Contributing to a Digital Presence on Wikipedia:
Wiki Loves Small Museums Edit-a-thon

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What is an Edit-a-thon?

An edit-a-thon is...
"an event where editors get together to edit and improve a specific topic or type of content, typically including basic editing training for new editors."
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edit-a-thon]

"1. a scheduled time where people edit Wikipedia together, whether offline, online, or a mix of both;
2. typically focused on a specific topic, such as science or women's history;
3. a way to recruit new Wikipedians and teach them how to contribute."
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:How_to_run_an_edit-a-thon]

Why an Edit-a-thon?

Wikipedia says:
1. It helps build the encyclopedia
2. It builds relationships in the community
3. It is an opportunity for editors to learn from each other
4. It can convince people to become new Wikipedians
5. It can help new Wikipedians to contribute
6. It is an opportunity to improve the quality of Wikipedia by accessing offline materials and experts
7. It's fun!
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:How_to_run_an_edit-a-thon]

Why an Edit-a-thon?

Things an institution might care about:
1. It's where people go to find new knowledge
2. It's free
3. It's reliable
4. Search engines love it
5. It can engage new members of your community
6. It's an opportunity to share your community's expertise
7. Wikipedia needs you

Wikipedia needs me?

1. Your institution is an amazing resource for local and/or subject-specific knowledge
2. There are people out in the world you don't know who want information you have
3. You have access to information, images, and documents the world wants to see
4. You are (probably) tapped into a demographic range that is underrepresented on Wikipedia

Nuts and bolts

Before the Edit-a-thon

Things you need to arrange in advance:

1. People
2. Space
3. Time
4. Subjects
5. Wikipedia-editing resources
6. Reliable internet
7. Food

Collaboration makes an Edit-a-thon great

Things to keep in mind

1. Anyone can edit Wikipedia
2. All edits are publicly visible
3. No such thing as "final"
4. Neutrality + Conflict of Interest = don't edit your institution's page
5. All information added to Wikipedia should be verifiable
6. Wikipedia is a tertiary source – no original research!
7. Wikipedia has pillars, guidelines, community norms – but no firm rules.
8. Free content – stricter standards than fair use

Other helpful tips

1. Invite editors to explore your facility
2. Designated spaces for novices and experts
3. Be mindful of generational gaps
4. Partner with other organizations
5. Seek out funding!

After the Edit-a-Thon

1.Track and publicize your results
2. Keep an eye on pages you've created – make/revert changes, respond to questions, see how they grow
3. Use your training to keep working on Wikipedia
4. Make a difference!

Thank you!