



Monthly Report, January 2023

Highlights

- This month, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal and Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn ran an introductory session for instructors teaching with us during the spring term. They reviewed best practices for running a Wikipedia assignment and how to best make use of Wiki Education's support. They also started weekly office hours where instructors can come to ask questions or simply interact with other faculty running Wikipedia projects this term.
- On the weekend of January 21st and 22nd, members of Wiki Education's board of trustees and Wiki Education's leadership team met in San Francisco for the traditional January board meeting. Participants took the next step in the strategic planning process by making sense of the insights of this analysis gathered in areas like philanthropy, web technology, higher education, and the Wikimedia universe, and at outlining the long-term strategic direction of the organization.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2023 in numbers:

- 330 courses were live on the Dashboard.
- 3070 students were enrolled.
- Students added 76,200 words and 1070 references to Wikipedia. They edited 186 articles and created 3 new entries.



Performance at a glance: With 330 courses on board, we are on our way to meeting our goal of 375 for Spring 2023.

January saw the beginning of our [Spring 2023 term](#).

Students started enrolling on the Dashboard and taking their first tentative steps into the world of Wikipedia editing.

In January, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal and Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn ran an introductory session for instructors teaching with us this term. During the session, we reviewed best practices for running a Wikipedia assignment and how to best make

use of Wiki Education's support. We also started weekly office hours where instructors can come to ask questions or simply interact with other faculty running Wikipedia projects this term.

Equity Outreach Coordinator Andres Vera and Helaine gave a teach with Wikipedia presentation on January, 10 to 49 new prospective instructors interested in teaching with Wikipedia. In addition, Andres and Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis met with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities to discuss potential avenues for collaboration.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Wikidata Institute January](#): This month we are kicking off a new Wikidata Institute. These five participants represent libraries, art museums, and people interested in linked data projects. We are looking forward to seeing their impact on Wikidata! Follow their progress on the Dashboard linked above.
- [PIT-UN Wiki Scholars](#): In collaboration with the New America Foundation, we are eager to kick off this special Wiki Scholars course. The content will focus on the development of articles about Public Interest Technology. These ten editors represent experts in this field that is underrepresented on Wikipedia. It's our hope that this course will generate more interest in this field. You can see their articles come together on the Dashboard.

Advancement

Partnerships

To kick off the year, we launched our first Wiki Scientists course as part of the PCORI grant we received, and we began working with our longtime partner, the Association for Psychological Science (APS), to recruit their members as participants in the first Wikipedia training course. APS has also begun introducing Wiki Education to other psychology groups and organizations, especially of clinical psychologists, to share the opportunity with their members and bring more medical professionals and students to Wikipedia through this project.

This month, we were also excited to begin recruiting faculty, librarians, and graduate students from Idaho's public institutions of higher education to join a year-long program to learn about Wikipedia and Wikidata through our courses. The applicants were outstanding and will start the collaboration with a Wiki Scholars course. Participants will work on articles related to the environment, health, education, and anything else where their subject-matter expertise overlaps with missing information on Wikipedia.

Finally, we launched a Wiki Scientists course for experts interested in improving Wikipedia's content related to proven solutions to the climate crisis, and we're excited to recruit participants over the next few months.

Fundraising

Kathleen Crowley, Director of Donor Relations, LiAnna Davis, Chief Programs Officer, and Frank Schulenburg, Executive Director, agreed upon a draft slide deck that was presented to Wiki Education Advisory Board member, Lorraine Hariton. We are presenting a slide deck to her corporate connections in the future. Lorraine provided her feedback to us, and the adjustments were made to the slide deck. Kathleen drafted and submitted the mid-year progress report to Guru Krupa Foundation for their \$25K grant in support of STEM information and communication on Wikipedia. Kathleen submitted a LOI to a new foundation funder, asking for an invitation to submit a full proposal to support student learning outcomes with the Wikipedia Student Program. Kathleen also submitted a final proposal to the WITH Foundation, asking for \$50K for three Wiki Scientists courses that will add more information about developmental disability healthcare and related topics to Wikipedia. Kathleen had a phone call with the senior program officer at a new foundation prospect that could potentially fund Wiki Scientists courses on the intersection of climate change and human health. She drafted and emailed impact reports donors who gave to Wiki Education in 2022. And finally, Kathleen scheduled a presentation for Dr. Amin Azzam at UCSF to give to Wiki Edu's Advisory Board members next month.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Jumping for science: how Wikipedia assignments inspire STEM students](#) (January 4)
- [Announcing our funding support from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) (January 5)
- [Students develop skills for a chosen career in STEM through Wikipedia](#) (January 13)
- [Wikipedia can make all the difference for women in STEM](#) (January 19)
- [Thank you, Nielsen Foundation, for helping us leverage Wikidata for good!](#) (January 31)

