Ask the Wiki Education Foundation

WikiConference USA
May 31, 2014
Who we are

• Frank Schulenburg, Executive Director
• Jami Mathewson, Program Manager
• LiAnna Davis, Head of Communications and External Relations
Session agenda

- Where we’ve come from
- Where we are
- Where we’re going
- Your questions!
Where we’ve come from
Public Policy
Public Policy
Why Wiki Edu?

• experience: we can head off assignment problems
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• experience: we can head off assignment problems

• most courses working with Wiki Edu produce high quality contributions
Women’s Health in India

spring 2013
University of Utah
graduate student
Women's health in India has been viewed 4825 times in the last 90 days.
Gamification of learning

spring 2014
University of Toronto
graduate student
Women in the Arab Spring

spring 2013
Rice University
undergraduate student
Women in the Arab Spring has been viewed 4933 times in the last 90 days.
Content gaps

- we can target gaps that lack good coverage on Wikipedia
- partnership with ASA (sociology)
  - 35 sociology courses
  - 8,758,515 bytes (5,839 pages)
  - sociology students: 71% women
Why Wiki Edu?

• experience: we can head off assignment problems

• most courses working with Wiki Edu produce high quality contributions

• instructors are doing this anyway—let’s support them!
Using Wikipedia in the classroom: a cautionary tale (Updatedx2)

(Third and final update: If you read this post, please also read this follow up post, which includes summaries of ways to try to reduce the likelihood of running into the same problem.)

Last fall, one of my students contacted me to ask if she could do an “Honors Conversion” of the first-year seminar I was teaching on Ecological and Evolutionary Medicine. After learning what that meant (basically, just that the student has to do an
Follow up to my cautionary tale regarding using Wikipedia in the classroom

Monday, I posted about an experience assigning editing a Wikipedia page as a class project. The very short version: I thought my student did a great job with editing a Wikipedia page, but all her edits ended up being reverted by the editor who created the page originally. At that point, we felt stuck and couldn’t figure out what to do.

The post garnered much, much more attention than I expected. This process has been at least as much of a learning experience for me as for my student, I think. It generated a lot of good discussion in the comments on that post, and there were also comments on various Wikipedia talk pages related to it. In the hopes that some of those lessons will help others, I’ve decided to do a follow up post summarizing them (even though, for a while, I was hoping never to hear the word “Wikipedia” again, given how much this post took over my week).

Suggestions for people using Wikipedia in the classroom:
1. **Register your course.** It doesn’t matter if only one student will be making edits. It doesn’t matter if the edits will be minor. **Create a course page.** I think this would have helped a lot.

2. Make sure your students know to check their own talk page, in addition to the talk page for the article they are editing. Their talk page will have the name:
Why Wiki Edu?

• experience: we can head off assignment problems

• most courses working with Wiki Edu produce better quality of contributions

• instructors are doing this anyway—let’s support them!

• create volunteer roles for community members
Wikipedia Ambassadors

- recruit
- assignment design
- monitor contribs
- mentor new users
- teach about Wikipedia
Revamp: be inclusive!
Resources

• Wikipedia Ambassadors
• online trainings for students, instructors, and new Ambassadors
• brochures for teaching with Wikipedia and for editing Wikipedia
• MediaWiki education extension
• Jami!
Priorities Year One
• Helping to improve Wikipedia’s quality
  • increased support
  • web infrastructure
  • institutionalization
  • pilot to fill content gaps

• Building a well functioning organization that has impact
What does LiAnna’s title mean, anyway?
What does LiAnna’s title mean, anyway?

- Brochure development
- New web portal
- Engagement with our community (Wikipedia and academia)
- Exploring partnerships with academic associations
Your questions!
More questions? Ask us!

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