wiki, with a plan to link them to Wikipedia

## Connecting online course resources to Wikipedia

### Project objectives

- To engage students with the SoilWeb200 course materials through incorporation of student-generated content and knowledge distribution via integration with widely used resources such as Wikipedia.

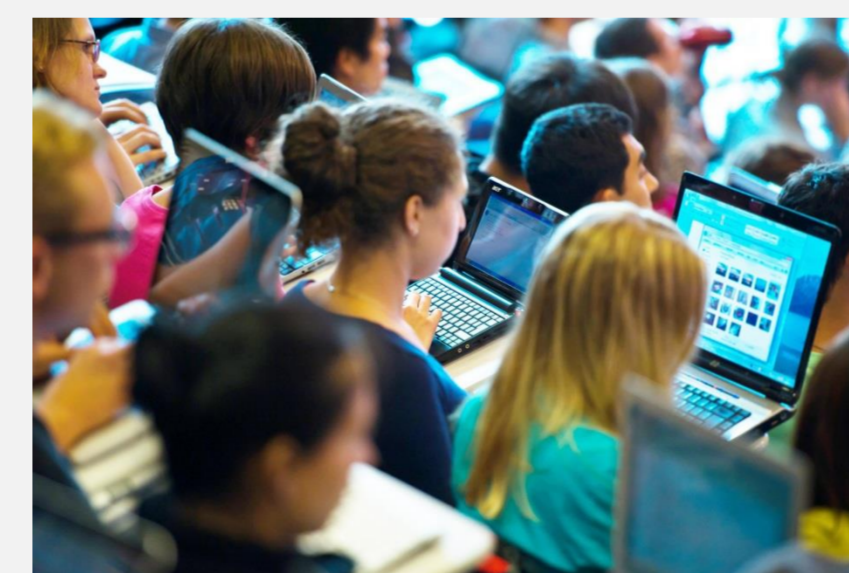
To achieve the objectives, the following student-generated content assignments were developed:

- Student projects involving the curation and posting of news articles with a critical review of their relevance in the Introduction to Soil Science course and



By building Wikipedia pages, students contribute to the diversity of articles and article authors. Giulia Forsythe / Flickr

- Written reflection articles to propose improvements, additions, and possible integration points between the SoilWeb200 content and soil science content on Wikipedia.



By enabling students to be producers of SoilWeb200 content, these activities will build students' problem solving and creative thinking skills, communication and understanding of importance of soil.

## World Soil Day Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

To celebrate World Soil Day on December 5, 2017 join us in a World Soil Day Edit-a-thon!

The World Soil Day Wikipedia edit-a-thon is an event hosted by the UBC soil science community in conjunction with Wikipedia experts from the UBC's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology in Vancouver, Canada on Dec 5, 2017 (1:00 – 4:00 pm, PDT).

Don't worry if you've never edited a Wikipedia entry before! There will be training and support, and a range of different kinds of edits available for you to work on, including:

- Typo corrections, formatting
- Adding/deleting page content, new sections
- Adding references, images, videos (great opportunity for those of you with great photo libraries)
- Adding an infobox to a page
- Creating a new page from scratch



## Edit-a-thon

- Opportunity for soil science community and students to edit and update soil science information on Wikipedia, especially where information gaps currently exist
- Opportunity to reach and connect with a large audience through Wikipedia
- Promote the *World Soil Day*

For more information and to get involved in this event visit our **Wikipedia:Meetup** page at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/World\\_Soil\\_Day\\_2017\\_Edit-a-thon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/World_Soil_Day_2017_Edit-a-thon)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



VIRTUAL SOIL SCIENCE  
LEARNING RESOURCES  
FROM THE GROUND TO THE WEB

Please contact Maja Krzic with any questions  
[maja.krzic@ubc.ca](mailto:maja.krzic@ubc.ca)