Wiki Edu

Monthly Report, June 2023

Highlights

- We received a $55,000 grant from the WITH Foundation for three Wiki Scientists courses expanding developmental disability healthcare on Wikipedia. The courses funded by this grant are part of our ongoing effort to improve information about disability healthcare on Wikipedia. Course participants will add high-quality information to Wikipedia in this topic area, informing the public with potentially life-changing knowledge. The first 6-week virtual Wiki Scientists course will start in August.
- At their in-person meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area, board members and senior staff looked back on a successful fiscal year 2022–23. Good financial results after two difficult pandemic years enabled Wiki Education to execute a number of exciting projects and bring its Student Program back on a path of growth. Board members also approved the new annual plan for next fiscal and discussed the first draft of Wiki Education's new three-year strategy.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2023 in numbers:

- 351 courses were live on the dashboard.
- 5,980 students were enrolled.
- Students added 5.07 million words and 51,000 references to Wikipedia. They edited 7,420 articles and created 466 new entries.

Performance at a glance: With 5.07 million words added, we fell just short of our term goal of 5.25 million words. Nevertheless, we hit our overall annual goal of 10 million words.

Summer 2023 in numbers:

- 18 courses were live on the dashboard.
- 178 students were enrolled.
- Students added 16,100 words and 142 references to Wikipedia. They edited 33 articles and created 7 new entries.

June saw the end of the Spring 2023 term and the beginning of our Summer cohort. June is a time when things begin to wind down at Wiki Education as the spring term comes to a close. We're incredibly proud of the amazing work our spring cohort of students and instructors did on Wikipedia! Thanks to them, Wikipedia now has more than 5 million new words on topics ranging from Baroque art to African prehistory.

In the month of June, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal along with Equity Outreach Coordinator Andrés Vera spent much of their time doing outreach for the Fall 2023 term, while Wikipedia Experts Ian Ramjohn and Brianda Felix began the process of closing out our spring courses. The whole Student Program team is reflecting on the spring and preparing program updates to be launched in the coming year.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- National Security Wiki Scholars: We have wrapped up work on this this National Security Wiki Scholars course. In addition to the great contributions we posted about last month, take a look at the Sherry Jones (filmmaker) article to see a more robust biography. The article for Anatoly Chernyaev has also seen a significant expansion and inclusion of more reliable sources.
- Climate Change Solutions Wiki Scientists: We also wrapped up work on this course. These 18 participants created two new articles and edited nineteen others. The Household energy insecurity was completely overhauled. For our Portuguese speakers, the article for Climate change education now exists. The article for Individual action on climate change is also much more detailed than it was previously. We're proud of all the work these participants have done!
- Wikidata Institute May: We're pleased with another successful Wikidata course. These nine participants edited 31 items over 163 edits. They also added nearly 60 new references to Wikidata. We're eager to see what additional impacts they will have moving forward!

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, we announced a few upcoming Wiki Scholars & Scientists courses that we'll run in partnership with several institutions. We're still looking for art historians, art museums, and other GLAM institutions to participate in an Art History Wiki Scholars course, which begins in late August. Participants will work on Wikipedia articles related to European art from antiquity to 1800, and we welcome any museum professionals or art historians with expertise in this area.

Additionally, we're building partnerships with medical organizations, especially to promote our upcoming WITH Wiki Scientists course, focused on improving healthcare for adults with disabilities, and ongoing Medical Wiki Scientists courses, aimed at adding systematic reviews to Wikipedia, strengthening the quality of sources within medical articles.

