



Monthly Report, March 2021

Highlights

- Participants in our Black History Wiki Scholars courses significantly improved a number of biographies on Wikipedia. To see a sample of their excellent work, take a look at this reworking of [Lisa Bowleg's](#) article or the new article on [Charles N. Hunter](#), a notable educator and journalist. The article about [Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot](#) saw multiple sections expanded to represent more of her professional accomplishments. You can also look at [Demita Frazier's](#) article for an example of an almost-complete reworking.
- In Technology, we started work to improve the reliability and performance of the Dashboard — especially the global Programs & Events Dashboard, which has been pushed past its limits in recent months due to high usage. We hired Ruby on Rails performance consultant Nate Berkopce (speedshop.io) to analyze the performance profile of the Dashboard, identify key areas for improvement, and optimize the system to fix them. We also took the first steps of migrating the Dashboard to a distributed system, moving Programs & Events Dashboard to a two-server configuration with the database running separately from the Ruby on Rails application server.
- Also in March, our Executive Director Frank Schulenburg participated in a panel discussion organized by University of Rhode Island titled "Wikipedia @20: Reflections on Past, Present and Future". Together with four other panelists and moderated by Renee Hobbs of the Media Education Lab, Harrington School of Communication and Media, he explored the impact of Wikipedia as it has developed over 20 years, its epistemology and values, and its practical utility as a resource for students, teachers, and information-seekers.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2021 in numbers:

- 340 courses were active on the Dashboard
- 5,277 students were enrolled
- Students added 1.25 million words to Wikipedia across 3,090 articles. They created 152 new entries and added 13,800 references.



Performance at a glance: With 340 courses onboarded this spring, we far overshot our goal of 250 courses.

As always, March is a very busy month for the Student Program. It's when students really begin to take a deep dive into their Wikipedia assignments by drafting work and moving it into the article main space. It's also when our Winter Quarter courses come to a close and Spring Quarter courses begin. We're excited to see all the new work this cohort of students is adding to Wikipedia. We're also beginning to plan for the Fall 2021 term which is months away, but right around the corner.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Wikidata March Institute](#): The Wikidata March Institute has just begin. This is another three week long course. We are eager to get to know these 14 participants and see what kind of impact they will have on Wikidata. We are excited to host a large contingent of participants (eight) from the University of Florida. Follow the link above to keep track of their progress.
- [500 Women Scientists-3](#): This is our third course with 500 Women Scientists. We couldn't be more excited to be working with this talented group of 15 editors who will be spending the next six weeks improving and creating articles about women scientists. Follow along with the Dashboard link above.
- [Black History Wiki Scholars](#): In this course we had our 20 participants edit 26 articles. To see a sample of their excellent work, take a look at this reworking of [Lisa Bowleg's](#) article. Another outstanding contribution came from the creation of the article about [Charles N. Hunter](#), a notable educator and journalist. Demonstrating subject expertise in this course, a whole new section about engaging with inequity now exists on [Jennifer Richerson's](#) article. This course accomplished some amazing work in six short weeks!

- [Black History Wiki Scholars](#): This was also a productive course with the 18 participants working on creating one new article and editing 18 articles. The article about [Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot](#) saw multiple sections expanded to represent more of her professional accomplishments. You can also look at [Demita Frazier's](#) article for an example of an almost-complete reworking. Even though these articles existed before these courses, neither contained the level of detail, clarity, and context that they now do. This underscores the importance of the subject expertise these courses bring to Wikipedia.

Advancement

Partnerships

In partnership with the Society of Family Planning, we ran a webinar for their members—primarily medical professionals and med school instructors—about teaching with Wikipedia. We've welcomed so many of their members into the Wikipedia community through the Wiki Scholars courses and hope to work with them and their students to continue expanding Wikipedia's medical coverage. A small cohort of SFP's members has also signed up to run a Wikipedia workshop alongside Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson during the virtual SFP conference in the Fall.

This month, we recruited participants for two Wiki Scholars courses in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute. Staff and faculty from Smithsonian affiliate institutions will join us to add American women to Wikipedia. We're excited about the mix of museums represented in the course — from the San Diego Air and Space Museum to the Rhode Island Historical Society to the California African American Museum. We look forward to training these museum professionals as they begin a broader project to improve Wikipedia and Wikidata in the coming years.

We confirmed a Wiki Scientists course in partnership with the Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN). This summer, their members will come together to improve Wikipedia's coverage of nutrition policy, especially as impacted by COVID-19.

