

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for Lead(II) nitrate. The main text describes it as an inorganic compound with the chemical formula $Pb(NO_3)_2$. It mentions its historical use as a pigment and its modern applications in various industries. The right-hand sidebar contains a table with chemical data:

| Lead(II) nitrate | |
|------------------|---|
| | |
| | |
| IUPAC name | Lead nitrate |
| Other names | Plumbous nitrate Lead dintrate Plumb dultis |
| Identifiers | |
| CAS number | 10099-74-8 |
| UN number | 1499 |
| RTECS number | 002100000 |

Wikipedia

Purpose

Wikipedia is an online encyclopaedia that is collaboratively authored by volunteers from across the Internet.

Description

Wikipedia is a web-based, free, multilingual encyclopaedia project that is written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world. The majority of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet. Since its creation in 2001, Wikipedia has rapidly grown into the largest reference Web site on the Internet. It is immensely popular with students and attracts contributions from some genuine experts in their chosen fields. However, Wikipedia differs from a paper-based reference source in some very important ways and because of this has divided the academic community.

Older articles have been open for editing for some time and tend to have evolved into something more comprehensive and balanced; however, newer articles may still contain significant misinformation or content considered "unencyclopaedic". Unlike a paper reference source, Wikipedia can be constantly updated, with articles on topical events being created or updated within hours, rather than months or years for printed encyclopaedias. Updates to entries on fast moving disciplines are also much quicker than in conventional print reference sources. Users need to be aware of the differing nature of Wikipedia in order to obtain valid information and avoid misinformation that has been recently added and not yet removed.

Ways of using this tool

Approached with a degree of critical awareness, Wikipedia can provide a valuable starting point for anybody looking to gain an overview of a new topic. An involvement in editing Wikipedia may provide an interesting way for academics to introduce their research to a wider audience.

Other than being used as an encyclopaedia for study or research, Wikipedia offers the potential to develop students' critical thinking, research and writing skills. At the University of East Anglia postgraduates are being assessed as they edit existing Wikipedia articles and research and write their own pieces for the project. Students are assessed on their ability to improve the quality and balance of existing articles by demonstrating that they have done additional reading around the topic. Students are engaged in a critical review process as the additions are often subject to peer review by other 'Wikipedians'.

Learn More

Students Assessed with Wikipedia

http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/ukfs_news/hi/newsid_6420000/newsid_6422800/6422877.stm

Researching with Wikipedia:

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