



Wikimedians in the Library

National Library of Scotland

How can you trust an encyclopaedia when so many articles come pre-packaged with a big warning label at the top: 'This article has multiple issues'?



How can you not?

All revisions
open and
accessible

Conversations
are an
integrated
part of
content
creation and
management



Encouraging
analysis and
critical thinking

Why work with Wikipedia?



Why work with Wikipedia?

National Library of Scotland

- Collections (approximately) = 17 million items?
- Reading Room access = approx. 8000 per year
- Digitisation efforts = 0.1% of total collections
- Digital reach = 3x Reading Room access
- Wikipedia's reach = 12 million people per day

Not a fortress, but a beacon

National Library of Scotland front lobby, 2007



National Library of Scotland front lobby, 2014



Not a fortress, but a beacon

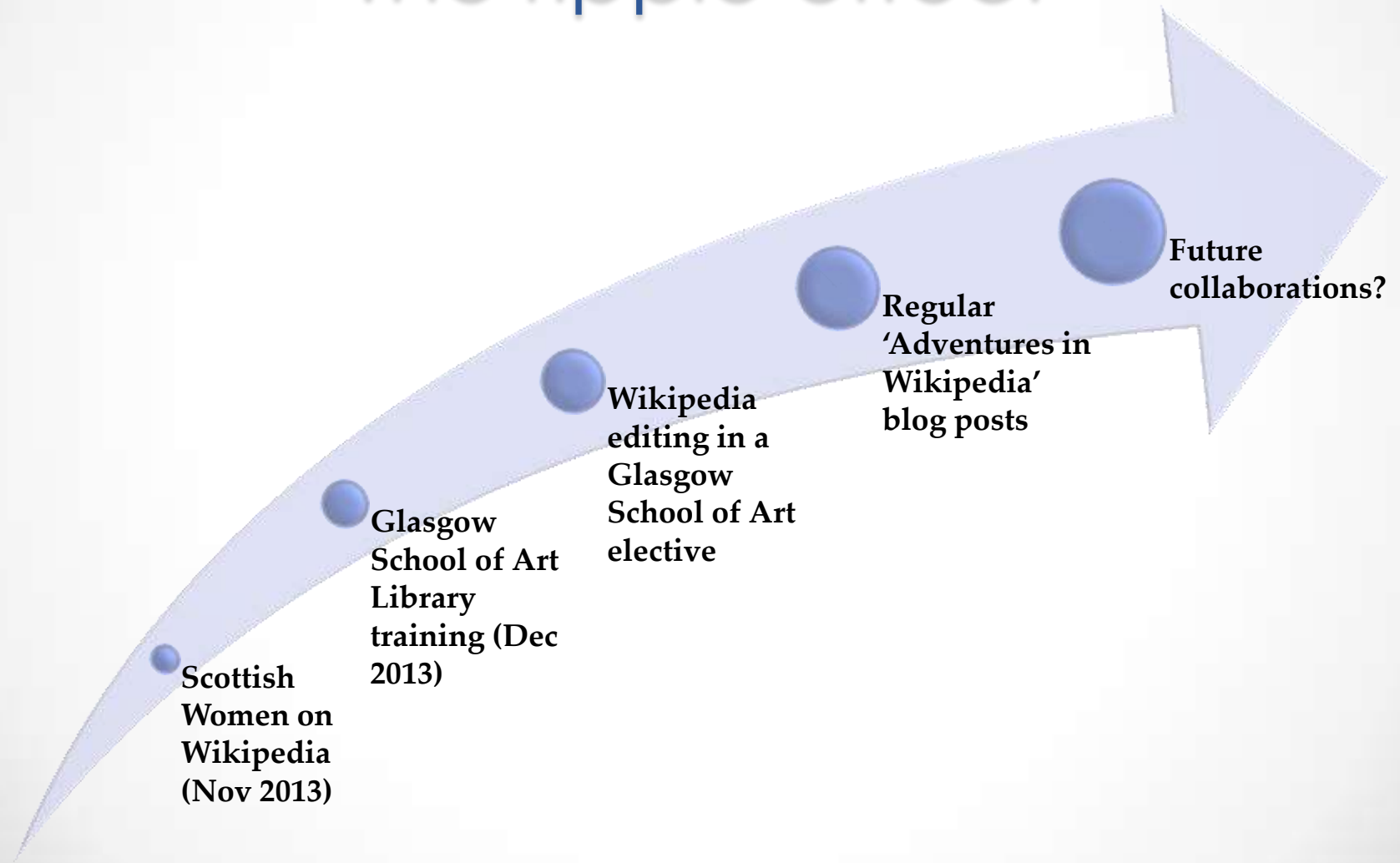
- Wikimedian in Residence is part of a deliberate, on-going effort to transform the Library's image: to be seen not a fortress of knowledge but as an open, accessible public resource.
- Physical changes reflect policy changes, and this works on the digital scale as well.
 - NLS Project Outcomes:
 - 'Enrich lives and communities;
 - Encourage and promote lifelong learning, research, and scholarship;
 - Provide universal access to information by comprehensively collecting and making available the recorded knowledge of Scotland;
 - Promote access to the ideas and cultures of the world.'
 - *National Library of Scotland Wikimedian in Residence Agreement, 2013*



What I do:

- Internal training events
- Build a ScotWiki community
- Ambassadorship
- Change attitudes and perceptions
- External outreach events
- Work with other Scottish GLAMs
 - Jisc RSC Scotland
 - Grampian Information (collective of information professionals)
 - Glasgow Museums
 - Royal Society of Edinburgh
 - Medical Research Council
 - Glasgow Women's Library
 - Scottish Poetry Library
 - Glasgow School of Art Library

The ripple effect



Responses



Anxieties and concerns

Practical

Workload – how do we work within staff time constraints?

