



# Monthly Report, May 2022

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## Highlights

- We welcomed two new summer interns for our technology department. Vaidehi Atpadkar will work on a high priority feature for Programs & Events Dashboard users: extending the Dashboard's statistics tracking to work for namespaces other than mainspace, so that programs that focus on creating drafts can more easily get useful data from the Dashboard. Our other new intern, Shashwat Khanna — co-mentored by volunteer Dhruvdutt Jadhav — will be improving a wide swath of the Dashboard's under-the-hood JavaScript system, upgrading and streamlining the process of compiling the JavaScript and replacing unmaintained libraries.
- On May 17, Wiki Education hosted a faculty panel to highlight some of the critical work our students have been doing to fill in some of Wikipedia's knowledge equity gaps. Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal coordinated the session and was joined by Abir Ward, Communication Skills Instructor at the American University of Beirut, David Sartorius, Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland, and Glenn Dolphin, Tamaratt Teaching Professor in Geoscience at the University of Calgary.

## Programs

### Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2022 in numbers:

- 341 courses were in progress.
- 6,130 students were enrolled on the dashboard.



**Performance at a glance:** With 4.43 million words added and a few more weeks of the spring term to go, we were easily on track to meet our goal of 4.5 million words added from the Student Program.

- Students added 4.43 million words and 45,400 references to Wikipedia. They contributed 5340 articles and created 394 new entries.

May saw the close of the majority of our semester-system courses for the [Spring 2022](#) term, and we could not be more proud of the students and instructors whose hard work and dedication resulted in more than 4 million words being added to Wikipedia! As always, students added information on a range of subjects, from [African Politics](#) to [Cell Biology](#). Thank you again to everyone who made this term a huge success.

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Finally, in early May we began accepting classes for the Fall 2022 term, and Helaine spent much of her time on outreach and approving course pages as they began to come through.

## **Scholars & Scientists Program**

### **Courses in progress:**

- [Wikidata May Institute](#) - We're excited to kick off another new Wikidata Institute. This small, but mighty group of seven participants come from Temple University, the Detroit Institute of Arts, National Science Policy Network, and some of Wiki Education's very own staff! We're eager to see the impact all of these participants will have on Wikidata.

## **Advancement**

### **Partnerships**

Early this month, Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson participated in another meeting of the Open 2030 Working Group, a gathering of leaders in the open educational resources (OER) space organized by MIT OpenCourseware. This group offers an excellent opportunity to understand the current state of OER within higher education and to brainstorm new ways Wiki Education's Wiki Scholars & Scientists courses may meet instructors' needs for open educational practice (OEP).

Jami participated in Wiki Education's own Wikidata Institute this month, learning more about the in-depth ways we train librarians, museum professionals, and other scholars how to use Wikidata in their work. She worked with leaders from other organizations to learn more about querying Wikidata and how to use the incredible tools the community has developed, and she looks forward to finding more partners to adopt Wikidata editing and training into their own practices. We also worked with representatives from various science organizations who have participated in the Wikidata Institute in order to understand opportunities for scientists to benefit from using Wikidata.

We spent the month finding new participants for this year's LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course, running June–July, in which participants will add biographies of notable LGBTQ+ figures to Wikipedia, sharing their stories and contributions with the world.

Finally, we worked with the fundraising team to propose Wiki Scholars and Wiki Scientists courses to various groups whom we believe have a stake in getting better information out to the public, and we finalized plans for a Wikidata Institute in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute.

## **Fundraising**

Director of Donor Relations Kathleen Crowley had a fundraising strategy meeting with Olympia, Frank, and LiAnna in which we were able to get on the same page for the Annual Plan and new fiscal year. Kathleen finished making her edits to the draft of the Annual Plan's fundraising section. Kathleen had an informational meeting with a funder, who invited her to send along information for an unrestricted grant. She worked on drafting this information over the course of the month. Kathleen had another informational meeting with a foundation that also invited her to submit information on a project idea for their Data for Good grantmaking program. Kathleen submitted a one-pager and Case for Support, which prompted an invitation to complete their LOI in June. Kathleen met with Diana Strassman for a catch-up meeting; she is willing to help us with adding members for the Advisory Board. Kathleen attended Salesforce's virtual nonprofit summit. It was insightful to hear from the president of the Ford Foundation. She signed up and is attending a Wikidata course to better understand how it's used. Finally, we were invited to move to the next stage with PCORI to submit a full grant proposal.