Fundraising

We received a $55,000 grant from the WITH Foundation for three Wiki Scientists courses expanding developmental disability healthcare on Wikipedia. Kathleen Crowley, Director of Donor Relations, met with the Foundation's Executive Director, Ryan Easterly, for a check-in call to discuss partnership outreach needs. Kathleen submitted two mid-year grant reports for the projects that the Nielsen Foundation and the Broadcom Foundation are currently supporting: an online equity portal that identifies Wikipedia's coverage gaps and increased recruitment of faculty at HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs for the creation of new and diverse STEM biographies respectively. Kathleen also drafted and submitted a letter of intent to a new foundation prospect for support of history students participating in our Wikipedia Student Program. Kathleen had a meeting with the three staff of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, who expressed interest in our Wikipedia Student Program and who encouraged us to submit a LOI for their fall grants cycle. Kathleen, LiAnna Davis (Chief Programs Officer), and Andres Vera (Equity Outreach Coordinator) met with development staff of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for a preliminary partnership discussion. We will coordinate with them for a joint funding opportunity that will help both of us meet our goals. Finally, Kathleen mailed and emailed impact reports as stewardship for donors who gave to Wiki Education at the end of the 2022 calendar year and the first calendar quarter of 2023.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Writing the book on primate archaeology](#) (June 14)
- [Wiki Education may start in classrooms, but it demonstrates that learning can happen anywhere](#) (June 21)
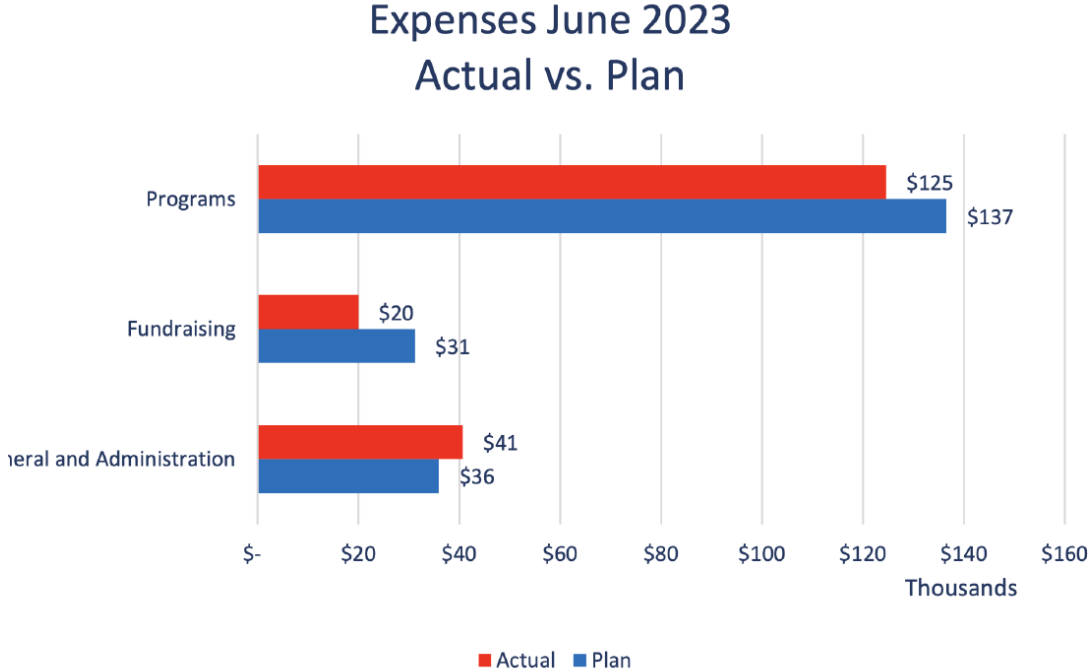- [How I build my Wikipedia assignment around content gaps](#) (June 28)

Technology

This month we deployed a key improvement to how the Dashboard handles student sandboxes: it now keeps track of which on-wiki pages for a given assigned article — the bibliography page, the draft sandbox, and peer review sub-pages — have been created. This will make it easier for instructors to identify when an expected draft or assigned exercise has not been completed, and will cut down on a common point of confusion when following a sandbox link to a page that hasn't been created yet.

The Dashboard also had a large volume of new features, bug fixes, and other code improvements from volunteer contributors and interns. New contributor Miguel Prada improved the user interface of the course cloning feature. Google Summer of Code intern Amine Hassou completed refactors of many frontend components, laying the groundwork for an upgrade to the latest version of the React framework next month. Returning intern Shashwat Khanna prepared a new interface for setting up an "Article Scoped Program" on Programs & Events Dashboard, which will make it easier for event organizers to configure their Dashboard page to track exactly the set of articles they care about; this will be deployed next month as well. French contributor cyrillefr was back this month with a bug fix for the Programs & Events Dashboard training module system, along with several improvements to the system we use for previewing the emails that the Dashboard sends out.