Technology

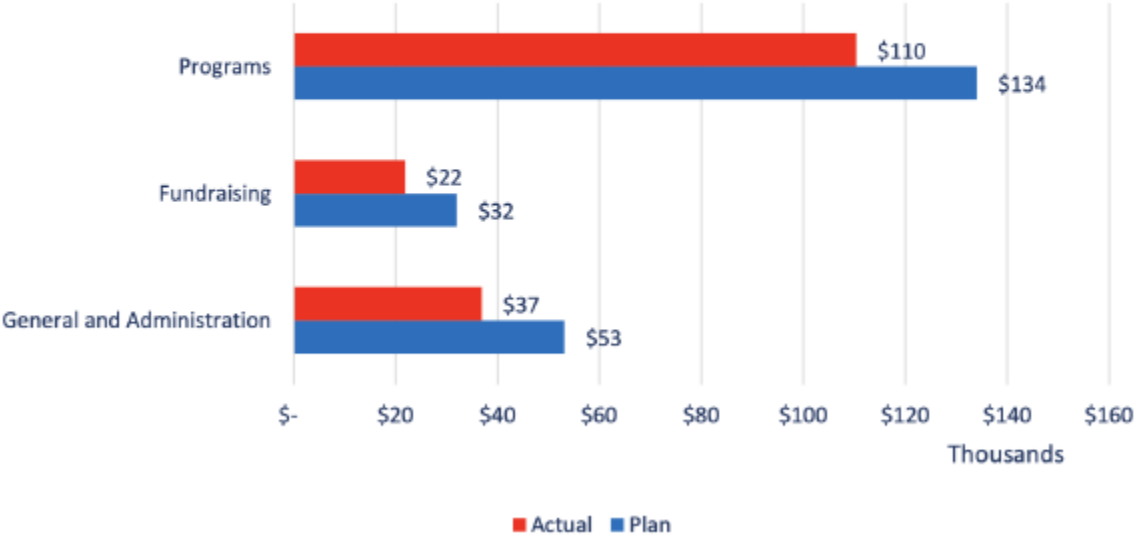
In January, we rolled out several new features and improvements to the Dashboard, including:

- Improved ticket search, so that we can easily find all the support tickets related to a single class (thanks to volunteer open source contributor *cyrillefr*)
- Performance improvements for the Articles tab, including automatic refreshing of outdated articles data and pagination for when a class has edited too many articles to display all at once (thanks to Shashwat Khanna, our Google Summer of Code intern from last summer)
- Alerts for when an instructor removes the timeline from their course, so that we can check in with them (thanks to new contributor Kunal Arora)

