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Navigation & Mercury

CzechOut, Community Technical Specialist — 29 July 2017

Navigation is something that's considerably different on Mercury than desktop. **This is largely because desktop navigation tends to be horizontally-oriented.** Phones are typically held vertically, so traditional navigation rarely works.

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Mercury's goals are different than desktop. Mercury is primarily for readers; desktop is strongly preferred by editors. Mercury stresses wiki links, infoboxes and the main copy of articles.

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Mercury navigation

Three main ways that navigation is implemented on Mercury

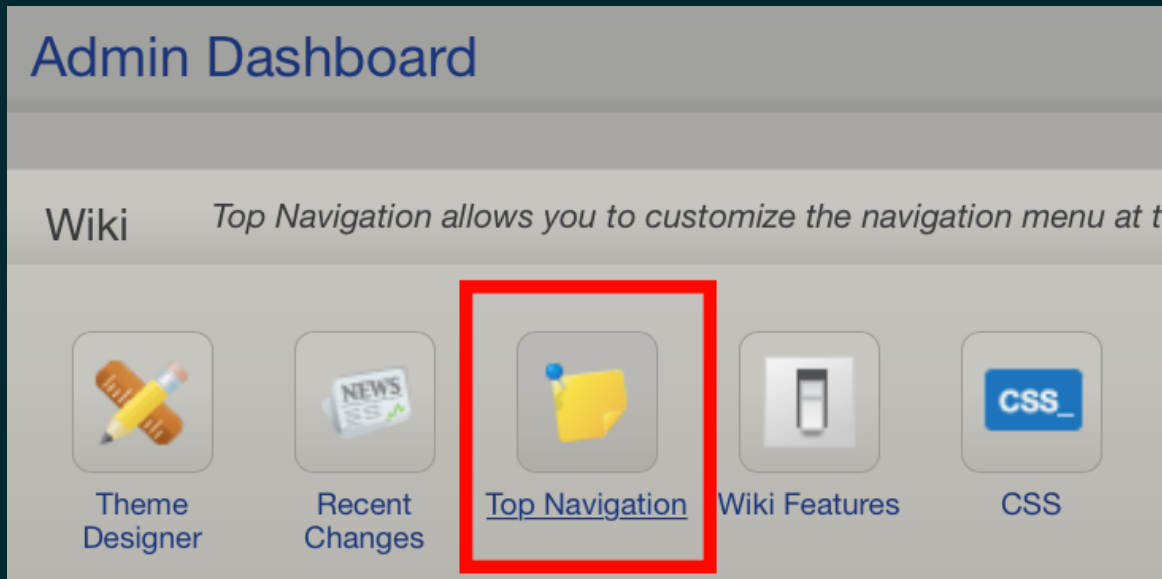# MediaWiki:Wiki-navigation

Template classification

Mobile Main Pages

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MediaWiki: Wiki-navigation

Wiki-navigation

The traditional MediaWiki:WIki-navigation is fully reflected on Mercury — so don't overlook this important opportunity to link to the major parts of your wiki.

Complete, illustrated instructions are at Help:Navigation.

Admin Dashboard

Wiki — *Top Navigation allows you to customize the navigation menu at t*

Theme Designer · Recent Changes · **Top Navigation** · Wiki Features · CSS

Wiki-navigation

Never accept the default wiki-navigation. Always tailor it to your topic's specific needs.