What about deposited collections and collaborative digitisation efforts?



Anxieties and concerns



Conceptual

Why put content onto Wikipedia if we have our own digital resources?

‘Income generation’ and fears of releasing content into the public domain



Scottish Post Office Directories

- Home
- Browse and search
- About the directories
- Did you know?
- Acknowledgements
- Contact

The WORD on the STREET

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Search

BROWSE SUBJECTS / TITLES ?

SALE OF A WIFE

of full and particular Account of the Sale of a Woman, named Mary Huchison, which took place on Wednesday Evening, the 28th of July, 1726, in the Court-House of Edinburgh, as made by her Husband of being a notorious Whore, with the Proceedings of the Honorable Burgh which took place afterwards.

1726. Printed and Sold by James Kincaid, at the Edinburgh Coffee-House.

HOW ORDINARY SCOTS

Bygone Days

Found out what was Happening

In the centuries before there were newspapers and 24-hour news channels, the general public had to rely on street literature to find out what was going on. The most popular form of this for nearly 300 years was 'broadside' - the tabloids of their day. Sometimes pinned up on walls in houses and ale-houses, these single sheets carried public notices, news, speeches and songs that could be read (or sung) aloud.

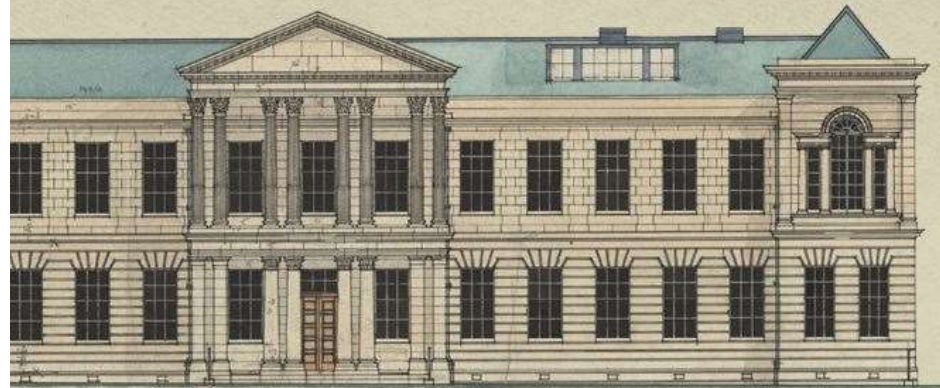
The National Library of Scotland's online collection of nearly 1,800 broadsides lets you see for yourself what 'the word on the street' was in Scotland between 1650 and 1910. Crime, politics, romance, emigration, humour, tragedy, royalty and superstitions - all these and more are here.

Each broadside comes with a detailed commentary and most also have a full transcription of the text, plus a downloadable PDF facsimile. You can search by keyword, browse by title or browse by subject.

Take a look, and discover what fascinated our ancestors!

Crime, Politics, Romance, Historical Events,
Humour, Tragedy, Royalty, Superstition...

THE DUNCAN STREET EXPLORER



Welcome to Duncan Street, home to the Bartholomew mapmaking firm. [Go inside](#) to explore the thumbnails below for more about the building.



Releasing your content into the wild: Wikimedia Commons



- National Library of Scotland's digital content previously licensed as CC-BY-NC-SA
- In March 2014, NLS Board of Trustees voted to accept a new policy:
 - 'Low-resolution' jpg images CC-0
 - All metadata CC-0
- Releasing content to Commons acts like a beacon. Think:
 - How do people know what you have?
 - How do users/researchers find your content?

Commodifying Knowledge



Commodifying Knowledge

Wikimedians

- Want *free licensing* of all content out of copyright
- Public domain materials are *in the public domain*: no right to retain digital formats
- Releasing one version and withholding another is to restrict access without the right to do so

Librarians

- Fear of an increasingly neoliberal economy of knowledge
- Cuts to budgets, downsizing, shifts in focus: impact is significant even at a national library
- The rise of the concept of 'income generation' inspires uncertainty, conservatism

Possibilities



- Speed at which change took place (relative)
- Growing open knowledge culture in Scotland
- Resistance to some negative changes in Scotland
- NLS's digital content policy to be reviewed annually:
 - The only way to go is up

Where do we go from here?





What drives you?



Thank you!



National Library
of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàiseanta
na h-Alba



WIKIMEDIA
UK