Wikipedia training for trainers

These slides are open content: please adapt in any way you want
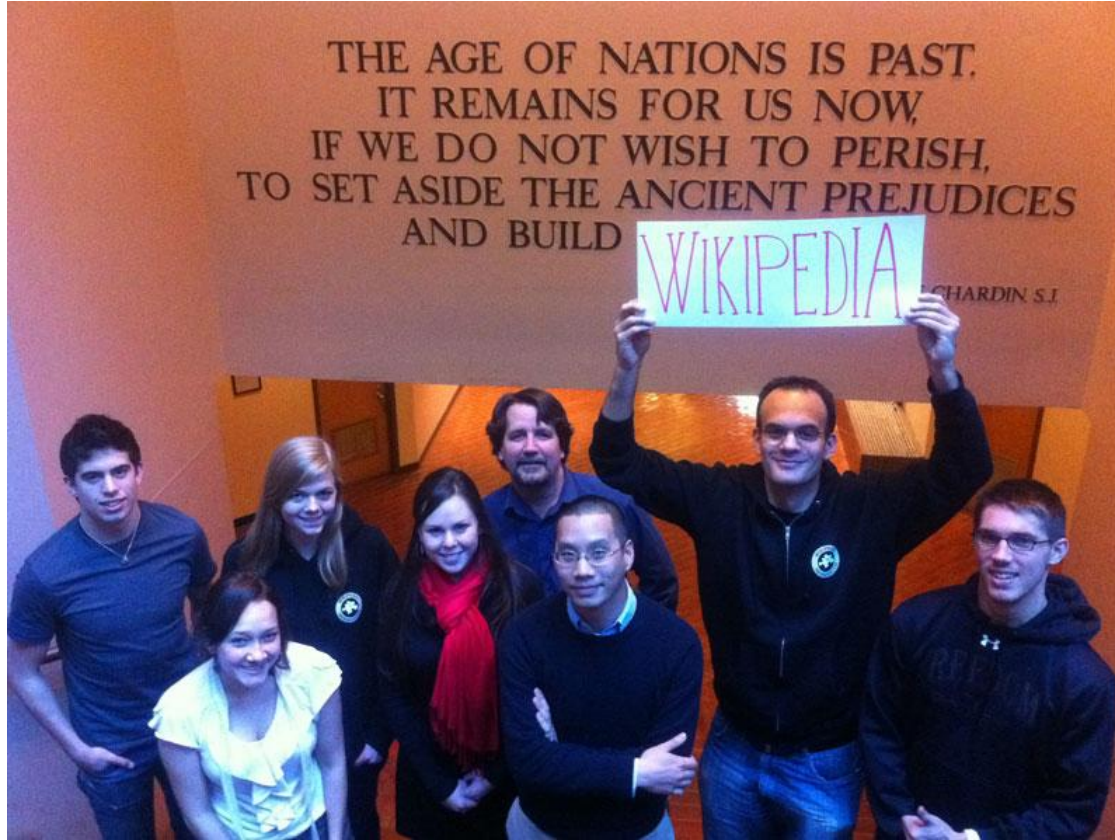
What?

Who?

Why?

How?

Why run Wikipedia events?

Newly minted DC-area Wikipedia campus ambassadors at Georgetown University.

Why run Wikipedia events?

- Public engagement with a tangible result

- Doing public good: improving the commons

  - Goals align with mission of the university or scholarly society

- Citations/ reach for research projects

- Supporting educational assignments

- More and more institutions (museums, universities...) want wiki skills

- It's *fun!*

Enthusing about Wikipedia: some sources

Handouts and videos
https://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/Ambassadors_Orientation_Resources:_Editing

"Wikipedia, an introduction" (celebrating the Erasmus Prize award to the Wikipedia Community in 2015)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8hTvx7PUrQ

"The State of Wikipedia" A short animation from 2011
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXD1TRGafQ0

Visualising Wikipedia's "firehose" of activity

Listen to Wikipedia

http://listen.hatnote.com/#en

Recent Changes Map

http://rcmap.hatnote.com/#en,uk,fr,sv,id,bn,de,ja,es,it,nl,ru

Active learning: behind the scenes at Wikipedia

You are given a question *and* a starting point for answering that question.

In pairs, find an answer and think about how you will explain it to the rest of the room. The answers are there but you may have to click around to find them.

There is no need to read a whole essay or list: skim and extract the key points a newcomer needs to know.

In 25 minutes, we will each report back

When and why do articles about academics get deleted from Wikipedia?

First step: type WP:ACADEMIC into the search box on English Wikipedia

What sections should there be in a top-quality Wikipedia article about an academic?

Start with the Featured Content link on left of any Wikipedia page, then select the link for Featured Articles

Can *news* media be used as sources for a Wikipedia article about a scientist? If so, when?

First step: type WP:RELIABLE into the search box on English Wikipedia

What should a researcher do if they want to improve the Wikipedia article about the project or department they work for?

First step: type WP:COI into the search box
on English Wikipedia

How can Wikipedia users ask for help?

You might want to weigh up the advantages
of *multiple* ways of doing this. Start with the Help
link on left hand side of any Wikipedia page.

The <u>front page</u> of Wikipedia has a Did You Know section. How do you get an article listed there?

Start with the links under that section.

Gotchas

1. Wikipedia won't allow more than six new accounts from the same IP in 24 hrs.

2. User names must be personal, not project names such as AcademicIT.

3. New accounts must solve a CAPTCHA to enter an external link.

4. Check that users have Visual Editor enabled. To activate it once logged in, (top right links) Preferences -> Editing -> Editing mode

Pitfalls: an active exercise

The next slide gives some things that can go wrong with editor training, if you are not prepared.

Some can be avoided by preparation before the event. Some can be prevented with suitable guidance to trainees. Some need action when they happen.

Pick one and think of a specific suggestion to prevent or deal with the problem.

Pitfalls

1. Trainee copies a text from elsewhere on the web.

2. Trainee gets an unfriendly template message from an established user.

3. New article is nominated for deletion because it lacks sources.

4. Trainee uses their own personal blog as a source.

5. Other editors alter an article while the trainee is working on it.

6. A paragraph is removed because one sentence is inappropriately worded.

Past editathons

Tudor music editathon: http://**tinyurl.com/TPeditathon**
Some more: **Wikipedia:GLAM/Bodleian** (type this in the Wikipedia search box)

- A statement of when and where the event is occurring, and its scope.

- A list of target articles (e.g. stub articles in the required topic)
  - Remember you can use categories (links at the foot of articles)

- Redlinks (links to articles that should exist but don't)
  - Some projects maintain lists of these, e.g. **WP:WOMRED** (Women In Red)

- Links to suitable sources (e.g. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography for UK biographies)

- User profiles for those taking part (perhaps get attendees to sign up against articles they'd like to improve)