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THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS

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encyclopediaofarkansas.net



You may be wondering how the CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas is different from resources like Wikipedia. While Wikipedia is super handy for fun facts and quick trivia, The CALS EOA is fact-checked and peer-reviewed. That means that it has the same legitimacy as a published book and can be used credibly for academic citation. Writing a paper? You can feel confident about citing the CALS EOA.



**how a draft
becomes
an entry
1-5**

1. The raw rough draft is received from the author.
2. Jobe formats it and Lancaster gives it an initial edit.
3. Polston matches the draft to a reviewer with an applicable area of expertise.
4. Jobe sends the drafts out in batches to their respective reviewers.
5. Each draft is assessed with in-house and out-of-house blind review—that means the reviewer doesn't know who the author is, just in case that might cause bias.



**how a draft
becomes
an entry
6**

6. Once the draft comes back from the blind out-of-house review, Lancaster evaluates what the draft might be missing, and compiles a set of queries for the author.

If the draft doesn't require any additional information, it skips the queries stage and moves forward.



**how a draft
becomes
an entry
7**

7. When the queries have come back from the author, or if there weren't any queries needed, the next step of the process is fact-checking with our staff historian, Polston.

This stage might be as simple as checking primary or secondary sources on the second floor of Main or Roberts on microfiche or microfilm.



Or it might require a trip to the Arkansas History Commission. Every entry is a little different and requires unique research to ensure accuracy.

With hundreds of entries published every year, this can be one of the most time-consuming stages of the process, but it is well worth it to be able to stand confidently behind our product as factual.



**how a draft
becomes
an entry
8**

8. After fact-checking with our staff historian it is time for the draft to undergo a final editorial review.

Welky is our copyeditor, and she's a whiz with all things Chicago style, from grammar to punctuation. If any errors haven't been caught before now, this is the final stage to snag them before the entry goes online.



**how a draft
becomes
an entry
9-10**

9. After copyediting, Jobe sends the final draft to the author for their approval before the entry goes online.

10. Lancaster marks up the draft with all the terms that can be linked in the body of the text. Imagine having 7,000+ entries memorized well enough to know if there's an entry online for that topic yet or not!