The wiki-navigation is especially easy-to-use on mobile, so take full advantage of it!
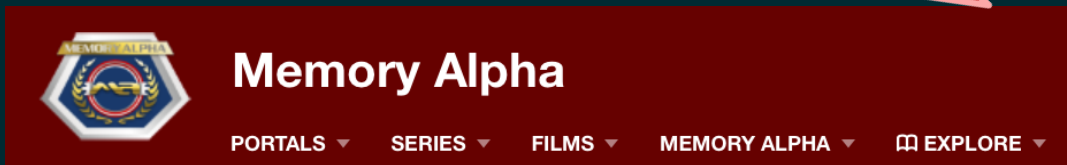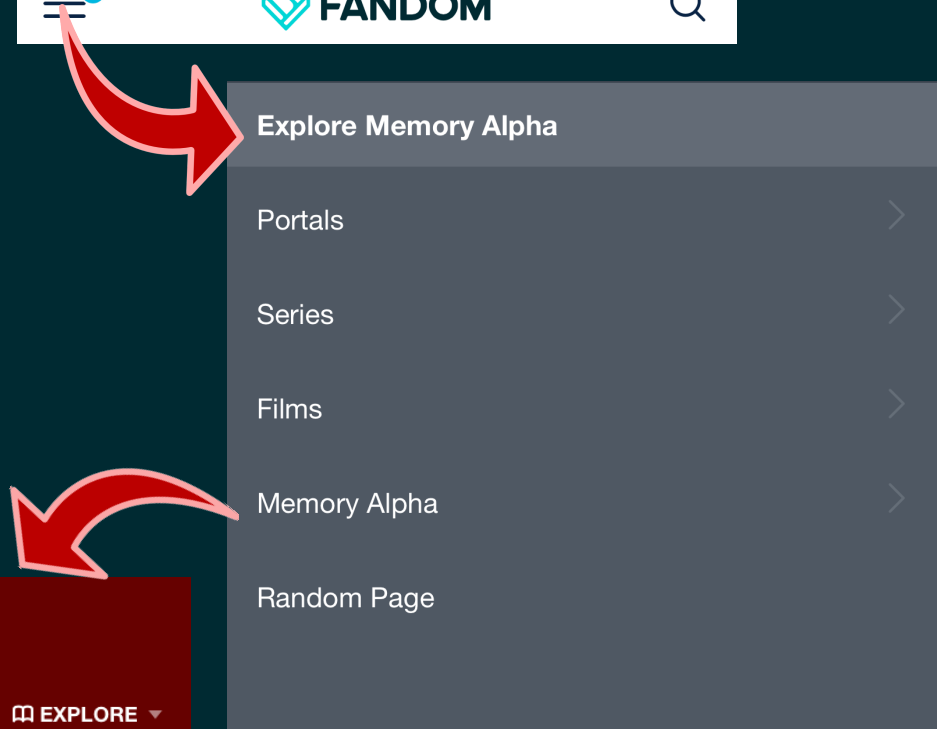
Template classification

Even though it comes up on desktop, template classification is entirely about the way a template appears on Mercury.

Because Mercury is focused on the casual reader, navigation between articles — other than by ordinary wiki links — is de-emphasised.

Edit template type

To learn more about each template type, including examples, please visit Help:Template Types.

○ **Infobox**
Displays the most essential information about an article in a box at the top of the page, usually to the right side.

○ **Quote**
Highlights notable snippets of text such as lyrics, book passages, or spoken dialog. Can contain dialog between one person or multiple people.

○ **Navbox**
Displays a list of organized links in a box for readers to navigate to related articles, usually at the bottom of the page.

○ **Notice**
Also known as tophats or alerts, these templates notify the reader about the status of the article itself, such as stub, disambiguation, or spoiler.

○ **Context-link**
Suggests another page to readers that is related to the current page or section. Usually these include "Main article" or "See also" and display as italicized text.

○ **Infoicon**
This template is used for creating a link with a small icon.

Some template types don't appear on Mercury — in particular, "Navigation" and "Navbox". And that's intended.

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Navboxes are really ugly on phones.

v · e	**Companions of the Eighth Doctor**	[hide]

Original to television	Multi-story	Grace Holloway
	Narratively ambiguous	**Chang Lee**
Original to prose	Multi-story	Bernice Summerfield • Sam Jones • Fitz Kreiner • Compassion • Miranda Dawkins • Anji Kapoor • Trix MacMillan • Bazima
	Single-adventure	Edward Fyne • Lorenzo Smitt • Debbie Castle • Ayfai • Evelyn Chan
Original to comics	Multi-story	Stacy Townsend • Ssard • Izzy Sinclair • Fey Truscott-Sade • Kroton • Destrii • Josie Day
	Single-adventure	Billy Wilkins • Ray Stobbs • Ediphis • Chantir
Original to audio	Multi-story	Gemma and Samson Griffin • Mary Shelley • Charley Pollard • William Shakespeare • C'rizz • Lucie Miller • Tamsin Drew • Molly O'Sullivan • Liv Chenka • Helen Sinclair
	Single-adventure	Todd • Rita • Daphne

