

2023-2024 Annual Report

For the period of April 1, 2023- March 31, 2024

Bridging the Information Gap in the Arab World

In a world where access to knowledge is crucial for personal and societal development, the Arabic Wikimedians User Group (AWUG) stands as a beacon of hope for bridging the information gap in the Arab world. This dynamic community of passionate volunteers is dedicated to enriching Arabic content online, fostering collaboration and communication among Arabic speakers, celebrating diversity within the Arabic-speaking world, and supporting the expansion and effective project management of initiatives that benefit Arabic knowledge.

A Community of Diverse Voices

AWUG brings together Arab Wikimedians from across the globe, encompassing individuals based in the Arab world and expatriates living elsewhere. These dedicated volunteers, many of whom are also active members of various other Arab user groups, are united by a shared passion for promoting knowledge and collaboration in the Arabic language.

Enriching Arabic Content

At the heart of AWUG's mission lies the unwavering commitment to enriching Arabic content on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. Recognizing the importance of accessible and accurate information in Arabic, AWUG members tirelessly contribute to creating and expanding Arabic-language content across various Wikimedia platforms. Their efforts ensure that Arabic speakers have access to a wealth of knowledge in their native language, fostering a more informed and engaged Arabic-speaking community.

Fostering Communication and Collaboration

AWUG recognizes that collaboration is the cornerstone of progress. By fostering open communication and collaboration among Arabic Wikimedians, AWUG breaks down barriers and creates a supportive environment where individuals can share ideas, learn from one another, and collectively contribute to the growth of Arabic-language content. This collaborative spirit extends beyond online platforms, as AWUG organizes regular events and workshops that bring Arabic Wikimedians together to network, share expertise, and develop innovative projects.

Celebrating Diversity

AWUG embraces the rich diversity of the Arab world, recognizing that the tapestry of Arabic cultures, dialects, and perspectives is a source of strength and innovation. By celebrating this diversity, AWUG ensures that all voices are heard and valued, fostering a more inclusive and representative Wikimedia community. This commitment to inclusivity is reflected in AWUG's initiatives to promote Arabic content from underrepresented regions and communities.

Supporting Expansion and Effective Project Management

AWUG plays a pivotal role in supporting the expansion and effective project management of initiatives that benefit Arabic knowledge. By providing guidance, mentorship, and resources, AWUG empowers individuals and groups to undertake ambitious projects that enrich the Arabic-language Wikimedia landscape. This support extends to capacity-building workshops, training sessions, and the development of tools and resources tailored to the needs of Arabic Wikimedians.

A Force for Positive Change

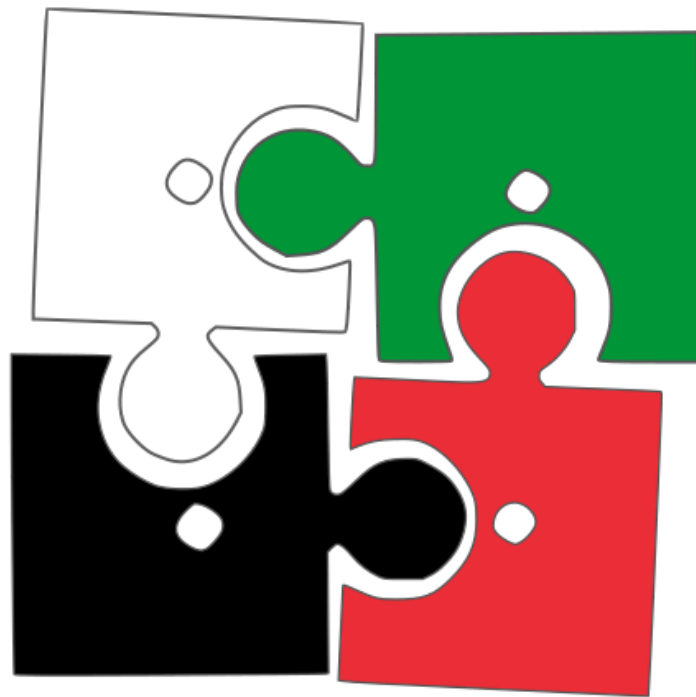
The Arabic Wikimedians User Group stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, dedication, and passion. Through their tireless efforts to enrich Arabic content, foster communication, celebrate diversity, and support effective project management, AWUG is making a profound impact on the Arab world. By bridging the information gap and empowering Arabic speakers with access to knowledge, AWUG is paving the way for a brighter future where Arabic voices are heard and valued on the global stage.

History

Arabic Wikimedians User Group is a user group invested in developing Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects in the Arabic language, with promoting collaboration between the Arabic speaking user groups, and with developing processes in joint projects. The user group was established by veteran editors and users in 2020 under the “Arabic Council” moniker. The Wikimedia Foundation recognized the user group as an affiliate in 2021. Members of the group are Arabic speaking Wikimedians from across the globe, brought together by their desire to work on the advancement of the Arabic Wikimedian communities and enriching free Arabic content online.

Visual identity

The group has changed its logo, in a coordinated effort with several other Wikimedia affiliates and other groups to incorporate the colors of the Palestinian flag. The puzzle pieces represent the interconnectedness of the efforts of all member groups.



Global Engagement and the WMF

Beyond its regional focus, AWUG actively participates in global discussions with the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). This engagement strengthens the ties between AWUG and the broader Wikimedia movement.

Highlighting Key Areas:

- **Movement Strategy Discussions:** AWUG members actively participated in remote discussions on the WMF's movement strategy. This participation ensured Arab Wikimedians' voices were heard in shaping the future direction of the movement.
- **Board Elections:** AWUG members played a role in the democratic process by participating in the WMF Board elections. This ensures that the WMF Board reflects the diversity of the Wikimedia community.
- **Movement Charter and Hub Discussions:** AWUG actively contributed to discussions on the WMF's movement charter and the establishment of regional hubs. These discussions shape the governance structure and collaborative efforts within the Wikimedia movement.

Standing in Solidarity

In demonstration of their commitment to social justice and equity, AWUG members participated in the drafting and signing of the [Joint Statement on Palestine](#). This statement reflects the Wikimedia community's support for freedom of expression and access to information for all people, including Palestinians. It also highlights the signatories' desire for peace and condemns the destruction of lives, livelihoods, and cultural heritage.

This addition highlights AWUG's commitment to social issues and their participation in global discussions beyond the direct scope of Arabic language content.

Participation in Conferences

Active participation in the Wikimedia community

AWUG's commitment extends beyond online engagement. The group actively participates in key conferences, fostering collaboration and showcasing its achievements:

Wikimania 2023: AWUG members showcased their work, participated in discussions, and networked with Wikimedians around the world at the Wikimedia movement's first annual conference.

Wikimedia Summit 2024: AWUG participated in the affiliate conference held in Berlin, Germany to discuss the future of the movement and finalize the discussion on the Movement Charter.

Effective Resource Utilization

AWUG implements a unique operational model that minimizes financial resource dependence. This innovative approach allows us to achieve tangible results despite limited funding. While not a universally recommended model, it enables AWUG to function effectively in resource-constrained environments.

Thank You