

Monthly Report, November 2023

Programs



Brianda, Will, Helaine, Andrés, LiAnna, UC Berkeley instructor Naniette Coleman, and Frank at WikiConference North America.

Wiki Education Programs staff participated in WikiConference North America in Toronto. Prior to the conference, the Programs team held a one-day offsite meeting to reflect on progress as a team. At the conference, several staff presented, many in conjunction with program participants. Senior Program Manager, Wikipedia Student Program Helaine Blumenthal led a panel session with Naniette Coleman and Sarah Turner discussing faculty perspectives on the Wikipedia assignment. Helaine also joined Brianda for a reflective talk on the complex relationship between Wikipedia and academia. Several other instructors from the Student Program either ran sessions or were in attendance, including Helen Choi of the University of Southern California, Zach McDowell of the University of Illinois, Chicago, Jeffrey Keefer of New York University, Deena Larsen of the University of Washington, Vancouver, Laurel Stvan of the University of Texas, Arlington, Marie Martel of the University of Montreal, and Steve Schneider of SUNY Polytechnic. Scholars & Scientists Program Manager Will Kent presented on the equity lists project we engaged in this year. He also discussed building an advanced Wikidata curriculum with past Wikidata program participants. William Blueher, Metropolitan Museum of Art, joined him on stage while Thamilini Jothilingam, South Asian Canadian Digital Archive, and Jackie Rubashkin, the

National Archives, submitted videos of their presentations. Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis also led a workshop about the Programs & Events Dashboard. In addition to the program, staff spoke with many attendees in hallway conversations.



LiAnna presents (virtually) in Slovenia.

Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis presented virtually to the [Knowledge Network Conference](#) at the invitation of the Ministry of Education in Slovenia. LiAnna's talk, "[Don't cite it, write it: Connecting Wikipedia, Wikidata, and education](#)", was well-received by the audience of educators in Slovenia. A [recording of the talk](#) is available on the Arnes video portal.

Wikipedia Student Program

Fall 2023 in numbers:

- 326 courses were live on the Dashboard.
- 6,400 students were enrolled in a Wikipedia assignment.
- Students added 3.1 million words and 28,000 references to Wikipedia. They contributed to 4,420 articles and created 419 new entries.



Performance at a glance: With 3.1 million words added, we're making progress toward our goal of 5.5 million words added.

As usual, November was a busy month for the [Student Program](#). The majority of students finished their drafts and began to move their work into the article main space! Many had the chance to interact with other Wikipedia editors as they negotiated their contributions.



Wiki Education's Brianda Felix chats with Dr. Amin Azzam of UCSF at the AAMC 2023 Conference.

In addition to supporting students and instructors, the Student Program team engaged in a variety of other activities. Wikipedia Expert Brianda Felix represented Wiki Education along with Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson at the annual meeting of the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#), where they engaged potential participants as part of our [PCORI](#) initiative. Following the conference, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal ran a webinar with Dr. Amin Azzam of the University of California, San Francisco, and Dr. Amber Heck of the University of North Texas, to encourage more health professional faculty to adopt the Wikipedia assignment. Much of the Student Program team also attended [WikiConference North America](#) where they engaged with program participants and deepened their relationship with the broader Wikipedia community.

Before the Thanksgiving break and right after, the Student Program team also ran student office hours for the first time. We've been hosting office hours for instructors for several years, and we decided to invite students to discuss their Wikipedia assignments with us in a virtual session. The sessions gave us a lot of insight into the issues students face when editing Wikipedia, and we're considering hosting additional student office hours in the spring 2024 term.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Medical Wiki Scientists](#): This Medical Wiki Scientists course wrapped up this month. As a reminder, a special objective for this course was adding PCORI/AHRQ systematic reviews as references to articles. We had five participants take this to heart and added several citations to relevant articles. Check out the [Rheumatoid arthritis](#) article, which two of our participants worked on, as an example.
- [Art History Wiki Scholars](#): The Art History Wiki Scholars course has come to an end. This was an extremely productive course. Participants edited a total of 74 articles, adding 589 references, over more than 800 edits. They also achieved a special goal for this course: improving over 20 articles by five points on [Wikipedia's ORES scale](#). An outstanding example of this would be the [The Martyrdom of St Erasmus \(Bouts\)](#) article. Visit the Dashboard to see more.

- **NSPN Wiki Scholars:** We are embarking on a new civics-minded courses. In partnership with the National Science Policy Network, we are looking forward to seeing the content that these 14 participants will develop for this course. Follow the Dashboard as the articles come in.
- **Wikidata Fall Salon:** Work continues in this project-based Wikidata course. Manual edits, batch edits, and tool work are all flowing in week after week to this course. Of particular interest is work on [the Smithsonian's Funk list](#), which is populated by prominent women, part of the American Women History Initiative (AWHI). These participants will be working to import the entirety of the list into Wikidata.
- **Climate Policy Wiki Scientists:** Fifteen editors are starting work on improving articles about and related to Climate Policy. This is our second civics-oriented course that we hope will improve articles relevant to voters and voting in any upcoming election. Following Wikipedia's guidelines, we're taking an unbiased approach to representing the latest research and scientific publications about climate change policy on Wikipedia. Keep an eye on this Dashboard to watch the improvements appear.