We also kicked off planning and development work on the Visualizing Impact project this month, with web development and design contractor Matthew Fordham breaking ground on a system for gathering data about how a set of articles has changed over time — the Impact Visualizer. Online community researcher Nathan TeBlunthuis also completed an outline of advice for the data science portion of the Visualizing Impact project, which aims to use AI to build a system for identifying the set articles within an arbitrary topic.
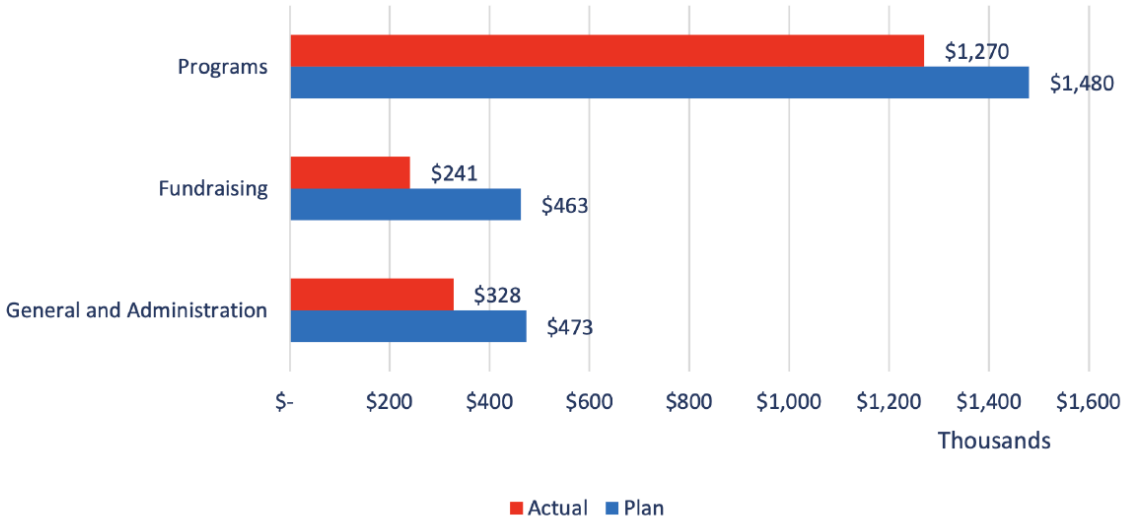
Finance & Administration

The total expenditure for the month of June was $185K, ($18K) under the budget of $203K. Fundraising was under ($11K), underspending ($11K) in Payroll. General & Administrative were over +$5K due to accruing +$9K towards the Board Meeting held in June and overspending +$2K in Travel while underspending ($5K) in Payroll, and ($1K) in Accounting. Programs were under ($12K) comprised of underspending ($15K) in Payroll, ($2K) in Recruitment, ($1K) in Travel, ($1K) in Software, while over +$7K in Professional Services.

The Year-to-date expenses were $1,839K, ($577K) under the budget of $2,416K. Fundraising was under budget ($222K), of which, ($121K) in Marketing, ($90K) in Payroll, ($9K) in Travel, ($8K) in Outside services, while over +$6K in Direct and Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under ($145K), underspending ($70K) in Payroll, ($35K) in Recruiting, ($27K) in Staff and Board Meetings ($11K) in Professional Services, ($8K) in Desk Equipment, while over +$4K in Travel and +$2K in Other Direct Expenses. Programs were under ($210K) due to being under ($89K) in Consulting Services, ($74K) in Payroll, ($31K) in Travel, ($13K) Software, ($9K) in Advertisement and ($6K) in Recruitment, while over +$12K in Other Direct Expenses.

Year to Date Expenses June 2023
Actual vs. Plan

Category	Actual	Plan
Programs	$1,270	$1,480
Fundraising	$241	$463
General and Administration	$328	$473

Thousands

■ Actual ■ Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Finalize annual plan and strategy draft and send it to the board
- In-person board meeting in Tiburon
- Prepare for the all-staff meeting in July

June is traditionally the month of Wiki Education's end of the fiscal year and of one of two in-person board meetings. In preparation of the board meeting and despite a tight timeline, Frank sent the finalized annual plan as well as the draft of the new strategy on time to the board.

At the board meeting in Tiburon, LiAnna, Sage, and Frank provided the board members with a report on fiscal year 2022–23. They were happy to state that the past year was very successful given that Wiki Education brought its flagship program back on a path of growth, and also exceeded its annual fundraising goals. With the help of a long-term donor, the organization was also able to embark on a major tech project, as well as on a content campaign that is in line with Wiki Education's new strategic focus areas going forward.

As part of the meeting in Tiburon, the board approved the audit report as well as the annual plan and budget for fiscal year 2023–24. Board members also engaged in an in-depth conversation about Wiki Education's involvement in a potential Global Education Hub.

Also in June, Frank participated in a meeting with the Wikimedia Foundation's Community Team at the WMF headquarter in San Francisco, and also engaged in a conversation about the latest AI trends with one of Wiki Education's donors.

Wiki Education's board members in Tiburon