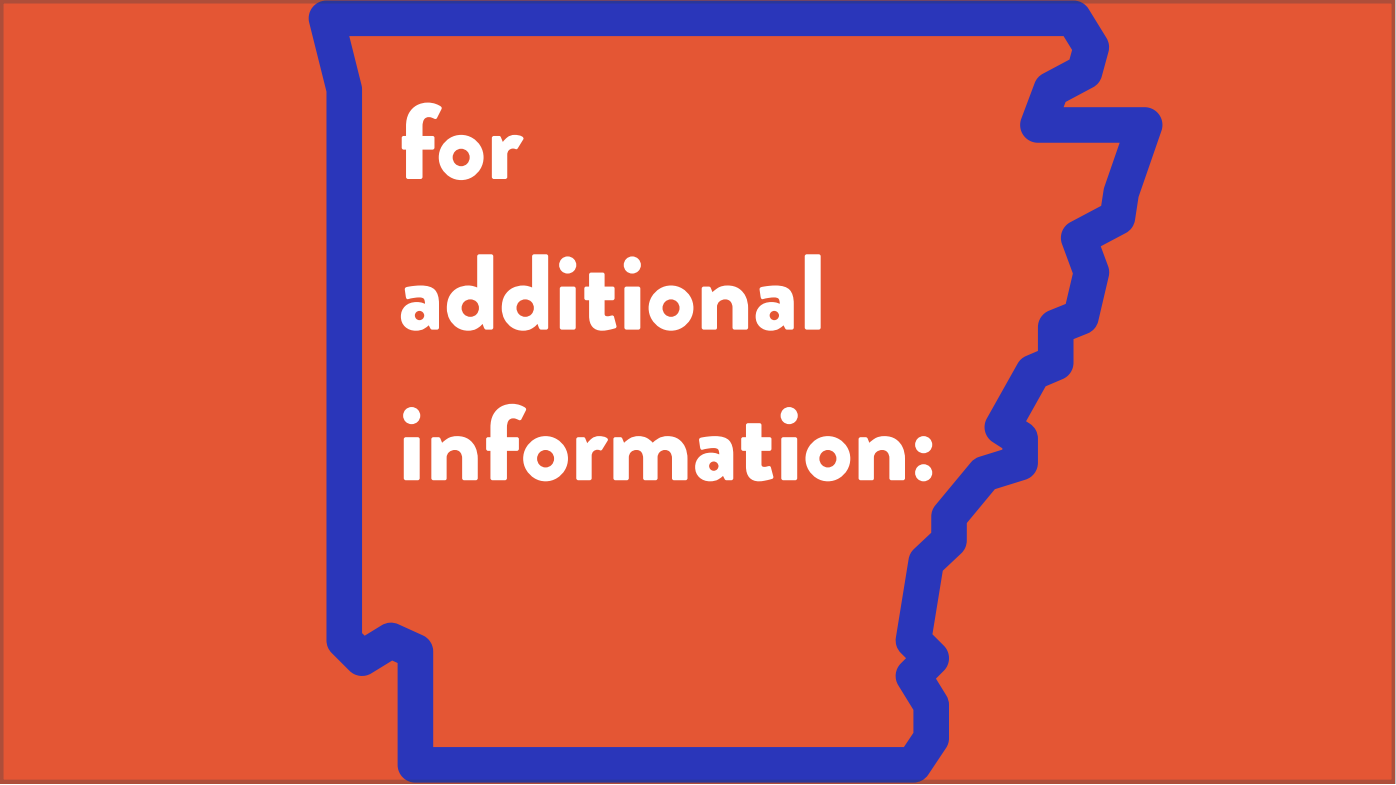
**how a draft
becomes
an entry**

11

11. Jobe gets the marked up draft from Lancaster and uploads the entry online, adding all the links he indicated, occasionally even catching one he missed ;)

Uploading includes backwards and forwards linking. That means that if I'm adding a new entry online for "Kermit The Frog," I want to make sure that the Kermit entry has the link for the "Muppets" entry AND that the "Muppets" entry gets the new link for the "Kermit the Frog" entry too.

In this way, the Encyclopedia is constantly being expanded and further interwoven, making it easier and easier for people to find what they're looking for.



**for
additional
information:**

At the end of every published entry, we include a section “for additional information.” Encyclopedia entries give an overview, but there may be topics you’re passionately interested in and want to research further. That’s why every entry points to further sources you can pursue to learn more, many of which are available at a CALS branch near you.



**but
what
about
media**

Keckhaver is constantly adding new pieces of media online. Whenever possible, we coordinate the publication of a new entry and its accompanying media.

Each of the town entries has a county map. Most biographies include a portrait of the person. Our science entries almost always show (in gross detail) the creature in question. Organizations have group photos and events have historical photos.



**but
what
about
media**

Sometimes media collection is as “simple” as the author of an entry sending in an accompanying piece of media. (Quotation marks because it still has to be vetted, formatted, etc.)


Sometimes Keckhaver can take his own photographs (he’s a professional photographer, too).

In many cases, Keckhaver is in contact with organizations like museums making sure we have the proper permissions to use the media we encounter.



