



Monthly Report, November 2021

Highlights

- We completed our fourth round of a 500 Women Wiki Scientists courses. The course participants created 12 new articles and edited an additional 46 existing articles. The added just over 300 references to these articles, making them more reliable and up to date.
- In November, our own Wiki Education Dashboard got upgraded to the latest versions of the Terraform, Waypoint, Nomad and Consul tools on which we're running the site, resulting in improved reliability and uptime.
- November was a very busy month for the Student Program. Students began to draft their main Wikipedia contributions in earnest and move their work into the article main space. With 2.65 million words added from the Student Program up to this point, we are on track to meet our goal of 4.25 million words.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Fall 2021 in numbers:

- 329 courses were in progress on the dashboard.
- 5,904 students were enrolled.
- Students added 2.65 million words to Wikipedia with 27.8K references. They edited 4,800 articles and created 237 new articles.



Performance at a glance: With 2.65 million words added from the Wikipedia Student Program up to this point, we are on track to meet our goal of 4.25 million words.

November was a very busy month for the Student Program. Students in our [Fall 2021](#) term began to draft their main Wikipedia contributions in earnest and move their work into the article main space.

Helaine Blumenthal, Senior Program Manager, began to review course pages submitted for the Spring 2022 term as well as continued to promote the program in a number of media formats. Helaine also ran an exciting faculty panel along with three highly experienced instructors in the program. Professors [Tobias Fischer](#), University of New Mexico; [Katherine Holt](#), The College of Wooster; and [Heidi Schutz](#), Pacific Lutheran University, talked about their experiences running Wikipedia assignments in the fields of Earth Science, Latin American Studies, and Biology, respectively. They focused on three critical areas — digital and information literacy, knowledge equity and social action, and adding media content to Wikipedia. The event was well-attended, and we look forward to running similar programs in the future.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [500 Women Wiki Scientists](#): We completed our fourth round of a 500 Women Wiki Scientists courses. These 19 participants created 12 new articles and edited an additional 46 existing articles. They added just over 300 references to these articles, making them more reliable and up to date. Take a look at their fine work by reading about [Catherine E. Costello](#), a professor of biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine, whose research focuses on mass spectrometry. This article did not exist prior to this class. Don't miss the new article about [Catalina Cuellar Gempeler](#), a Colombian microbial ecologist and marine microbiologist who teaches and conducts research at Humboldt State University. Her research focuses on the interactions between hosts and their microbial communities. It is thanks to the expertise of participants like these that these new articles can appear on Wikipedia so easily and completely.

Advancement

Partnerships & Sales

Nanette has been working on several proposals. The Society of Impact Entertainment (SIE) is interested in two projects. One, to update Wikipedia's coverage of a musical sound in the 1970s called "The Philadelphia Sound." Second, the SIE contact wants the young participants in their organization to edit and or write articles regarding their heroes. After several emails communications, we're still waiting for an agreement. The African American Policy Forum's proposal is still in process. Mobius Consortium's

contacts are discussing the proposal submitted with their executive team. Met with the CVS Health team before Thanksgiving, and they asked for a proposal/information packet. The CVS Health team wanted after Thanksgiving to make a decision. She will follow up to see if we can move forward. Finally, Native Public Media is interested in two participants, but Nanette suggested collaborating with another affiliate organization to add additional participants. Has other scheduled meetings in December to discuss.

Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson started her parental leave in November. We offer our congratulations to Jami and Dev on the new addition to their family! In accordance with Wiki Education's parental leave policy, Jami will be receiving 12 weeks of paid leave.

Fundraising

Kathleen emailed a proposal to a major donor prospect. She had Zoom meetings with two foundation prospects, including one that gave us a verbal commitment for 2022. Kathleen submitted a small proposal to a foundation. She updated our online donation page with our new platform, Give Lively. She arranged a Happy Thanksgiving cultivation email to previous donors, and mailed handwritten notes to the larger donors. She began working with a consultant on a short-term project on creating fundraising ads on Google. She is working with Andres to arrange visits with major donors in San Francisco. In November, we secured three for December thus far. Kathleen and Andres had lunch with the President of the DC Rotary Club. There are opportunities for continued cultivation and collaboration. Kathleen has mailed Case for Support documents with introductory letters to multiple new foundation prospects. Kathleen created and screened contact lists for a Giving Tuesday solicitation and worked with Frank on the messaging and video included.

Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis submitted our [funding proposal to the Wikimedia Foundation](#) for the new Wikimedia Community Fund (formerly known as the Annual Plan Grant). We asked for two-year funding of \$600,000 per year. In November, the [Regional Committee for the United States and Canada](#), a volunteer committee who make funding recommendations, reviewed the proposal. LiAnna responded to their questions via email and on the Meta talk page. A decision is expected in mid-December.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Grappling with the history of contested monuments](#) (November 2)
- [“Hey, I actually wrote the wiki article on that!”](#) (November 4)
- [Why library catalogers should learn Wikidata](#) (November 8)
- [Filling gaps in marine biodiversity](#) (November 9)
- [Improving Wikipedia’s coverage of the climate crisis](#) (November 12)

- [The missing bedrock of Wikipedia's geology coverage](#) (November 16)
- [A roadmap for Programs & Events Dashboard](#) (November 17)
- [Using Wikidata to promote epistemic equity](#) (November 19)
- [Indigenous knowledge on Wikipedia and Wikidata](#) (November 23)
- [Telling the story of Canada's First Nations nutrition experiments](#) (November 30)

Technology

In November, Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross focused on updating the Dashboard's "infrastructure-as-code" system. Sage upgraded Wiki Education Dashboard to the latest versions of the Terraform, Waypoint, Nomad and Consul tools on which we're running the site, and documented the process for keeping them up-to-date without Dashboard downtime. Sage also made a handful of bug fixes for problems that turned up during this period of heavy Dashboard usage in our Student Program.

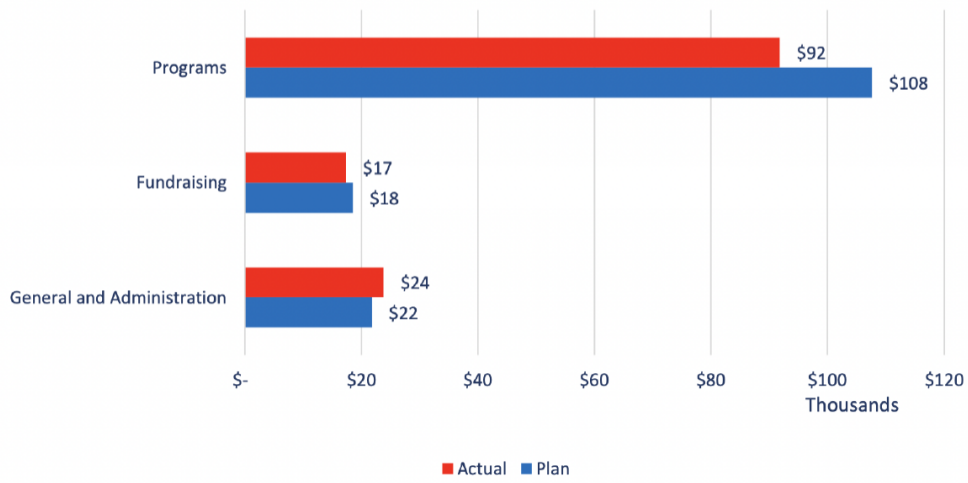
Outreachy applicant Ivana Novakovic made a pair of improvements to the Dashboard's interface for selecting a wiki, making it more efficient and intuitive for users to find the right wiki during course reaction.

Our wikiedu.org design refresh project entered the implementation phase this month, with a partial version of our new theme live on a staging site.