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson attended the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) conference alongside Brianda Felix. The objective was to develop relationships with medical organizations and prospective partners to promote our various Scholars & Scientists courses in the medical field and to identify potential participants.

We spent the month securing organizations to work with us in the upcoming Scholars & Scientists courses across topic areas. We're excited to work in early 2024 with the Society of Family Planning and the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine to run a Wiki Scientists course around reproductive and women's health, as a part of our ongoing PCORI project. We've also identified a few longtime partners—like the Midwest Political Science Association and American Anthropological Association—as well as some new organizations who will encourage their members to join our civics- and democracy-focused Wiki Scholars courses.

Finally, we finalized plans for a second annual project with the Idaho State Board of Education, in which Wiki Education will support faculty and staff at public institutions of higher education in Idaho as they contribute content to Wikipedia and Wikidata. We began recruiting participants for this second cohort this month, and they will begin meeting in January to kick off their year-long participation with a 10-week Wikipedia training course. We're excited to bring another group together to improve Wikipedia topics across disciplines while engaging instructors in the prospect of using Wikipedia as a teaching tool.

Fundraising

Kathleen Crowley, Director of Donor Relations, submitted a grant application to the Horne Family Foundation requesting support for the Wikipedia Student Program's work on environmental topics. Kathleen also submitted a full proposal to the Audre & Bernard Rapoport Foundation requesting support for improving students' digital media literacy skills and fighting misinformation. Kathleen finished drafting and mailing solicitation letters to major donors and other individual supporters. We submitted a full proposal to the Mellon Foundation for a \$1.15 million three-year project to elevate social justice and the humanities on Wikipedia through the Wikipedia Student

Program. We received several rounds of feedback from the program officers in their Higher Learning Program, including an ask to increase funding for an advisory board consisting of humanities faculty. This raised the project budget to \$1.25 million spread over three years. LiAnna Davis, Chief Programs Officer, took the lead in incorporating feedback from the Mellon Foundation on our proposal, and Kathleen Crowley, Frank Schulenburg, Executive Director, and the rest of the Wikipedia Student Program team reviewed and approved the final draft. A final funding decision will be made in December. Kathleen invited a variety of institutional supporters, donors, and connectors to attend the upcoming Speaker Series that features faculty supported by the Broadcom Foundation's initiative that aims to spotlight underrepresented STEM professionals on Wikipedia. A third progress report to PCORI was drafted, reviewed, and submitted. Kathleen wrapped up the month writing notes in holiday cards and mailing them to Wiki Education's current donors.

Technology

This month was the culmination of the application period for the winter round of Outreachy internships. We saw a bevy of code and documentation contributions from applicants as well other volunteer contributors. Noteworthy contributions include a new feature for automatically copying courses from a production server to a local development server, from Gabina Luz, and a new set of illustrations for Programs & Events Dashboard training modules from Esther Ibom. Gabina and Esther were both selected as Outreachy interns. Gabina will be adding support for 'references added' statistics — currently only available in English and a handful of other languages — across all languages. Esther will be improving the documentation for Programs & Events Dashboard, including both text and video materials. Both interns will be mentored by Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross along with Amine Hassou, our recent Google Summer of Code intern. The internship period begins in early December.

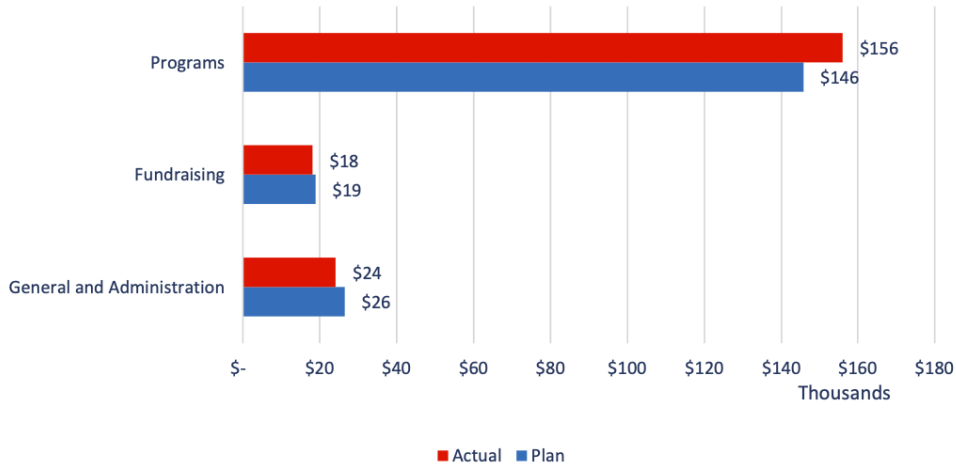
Sage completed several accessibility improvements to the Dashboard, along with enabling support for several new languages.