Desktop

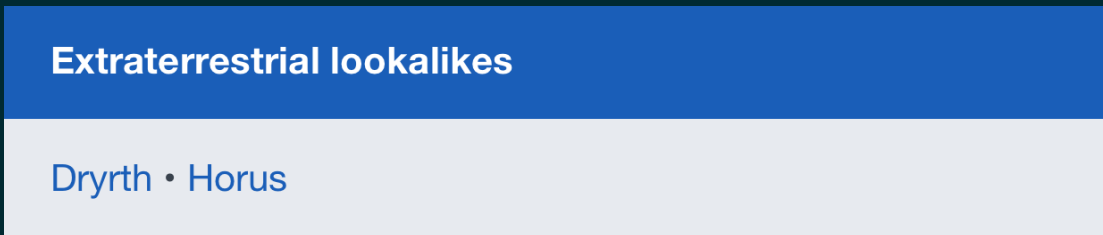| v · e		
Companions of the Eighth Doctor		
Original to television	Multi-story	Grace Holloway
	Narratively ambiguous	Chang Lee
Original to prose	Multi-story	Bernice Summerfield • Sam Jones • Fitz Kreiner • Compassion • Miranda Dawkins • Anji Kapoor • Trix MacMillan • Bazima
		Edward Fyne •

Phone

Creative use of infoboxes

If you absolutely, positively think that a bit of navigation is necessary, a clear way to present it is through the use of a very simple, image-less infobox, rather than a traditional navbox.

Extraterrestrial lookalikes
Dryrth • Horus

Desktop

Extraterrestrial lookalikes

Dryrth • Horus

Mercury

```
<infobox theme="infobox">
      <header>Extraterrestrial lookalikes</header>
      <navigation>
      {{#if:{{{1|}}}|[[{{{1}}}]]}} {{#if:{{{2|}}}|• [[{{{2}}}|{{{2}}}]]}}
      </navigation>
</infobox>
```

Code

Mobile Main Pages

Navigation on Mercury is most obviously centred around Mobile Main Pages, or MMPs. We've put a lot of resources over the past few years in continuing to develop the MMP so that it looks modern and operates in a way that makes sense for the mobile user.

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It recognises that your phone is not a laptop.

You can unleash your creativity in a platform appropriate way. Your desktop main page doesn't need to mobile-sensitive, since it never gets displayed on a phone.

The MMP lets you be as creative as you usually are on your desktop main page.

So Civilization Wiki gets to keep its fancy JavaScript tabs and featured videos without worrying about the impact on Mercury.

Finding your MMP

It's pretty easy to locate your mobile main page. Just go to your desktop main page and look for it under the EDIT button!

You can also edit it in Mercury itself, again by going to the main page. But you can only edit in Mercury *after* the MMP has been initially created on the desktop.

VisualEditor

History

Rename

Protect

Delete

Talk (2)

Edit mobile main page

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POWERED BY WIKIA

TARDIS

Edit Main Page

PAGES	PHOTOS	VIDEOS	DISCUSSIONS
61k	33k	3k	750

EDIT

Set your main image and wiki description.

Promote your wiki

Add an image and summary to let visitors know what this wiki is all about. This information will be used to promote your wiki in search results, FANDOM mobile apps, and more.

Wiki description

Community Connect provides opportunities for direct dialogue between the fans, creators, and team at FANDOM where you can Be Heard, Learn and Connect.

EDIT

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Community Connect

| 233 PAGES | 314 IMAGES | 0 VIDEOS |

Community Connect provides opportunities for direct dialogue between the fans, creators, and team at FANDOM where you can Be Heard, Learn and Connect.

View Community →

That way, you'll be noticeable when people search for your topic at fandom.wikia.com.

Figure out which articles are most important for your wiki. Then grab some images to illustrate them.
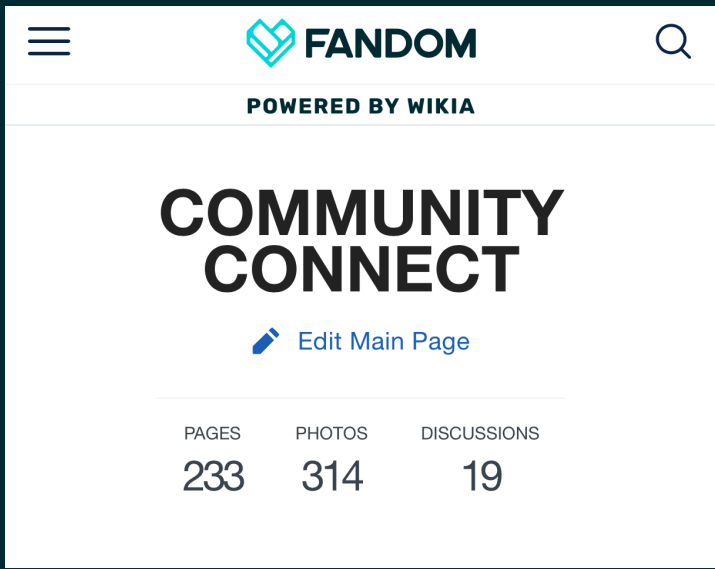
Remember that images for featured articles will have captions over their lower third. You may have to do some special cropping, or even make new graphics which don't appear on the page.