Finance & Administration

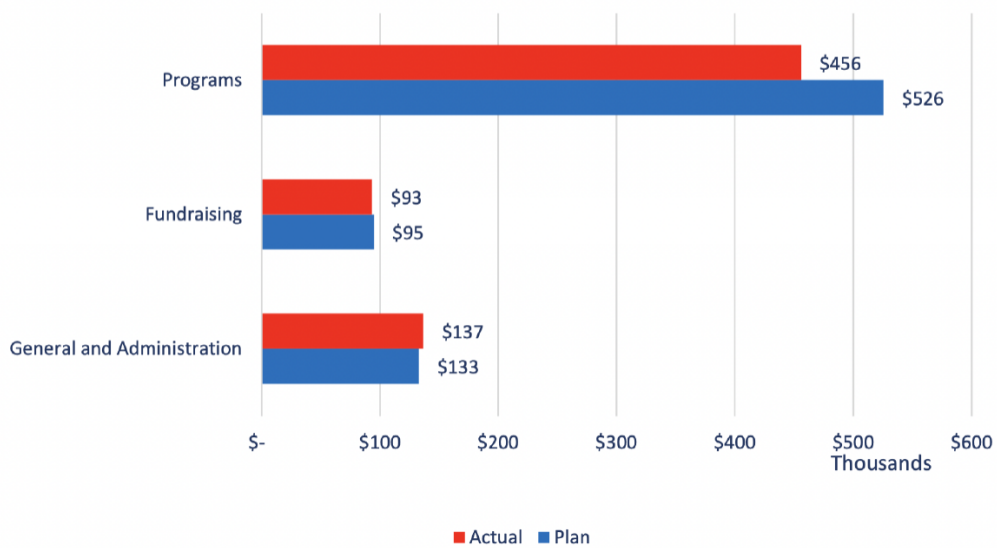
The total expenditures for the month of November were \$133K, (\$15K) under the budget of \$148K. Fundraising was under by (\$1K), of which was under (\$3K) in Consulting Fees while over +\$1K in Equipment and +\$1K in Travel. General & Administrative were over +\$2K from a combination of being over +\$1K in Professional Services, +\$1K in Furniture, +\$2K in Other Direct Costs while under (\$2K) in Indirect Expenses, (\$6K). Programs were under (\$16K) due to being under (\$17K) in Consulting Services, (\$2K) in Travel, (\$1K) In Communications, while over +\$1K in Payroll Expenses, +\$1K in Furniture, and +\$2K in Indirect Expenses.

Expenses November 2021 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$685K, (\$68K) under the budget of \$753K. Fundraising was under (\$2K) due to being under (\$7K) in Consulting Services, (\$1K) in Travel and over +\$6K in Equipment. General & Administrative were over +\$4K with a combination of being over +\$7K in Rent, +\$11K Direct Administrative Costs, +\$5K in Payroll Expenses while under (\$8K) in Professional Fees, (\$3K) in Equipment, (\$1K) in Travel and (\$7K) in Indirect Costs. Programs were under (\$70K), a result of being under (\$14K) in Payroll, (\$50K) in Consulting Services, (\$7K) in Travel, (\$7K) in Communications, while over +\$2K in Direct Expenses +\$6K in Indirect Expenses.

Year to Date Expenses November 2021 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Supporting the Advancement Team

At the beginning of November, Frank and Jordan Daly from SFBay Financial provided the Finance and Audit Committee of Wiki Education's board with an update on the financial performance of the organization in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021–22 as well as an update on the status of the current audit. With Jordan leaving SFBay Financial by the end of the month and starting her own firm, Frank and Jordan also worked on the transition of Wiki Education to Aurora Daly Financial.

As part of his ongoing effort to support the Advancement Team, Frank reached out to a number of academic associations and encouraged them to sponsor courses for Wiki Education's Scholars and Scientists Program. Frank also met with Amanda Coolidge, Director of Open Education at BCcampus, and started a conversation about Canadian instructors engaging in Wiki Education's emerging "Confronting your country's history – students write about the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples in Canada" initiative. Furthermore, Frank created a YouTube video for Wiki Education's Giving Tuesday fund drive on November 30.

Frank also met with Maryana Iskander, the incoming CEO of the Wikimedia Foundation. As part of Maryana's "listening tour", Frank provided her with information about Wiki Education, its history, and about its past and current work. On November 27, Frank joined a meeting about "Hubs", organized by the Wikimedia Foundation. As part of the implementation of Wikimedia's new strategy, thematic, language-based, and regional Hubs will play a role as organizational units supporting more than one volunteer community. They are expected to fill several roles including legal support, resource allocation, capacity building, inter-group coordination, technology development, mentorship, evaluation services, and more.

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