Fundraising

Kathleen worked with internal staff to get up to speed on the current operations of Wiki Education. She started training on how to use Salesforce, our CRM, and received and reviewed our current communication materials for prospects. She also began the assessment of foundation prospects that were added to Salesforce by previous fundraisers. She had several meetings with Frank on individuals and

foundation prospects that he is connected to and decided how to approach going forward. She began charting initial outreach to several foundation prospects. Kathleen vetted two wealth screening tools and decided, with Frank's approval, to begin a partnership with iWave. iWave allows us to quickly score a prospect based on their philanthropic inclination, capacity to give, and affinity to our cause. This software also shows an individual's professional relationships and the foundation boards on which they serve.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Using Wikidata as a tool for digital archives: Dr. Anne Chen of Yale University](#) (March 1)
- [Rediscovering my love of science by editing Wikipedia](#) (March 3)
- [Wiki Education works to fix Wikipedia's gender gap](#) (March 8)
- ["SPARQL, baby!" – How linked data inspires me to be a better archivist](#) (March 10)
- [What Wikipedia means to our instructors](#) (March 11)
- [Using Wikidata as a tool for inter-institutional collaboration and accessible collection data: SFMOMA](#) (March 15)
- [Libraries and Wikidata: Using linked data to expand access to library collections worldwide](#) (March 17)
- [Improving politics and public policy articles](#) (March 22)
- [Science communication and equity on Wikipedia](#) (March 24)
- [The sex lives of plants](#) (March 29)

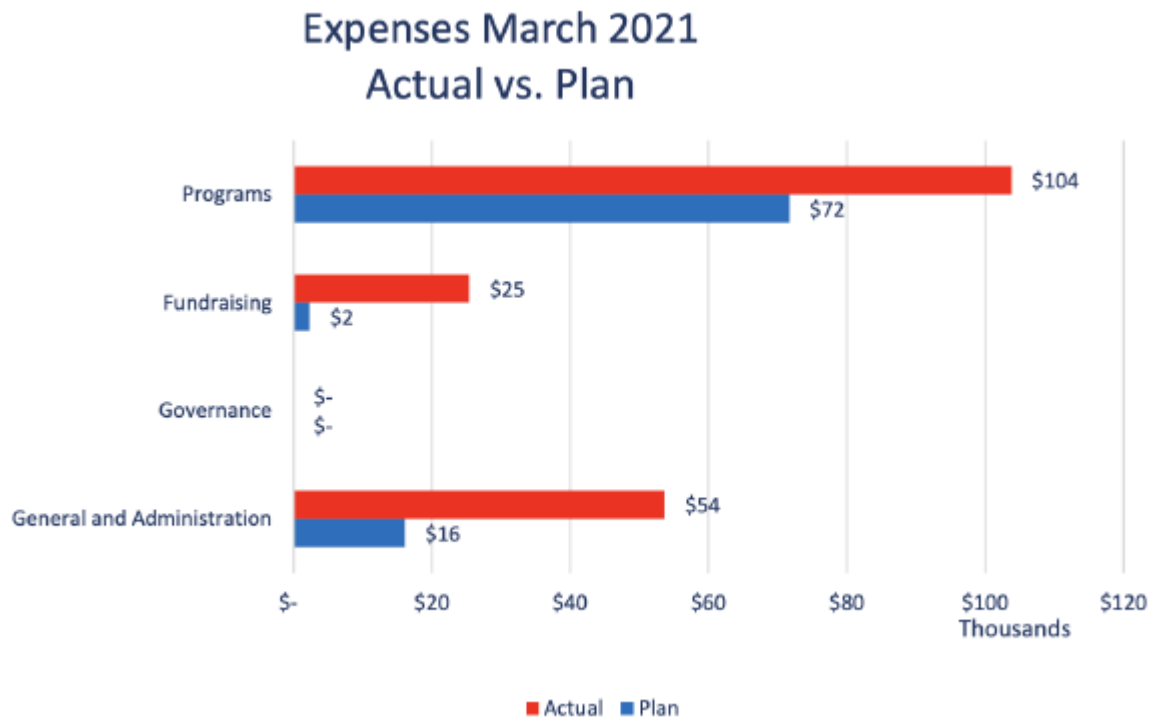
Technology

This month our main focus was to improve the reliability and performance of the Dashboard — especially the global Programs & Events Dashboard, which has been pushed past its limits in recent months due to high usage. We hired Ruby on Rails performance consultant Nate Berkopce (speedshop.io) to analyze the performance profile of the Dashboard, identify key areas for improvement, and optimize the system to fix them. In response to several downtime incidents we also took the first steps of migrating the Dashboard to a distributed system, moving Programs & Events Dashboard to a two-server configuration with the database running separately from the Ruby on Rails application server. We improved our monitoring capabilities for both Wiki Education Dashboard and Programs & Events Dashboard, giving us a clear picture of the latter as a system constantly on the brink of being overloaded. After some initial work optimizing the data update process to speed up the rate at which the Dashboard can provide new stats for courses, Nate focused on

adapting the Dashboard to deploy and run on a coordinated set of servers that can easily be scaled up to handle higher loads, with the basic coordination tooling in place by the end of the month. Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross worked on solving the more immediate bottlenecks on Programs & Events Dashboard.