## Communications

### Press coverage:

- [How College Students Are Improving Wikipedia](#). LiAnna Davis. *New England Journal of Higher Education*. (May 3, 2022)
  - Reprinted: [LiAnna Davis: How New England students are improving Wikipedia](#). *New England Diary*. (May 5, 2022)
- [Creating the Equitable Encyclopedia](#). Frank Schulenburg. *Inside Sources*. (May 15, 2022)
  - Reprinted: [Creating the equitable encyclopedia](#). Frank Schulenburg. *The Telegraph*. (May 16, 2022)
  - Reprinted: [Creating the equitable encyclopedia](#). Frank Schulenburg. *The Nashua Telegraph*. (May 17, 2022)
  - Reprinted: [Creating the equitable encyclopedia](#). Frank Schulenburg. *Las Vegas Sun*. (May 20, 2022)
- [How academic institutions can help to close Wikipedia's gender gap](#). Farah Qaiser , Maryam Zaringhalam , Francesca Bernardi , Jess Wade & Emily Pinckney. *Nature*. (May 23, 2022)

### Blog posts:

- [One woman's goal to expand Wikipedia's coverage of graphic artists](#) (May 2)
- [How a Wikipedia assignment led to finding community — and a job](#) (May 12)
- [Improving Wikipedia's alcázar article](#) (May 18)
- [Learning about primates — and Wikipedia](#) (May 24)
- [Countering vaccine misinformation via Wikipedia](#) (May 26)

## Technology

This month, Wiki Education Dashboard had one-and-a-half days of unplanned downtime. Our infrastructure-as-code distributed system failed, and recovery was more difficult than expected. Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross rebuilt the Dashboard production service as a single server. Due to the unexpected challenges of both maintaining and debugging that infrastructure-as-code system — which had not yet been adapted to run Programs & Events Dashboard on Wikimedia Cloud — Sage decided to move back to the more reliable infrastructure model of manually-administered traditional servers.

Sage selected two summer interns for Outreachy and Google Summer of Code projects that start in June. For Outreachy, Vaidehi Atpadkar will work on a high priority feature for Programs & Events Dashboard users: extending the Dashboard's statistics tracking to work for namespaces other than mainspace, so that programs that focus on creating drafts (or, for example, Cookbook contributions on Wikibooks) can more easily get useful

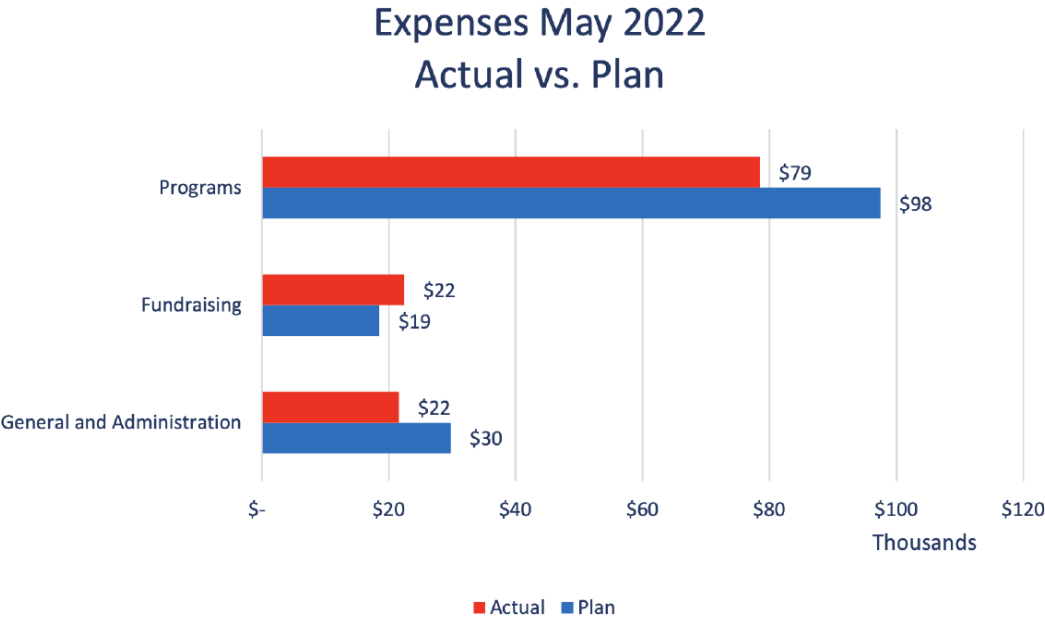
data from the Dashboard. For Google Summer of Code, Shashwat Khanna — co-mentored by volunteer Dhruvduddh Jadhav — will be improving a wide swath of the Dashboard's under-the-hood JavaScript system, upgrading and streamlining the process of compiling the JavaScript and replacing unmaintained libraries. This month, during the application and preparation period, Vaidehi completed a new UI for Wiki Education staff to efficiently approve submitted courses, while Shashwat completed a major configuration upgrade for the Dashboard's JavaScript compilation system (Webpack) and added deleted articles to the 'Articles' view of Dashboard course pages.

Sage created new analytics endpoints for the Dashboard, to make it easier for Wikimedia Foundation staff to pull key data about global program organizing on a regular basis.

Volunteer developer Mark Locklear added an option for disabling the Dashboard's emails to students on an individual course basis, for cases where an instructor wants to prevent the Dashboard from sending any notification emails to students.