Surface some categories to feature.

Featured Categories

Featured Categories allow your users to explore your community at a high level through the use of Mediawiki categories. Categories should be grouped together into logical sections such as "Films" or "Comics". If a category doesn't work as part of a group we suggest placing it in the Optional Categories section below.

Stories
6 items

Main characters
8 items

Locations
6 items

Technology
6 items

Species
6 items

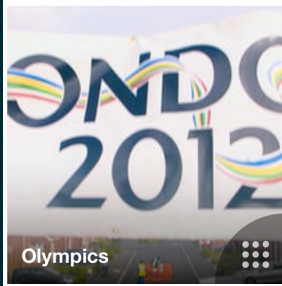**Organisations**
4 items

Species
6 items

Daleks

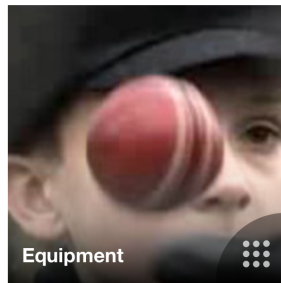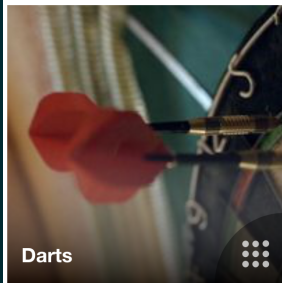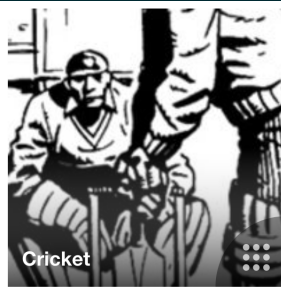Cybermen

Silurians and Sea Devils

Ice Warriors

Time Lords

Humans (from Venus!)

Within the categories, choose some interesting sub-categories. And don't forget to choose something a little weird.
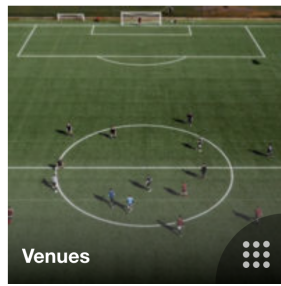
You should make sure all your sub-categories are illustrated. And that the pics are cropped well.

Although the MMP code will choose images for you, **don't let it. You'll get much better results you choose and crop** the images yourself.

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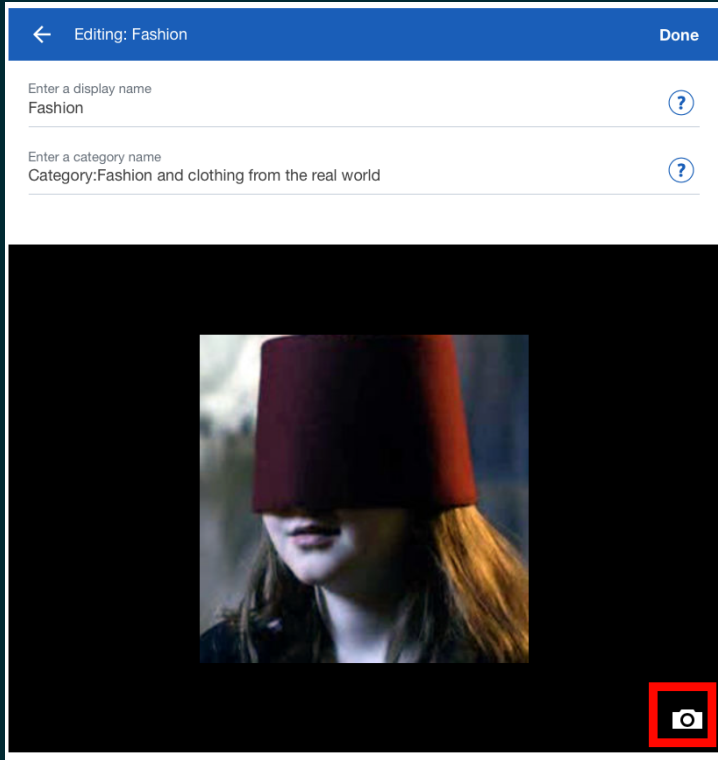
Remember you're cropping for a square button. Just go to the category, hit the camera icon in the bottom right, and play around until you get it just right.

Thank You

Questions?