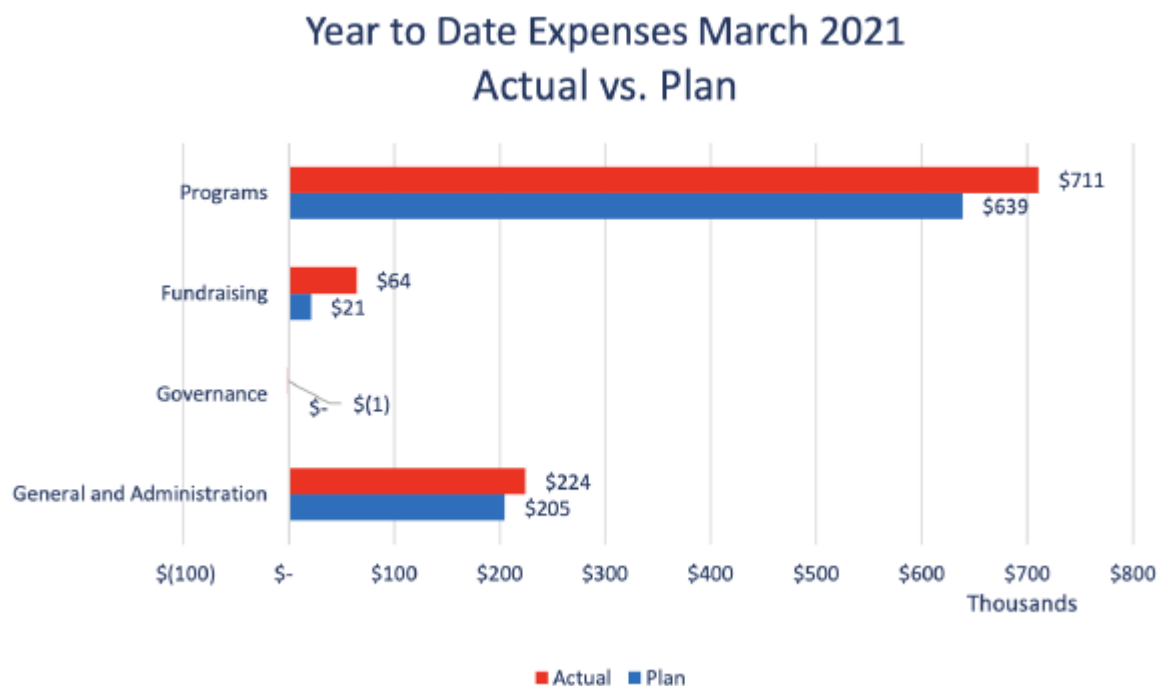
Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of March were \$183K, +\$93K over the budget of \$90K. Fundraising was over budget by +\$23K, comprised of +\$21K in Payroll with a new hire and backpay payout and +\$2K in Indirect Costs. General & Administrative was over +\$38K consisting of +\$31K in Payroll and +\$7K in Professional Fees. Programs were over by +\$32K due to overages in Payroll Costs by +\$20K, +\$16K in Consulting Fees, while under (\$1K) in Travel, (\$1K) in Communications and (\$2K) in Indirect Costs.



The Year-to-date expenses were \$997K, +\$133K over the budget of \$864K. The Board was under budget by (\$1K) due to a Vacation accrual adjustment. Fundraising was over +\$43K due to an increase in Payroll +\$27K, an ongoing Consulting Contract +\$8K, and +\$8K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were over +\$19K. Payroll costs were under (\$16K) due to vacation payout paid in June instead of July along with a few other payroll cost adjustments, over +\$29K in Professional Services, +\$10K in location expenses, +\$8K in other Administrative fees and +\$4K in Equipment while under (\$16K) in indirect expenses. Programs were over +\$72K due

to an increase in payroll +\$58K, +\$8K in Consulting contracts, +\$2K In Software expenses, +\$8K in Indirect expenses, while under (\$10K) in Communications.



Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Developing the plan & budget for fiscal 2021–22
- Continuing the onboarding of the new Fundraiser

In March, Frank continued providing our new fundraiser Kathleen with information on past and current funders, and creating alignment about the priorities going forward.

Frank also started drafting the annual plan & budget for fiscal year 2021–22, beginning in July 2021. He created a timeline for staff to follow and begun conversations with key staff members about the different priorities and key work areas for next fiscal year. As in prior years, the goal will be to provide Wiki Education's board of trustees with a first draft by mid May.

Also in March, Frank participated in a panel discussion organized by University of Rhode Island titled "Wikipedia @20: Reflections on Past, Present and Future". Together with four other panelists and moderated by Renee Hobbs of the Media Education Lab, Harrington School of Communication and Media, he explored the

impact of Wikipedia as it has developed over 20 years, its epistemology and values, and its practical utility as a resource for students, teachers, and information-seekers.

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