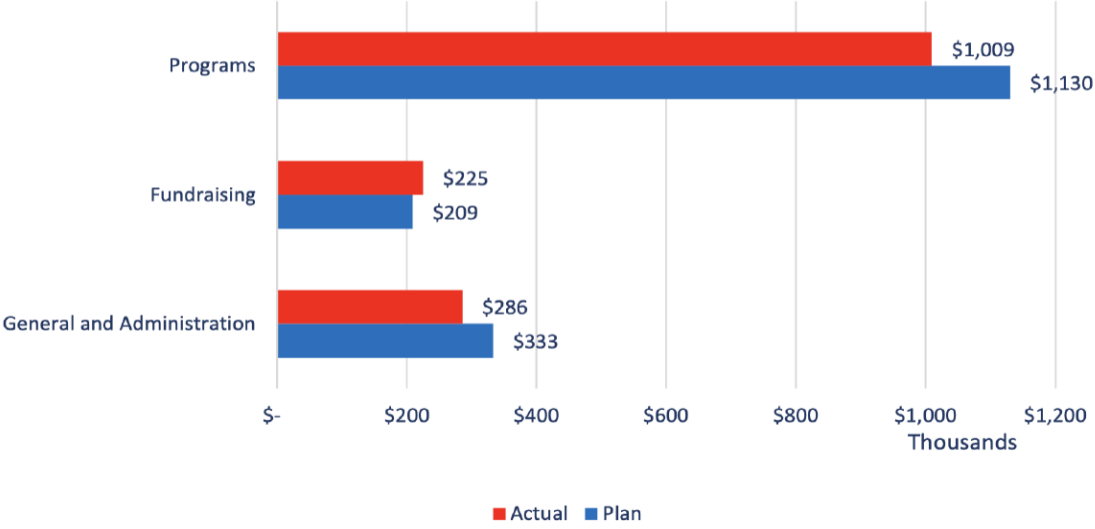
## Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of May were \$123K, which were under (\$23K) of the budget of \$146K. Fundraising was over +\$4K comprised of +\$2K in Payroll and +\$2K in Consulting Fee. General & Administrative were under (\$8K) due to being over +\$2K Payroll while under (\$1K) in Accounting Fees (\$7K) in meetings accrued to June, and (\$1K) in Indirect Expenses. Programs were under (\$19K) due to being under (\$11K) in Payroll, (\$6K) in Consulting Service and (\$2K) in Travel.



The Year-to-date expenses were \$1,520K, (\$152K) under the budget of \$1,672K. Fundraising was over +\$16K due to being over +\$6K in Equipment, +\$4K in Professional Services, +\$1K in Travel, +\$3K in Payroll, and +\$2K in Software. General & Administrative were under (\$47K) with a combination of being under (\$41K) in Staff and Board Meetings (of which some will be booked in June), (\$10K) in Software, (\$9K) in Professional Services, (\$5K) in Equipment and (\$3K) in Travel Expenses, while over +\$2K in Indirect Expenses +\$7K in Occupancy Expenses and +\$12K in Payroll. Programs were under (\$121K), a result of being under (\$59K) in Consulting Services, (\$23K) in Travel, (\$17K) in Communications, (\$26K) in Payroll, and (\$1K) in Indirect Expenses while over +\$5K in Direct Expenses.

### Year to Date Expenses May 2022 Actual vs. Plan



## Office of the ED

### Current priorities:

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- Supporting the work of the Advancement team
- Finalizing the annual plan & budget for next fiscal year
- Preparing for the upcoming board meeting in June

During most of May, Frank was working on the annual plan and budget for fiscal year 2022–23. On May 18th, Frank sent the first draft of the annual plan document to the board for review. Subsequently, board members provided valuable feedback for the final version, scheduled to be sent out in early June.

In early May, Frank participated in the Wikimedia Foundation's effort of understanding the needs of the Wikimedia Commons community. In his interview with researcher Jeff Howard, Frank presented ideas to make the site more inviting and enjoyable.

Also in early May, Frank received a verbal funding commitment from a major donor for a project that will serve at bringing Wiki Education's Scholars & Scientists Program to the next level. Although program has seen some major successes over the past three years, many questions – in particular those around marketing and long-term growth – remain to be answered. The funds will enable us to embark on a multi-year project that will set Wiki Education up for empowering more subject-matter experts to share their knowledge will millions of Wikipedia readers.

Based on an analysis of our fundraising work over the past year, Frank drafted a document that outlines the future path for Wiki Education's revenue generation. In order to create alignment around the fundraising approach going forward, he then organized a meeting with Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis, Director of Donor Relations Kathleen Crowley, and the incoming chair of the board's development committee Olympia Ammon. The group reviewed the document, collaborated on final improvements, and then confirmed the approach that will guide our organization's fundraising work going forward.

Also in May, Frank met with Joan Weinstein, Executive Director of the Getty Foundation. Given that Wikipedia's information about visual arts has traditionally been underdeveloped, Frank made a case for a large-scale effort to significantly improve Wikipedia's content quality in this topic area.

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