Our Visualizing Impact project was in full swing. Data Scientist Megan Newsome explored using an off-the-shelf open source large language model to provide embeddings of the beginnings of the articles, as a possible core feature for building our machine learning system for identifying article topics. Web development consultant Matthew Fordham built out the first set of visualizations for our Impact Visualizer tool, which can track large sets of articles over many years to show trends in how that content developed and what contributions specific groups of editors (such as participants in our programs made). We expect to launch a first version of this tool highlighting some of the focus areas of our programs in January.

Finance & Administration

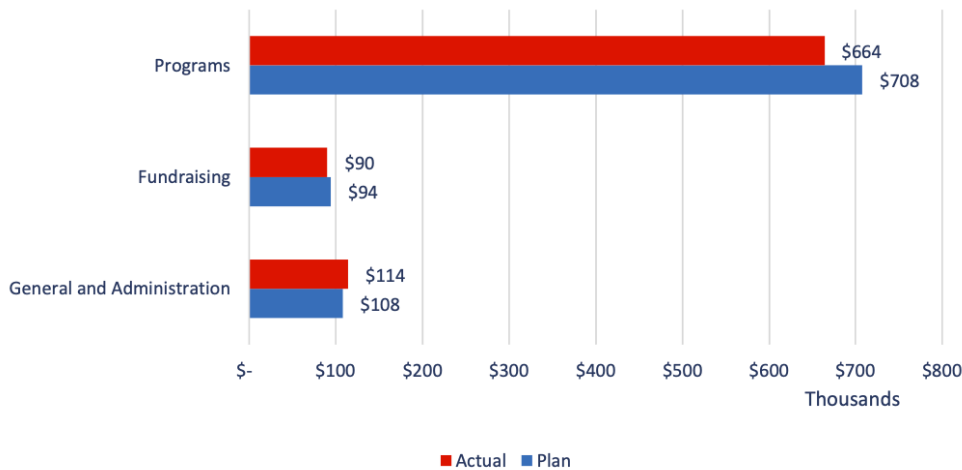
The total expenditure for the month of November was \$198K, +\$7K over the budget of \$191K. Fundraising was under (\$1K) due to underspending (\$2K) in payroll while overspending +\$1K in software subscriptions. General & Administrative were under (\$2K) due to overspending +\$3K in travel, +\$2K in accounting services while underspending (\$7K) in meeting costs. Programs were over +\$10K comprised of spending +\$10K in payroll, +\$9K in travel, +\$3K in IT equipment, +\$3K in software while underspending (\$13K) in professional services and (\$2K) in communications.

Expenses November 2023 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$868K, (\$42K) under the budget of \$910K. Fundraising was under by (\$4K), underspending (\$5K) in payroll, (\$2K) in travel, (\$1K) in staff training while over +\$4K for accrued software. General & Administrative were over +\$6K due to overspending +\$9K on travel, while under (2K) in payroll and (\$1K) in indirect expenses. Programs were under (\$44K) comprised of underspending (\$30K) in professional services, (\$8K) in marketing, (\$5K) in communications, (\$5K) in software, (\$3K) in payroll, while spending +\$4K in computer equipment and +\$3K in travel.

Year to Date Expenses November 2023 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Traditionally, November is the month for one of the quarterly meetings of the board's Finance and Audit Committees. Frank reported good results in the area of fundraising and earned income for the first quarter of this fiscal year, while our expenses are slightly lower than expected (mostly

due to timing issues). Our overall financial outlook is promising, given our recent successes at broadening our donor pipeline. In response to the delay in results for the previous Audit (FY 2021–22), we scheduled this year's audit earlier, with a collective goal of finishing the process in early 2024. Documentation was completely submitted by Aurora Daly Financial by November 2nd. Currently all documentation is under review by the auditors at Hood & Strong.

Between November 8 and 13, Frank traveled to Toronto for this year's WikiConference North America. He connected with members of the English Wikipedia's community, participated in conversations about the creation of a North America hub, and attended presentations and panel discussions about a variety of topics. Unfortunately, this was the second Wikimedia-related event this year where Frank caught a respiratory virus (after catching COVID at Wikimania in Singapore), resulting in him being sick most of the second half of the month.

At the end of November, Frank met with Wiki Ecuation's Deputy Director LiAnna Davis in San Francisco for a two-day work sprint. Frank and LiAnna discussed the role for Wiki Education in the Wikimedia movement going forward, the future of a potential Global Education hub, opportunities for international work (as part of our new organizational strategy), improvements in how work together in our current remote-only setting, and the celebrations for Wiki Education's upcoming ten-year anniversary in 2024. Given how much they could cover during this two-day meeting, LiAnna and Frank decided to continue this type of in-person work meeting going forward.

* * *