Monthly Report, November 2020

Highlights

- This month, we started exploring a *Guest Instructor Model* for our Scholars & Scientists courses. Jeffrey Keefer, who is an Educational Consultant & Coach as well as a Wikipedian, is heading up the first guest-instructor-led course. The guest instructor approach is part of our effort to scale the Scholars & Scientists program and bring more subject-matter experts in underdeveloped areas to Wikipedia.

- Our November Wikidata Institute was a big success! Twelve mostly new Wikidata editors created more than 200 items and edited 425 total. They added more than 450 references to statements, leaving a very positive impact on Wikidata.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Fall 2020 in numbers:

- 322 courses were active.
- 6,777 students were enrolled.
- Students added 2.99 million words to 7,120 articles on Wikipedia.

Spring 2021 in numbers:

- More than 250 submitted course pages

As always, November was an active month for our students. They were busy drafting their work and moving their contributions into the article main space. They've already
contributed almost 3 million words to Wikipedia, and this number will only grow throughout December.

November also meant that instructors were submitting their course pages for the Spring 2021 term. We currently have more than 250 submitted pages on the Dashboard, and Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal is busy reviewing and approving courses for Spring 2021.

**Scholars & Scientists Program**

Courses in progress:

- **NSPN-2**: Our second Wiki Scholars course with the National Science Policy Network has seen a flurry of activity this month. This group has been laser-focused on editing policy pages. See their impact on the [Food Policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Policy) article as well as the [Genetic Privacy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_Privacy) article. Both of these contributions were made by participants who had never edited Wikipedia before this course. You can see of their accomplishments here.

- **500 Women Scientists**: Our second 500 Women Scientists course has been busy improving and creating articles about (you guessed it) women scientists. Check out this new article about Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, the president of the American Association of State Climatologists. This article about Mary Cloyd Burnley Stifler, a 20th century botanist with a specialization in mycology, has also seen some significant improvements. Prior to this course, Mercedes Concepcion did not have an article on English Wikipedia. Now the "Mother of Asian Demography" has her very own article.

- **Wikidata November Institute**: Our November Wikidata Institute was a big success! Twelve mostly new Wikidata editors created more than 200 items and edited 425 total! They added more than 450 references to statements, leaving a very positive impact on Wikidata. Additionally this group wrote some queries like [this one](https://query.wikidata.org/), which generates a list of female-identifying alumni of Teachers College at Columbia University. Another highlight from this course is one participant noticed the Wikidata tool Cradle didn't have a form for editing schools. [Now it does](https://github.com/wikimedia/cradle/issues/3328).

**Wikidata Presentations:**

Wikidata Will had a busy month with three different Wikidata presentations:

- For a remote Wikidata hackathon about [comic book metadata](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Wikidata_Comics), Will gave a multi-day keynote about editing on Wikidata.
● Will also led a two day-long workshop for the Nadia Sophie Seiler lecture series at the University of Texas-Austin about contributing to Wikidata. See the productive results of that workshop here.

● It was also Wikidata's eighth birthday this month. To celebrate, there were a series of remote discussions about education and Wikidata to showcase some of the ways curricula can embrace Wikidata. See that recording here.

Guest Instructor Pilot:

We started piloting guest instructors for courses this month. Jeffrey Keefer, an instructor in the Wikipedia Student Program, is heading up the first guest-instructor-led course. As we navigate unpredictable schedules, we hope this approach to meeting programmatic demand will allow us to facilitate more courses. We are thrilled to be working with Jeffrey and look forward to the results of the course is leading.

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, we kicked off a new sponsored Wiki Scholars course with the University of California, Los Angeles, supporting faculty, students, and staff affiliated with the UCLA libraries as they learn how to contribute to Wikipedia. We’re always excited to bring more librarians to the projects and look forward to the excellent work this cohort of Wiki Scholars will do to improve Wikipedia.

We are still accepting registrants for our January Wiki Scholars course in which participants will add information about Covid-19 to Wikipedia as well as our January Wikidata Institute.

Communications

Blog posts:

● A Wikipedian six years in the making (November 2)
● Authorship Highlighting improvements (November 5)
● How helping others edit Wikipedia changes lives (November 10)
● 10 years of teaching with Wikipedia: Jonathan Obar (November 12)
● From student to professor: Amanda Levendowski (November 16)
● Research quantifies student editors’ impact on Wikipedia’s scholarly references (November 17)
● How Wikipedia led to sewing: Tighe Flanagan (November 18)
Technology

This month, Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross focused on updating the Dashboard's open source libraries, improving its suite of automated web-browser tests, and evaluating the help requests that students and instructors submit through their Dashboard course pages.

Sage submitted a patch to Wikimedia Foundation's software for getting data from wikis using the Dashboard's Ruby programming language, which makes it compatible with newer versions of other software. He also updated the algorithm for prioritizing course data updates, which reduced the portion of events on the global Programs & Events Dashboard that have to wait multiple days between updates.

On the testing front, Sage began taking advantage of the JavaScript test monitoring system that summer intern Amit Joki created, identifying some of the Dashboard's interface features that weren't being used in any tests and writing new tests for them — such as the 'Get Help' button and the ticketing system that Wiki Education staff use to respond to help requests. With these new tests in place, the estimated portion of untested JavaScript code went from 21% down to 17%.

To better understand whether new features developed over the last two years have changed the rate of help requests, Sage did some preliminary analysis of help requests and other tickets. The initial conclusion is the rate of help requests has trended down during this time, and — more importantly for our capacity to support as many instructors as possible — help requests have also become more evenly distributed throughout each semester, with significantly smaller spikes during the busiest months of on-wiki activity. We plan to re-run the analysis once the Fall 2020 term is complete.

Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of October were $100K, + $14K over the budget of $86K. Fundraising was right on target. General & Administrative was over +$4K by under spending on Indirect costs ($9K) with overages of +$4K in Recruitment, +$4K in Accounting and +$5K in State filing fees. Programs were over by +$10K with an overage of +$2K in Payroll Expenses, and +$8K in Indirect Expenses.
The Year-to-date expenses were $460K, ($17K) under the budget of $477K. The Board was under budget by ($1K) due to a Vacation accrual adjustment. Fundraising was over +$6K due to a new Consulting Contract +$5K, +$2K in Indirect Expenses, and under ($1K) in Payroll. General & Administrative were under ($38K). Payroll costs were under ($43K) due to vacation payout paid in June instead of July along with a few other payroll cost reductions, ($20K) in indirect expenses, and ($2K) in Occupancy while over +$19K in Recruitment, +$5K in State Filing fees, +$1K in Communications, +$1K Professional Fees and +$1K in Equipment. Programs were over +$16K due to a +$2K Consulting contract, +$2K in Payroll, and +$8K Indirect expenses while under ($5K) in Communications, Internet and Software.
Office of the ED

Current priorities

● Keeping operations going smoothly while dealing with reduced capacity
● Filling three open positions
● Getting ready for the conversations around next year's annual plan

In November, Frank worked with Jordan Daly from SFBay Financial on this year's audit. We provided our auditing firm Hood & Strong with all documents requested and we're expecting to finish the process earlier than last year.

Also in November, Frank has been busy with hiring for two full-time positions that will be crucial for increasing our revenue going forward and one part-time position that will provide much needed administrative support. As part of this process, Frank wrote and published job descriptions, screened candidates, and started interviewing applicants.

In order to comply with new state requirements, we rolled out the 2020 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. We're using the training modules provided by California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). It's two hours for supervisors and one hour for everyone else. Staff has until December 31 to submit their certificates of completion.

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