

Basic Structure of a Community

1. What is it?

- A community is a virtual space where people can gather to discuss a common interest, collaborate on a project, organise an event, or further their knowledge about some topic.

2. Who runs it?

- The moderator has many important roles in the community. He or she is responsible for editing community properties, adding and inviting community members, and monitoring content to make sure the blogs and wikis are clear of copyright violations and content that should not be on the Ariadne Portal.

3. Tools and layout?

- Each community contains an overview page, a blog, a wiki, a calendar, and a file storage page.
 - The **overview page** provides a description of the community, and displays recent actions, often serving as a home base.
 - The **blog** is a tool in which any member can “post” a body of text. This versatile tool can take many forms: a community blog might be used as a list of ideas, updates on a current event, a space to share favourite recipes, or links to relevant articles found on the internet. (It is important not to post the full text of the articles themselves, as that is a violation of copyright laws.) People can discuss individual blog “entries” by posting comments underneath them.
 - A **wiki** is a living document that can be edited by anybody, and it is the most complex of the tools offered on Ariadne. The Ariadne wikis are spaces in which people can build a collection of information and structure it in a folder-like system to make it more accessible. It is similar to a blog in that an individual user can post bodies of text. However, blog entries progress chronologically on the page, starting with the most recent and working backwards, and only the original poster can edit an entry—whereas new information can be placed anywhere in a wiki, and it can be edited by any community member. One navigates and adds depth to the wiki through the use of links that lead to “subsections” of each individual page. These subsections are potentially infinite in number, so a wiki can be expanded to hold as much information as the community needs it to. This also makes the system hierarchical in nature—that is, there is a front page of the wiki, and as one follows the links on the subsequent pages, one travels “deeper” into the wiki.
 - The **calendar** tool can be used to mark important events that are relevant to a community, or to plan events and invite people.
 - The **file system** is a tool that can be used to make files of all types available to community members. Once the file is stored in the community, it can be incorporated as an enhancement to a blog entry, wiki page, or calendar event.