Finance & Administration

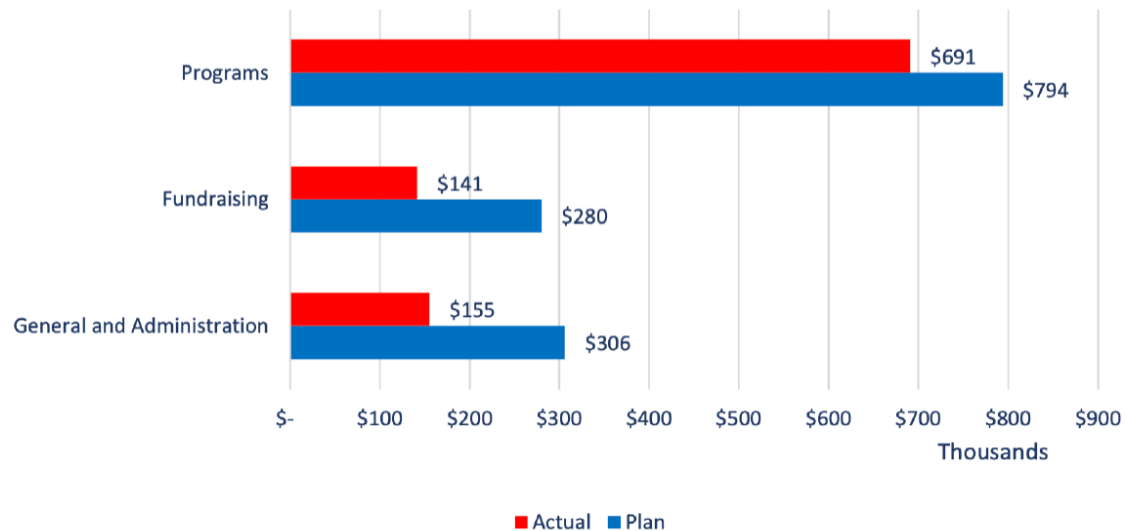
The total expenditures for the month of January were \$169K, (\$50K) under the budget of \$219K. Fundraising was under (\$10K) in Payroll expenditures. General & Administrative were under (\$16K) due to underspending (\$11K) in Accounting and Audit Service fees, (\$4K) in Payroll and (\$1K) in Indirect expenditures. Programs were under (\$24K) comprised of underspending (\$16K) in Payroll, (\$6K) in Travel and (\$2K) in Advertising.

Expenses January 2023
Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$987K, (\$393K) under the budget of \$1,380K. Fundraising was under budget (\$139K), of which, (\$96K) in Marketing that will occur in a couple of months, (\$32K) in Payroll, (\$6K) in Travel, (\$7K) in Outside services, while over +\$2K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under (\$151K), underspending (\$42K) in Payroll, (\$35K) in Recruiting, (\$38K) in Professional Services, (\$21K) in Staff and Board Meetings, (\$9K) in Travel, (\$8K) in Desk Equipment while over +\$2K in other Direct Expenditures. Programs were under (\$103K) due to being under (\$54K) in Consulting Services, (\$29K) in Payroll, (\$16K) in Travel, and (\$4K) in Communications.

Year to Date Expenses January 2023 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Organizational Strategy 2023
- In-person board meeting in January
- Support for the Advancement Team

On the weekend of January 21st and 22nd, members of Wiki Education's board of trustees and Wiki Education's leadership team met in San Francisco for the traditional January board meeting. This time, the main topic of discussion was the organizational strategy for the next three years.

During the first half of this fiscal year, board and staff had analyzed ongoing and emerging trends in the environment Wiki Education operates in. The January board meeting took the next step in the strategic planning process by making sense of the insights of this analysis gathered in areas like philanthropy, web technology, higher education, and the Wikimedia universe, and at outlining the long-term strategic direction of the organization.

Over the course of two days, the board agreed that the organization shall further increase Wikipedia's content quality, equity, and reach while focusing on the following programmatic goals:

1. Wiki Education will play a central role in combating disinformation and in supporting democracy in the United States

2. Wiki Education will expand its partnership work with cultural institutions, specifically around Wikidata
3. Wiki Education will create data literacy offerings and explore related funding opportunities

In addition to the above and in line with the Wikimedia Foundation's current implementation process for the 2030 strategic goals, Wiki Education will explore the option of creating a Global Education Hub, aimed at supporting the international community of volunteers and staff members who execute Education Programs in different countries around the globe. Also, given that tools like Chat-GPT might have major effects on written assignments in higher education, we will investigate and implement changes to our programs as needed to adapt to artificial intelligence technologies. Finally, we will pursue new funding opportunities in order to be able to continue our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work, and develop and execute a funding strategy that will put the organization on a path of substantial growth in impact.

The next step of Wiki Education's strategic planning process will be for staff to summarize the results and prepare an official strategy document for the board to approve in its June 2023 board meeting in Tiburon.

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