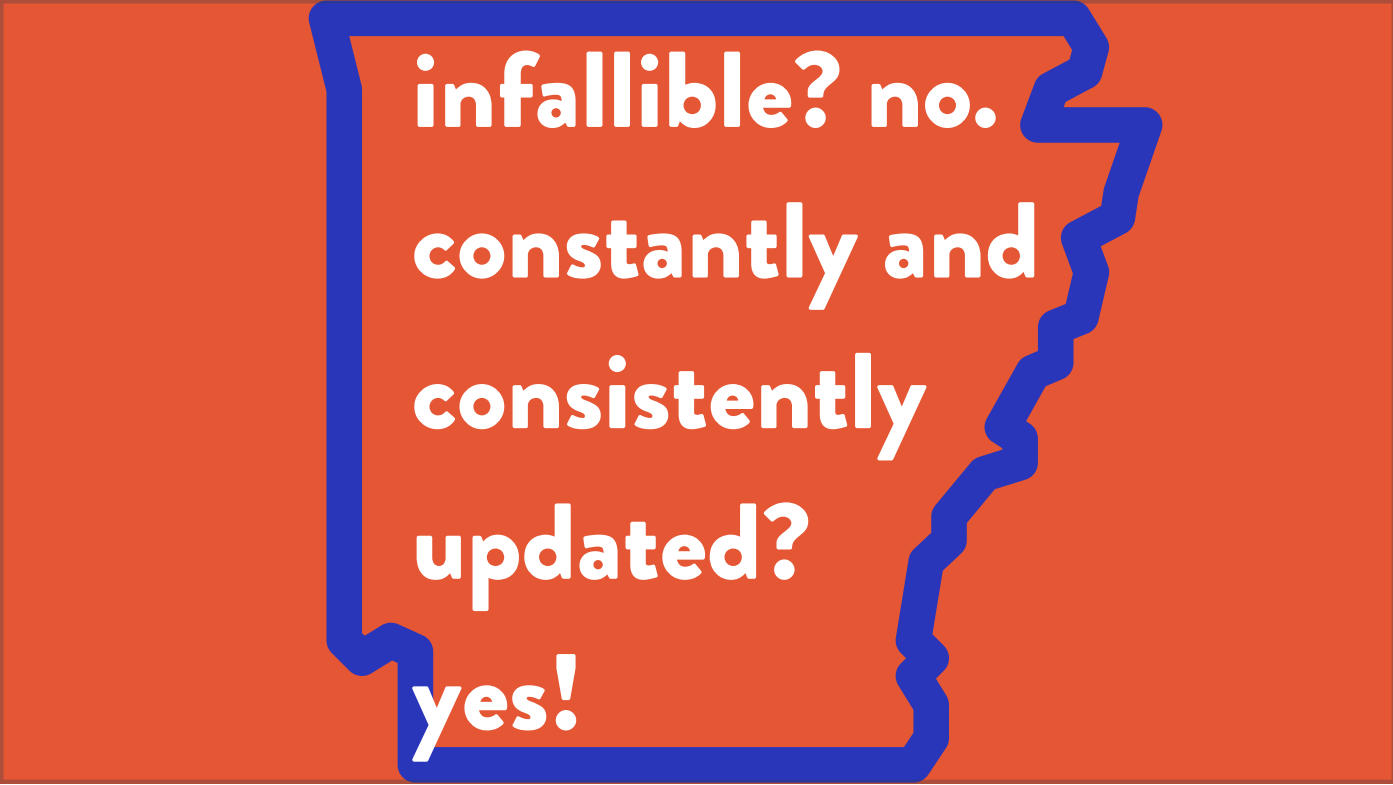
**infallible? no.
constantly and
consistently
updated?
yes!**

Now you might be wondering. What if an entry gets all the way through the editorial process and ends up online with a typo or an error? No problem. The best part about being an online resource is that we can make updates any time they are needed (unlike traditional encyclopedias which had to wait for another printing run). Many times, we catch them before anyone else does. But if you find a mistake, just tell us! We can get it fixed super fast.



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If there is a point of contention about a fact (maybe different newspapers published an event as having taken place a day sooner or a day later) our staff historian will track down everything needed to make a definitive call—or, if there’s no way to be absolutely certain, we can indicate that in the published entry. You may occasionally see an entry state “sources differ” on whether that middle initial was an S. or an F.



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Another great aspect of being an online resource is that we can regularly update our “for additional information” sources. If a new book gets published on the topic, we can add it right away!

And if that town or museum changes their web address? No problem. We can update our links with the newest, most accurate info.



So, what are you waiting for? Search our site and see if you can see if anything is missing. You can recommend an entry for inclusion with a blurb about why it is significant, or check out our list of entries needing authors. You can keep up with the CALS EOA by following our Facebook page or just clicking “What’s New” on the main page!

Thanks!

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Just drop us a line! We're always
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