



Activities & Impact Report for 4Q 2014 and CY 2015

The first sixteen months of the Cascadia Wikimedians User Group has been busy. By our end-of-year party this December 2015, we will have had eighteen meetups or open board meetings, eighteen edit-a-thons or training sessions, had multiple members attend international and national Wiki conferences, and supported and interfaced with local organizations and university classes.

During our first four months, September through December of 2014, we were slow to start, as we needed to go through the effort of creating by laws and determining what we need to do to incorporate, plan a schedule and a budget, and how to bootstrap our board. The only edit-a-thon during this time occurred in Portland in September, and our monthly meetups briefly went on hiatus during the holiday season while some of us instead did outreach efforts such taking part in the Community Data Science Workshops that taught how to use Python code with Wikipedia application programming interfaces (APIs) appearing in a Wikipedia panel for a college class or collaborating in a joint holiday party with lightning talks with the Seattle Techno Activist Third Monday (TA3M) and Seattle Privacy Coalition groups, and met informally amongst ourselves to craft our by-laws and plans.

Once 2015 arrived and interested volunteers coalesced into our first board, our planning efforts began to bear fruit. Between February and May, our members organized with other groups and institutions to hold six edit-a-thons or training sessions. In the fall we had ten edit-a-thons. Our meetups returned to a monthly schedule. Members attended the Wikimedia Conference in Berlin, Wikimania in Mexico City, and WikiConference USA in Washington, DC.

Here is a more detailed listing of our activities, some of which has further discussion.

Meetings and events other than editathons	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
09/09/14	Meetup
11/08/14	Community Data Science Workshop session
11/15/14	Community Data Science Workshop session
11/22/14	Community Data Science Workshop session
12/15/14	End-of-year party and lightning talks with Seattle TA3M and Seattle Privacy Coalition
10/14/14	Meetup

01/13/15	Joint meetup & board meeting at UW Communications class
01/27/15	Board meeting
02/10/15	Meetup
03/10/15	Meetup
03/24/15	Meetup
05/25/15	Meetup
06/26/15	Board meeting
07/05/15	Picnic
07/27/15	Meetup to revitalize & prioritize WikiProject Seattle
08/11/15	Meetup
09/08/15	UW Communications class; meetup
10/14/15	Meetup
11/10/15	Meetup
12/13/15	General membership meeting, including board elections for 2016
12/14/15	End-of-year party and lightning talks with Seattle TA3M and Seattle Privacy Coalition

Edit-a-thons	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme / Focus</i>
09/13/14	Wikipedia:Meetup/Portland/Feminist and Queer Art
02/13/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/Editing workshop 2-13-2015
02/13/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/Facilitation Training Workshop 2-13-2015
02/14/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/Art+Feminism (February 2015)
03/07/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Portland/ArtAndFeminism 2015
04/19/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/Privacy and security themed editathon with Seattle TA3M at the Montlake Library 4-19-2015
04/25/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/UW Library Special Collections edit-a-thon 4-25-2015
05/12/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Portland/Women's Health Information
09/17/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Wikipedia_APA#Seattle
For series below, see Wikipedia:Meetup/Seattle/UWRCWikiLab	
10/05/15	WikipediaLab: Women and Economics
10/12/15	WikipediaLab: Women and Astronomy
10/19/15	WikipediaLab: Women and Health Sciences
10/26/15	WikipediaLab: Women and Technology
11/02/15	WikipediaLab: <i>Hawks & Huskies</i> : Northwest Sports

11/09/15	WikipediaLab: Native Americans in the Northwest
11/16/15	WikipediaLab: The Port of Seattle as a Site of Labor
11/23/15	WikipediaLab: Water, Ecology & Sustainability
11/30/15	WikipediaLab: <i>Planes, Trains, and Automobiles</i> : Economy of the Pacific Northwest

First, the three edit-a-thons organized in Portland by our board Secretary, Another Believer, went excellently. Each had a dozen to two dozen attendees and resulted in improved and created articles. There was no shortage of food at any of the three, as participants brought pot-luck to the two feminist/queer art themed events and the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) provided food, swag, and subject and archival experts. The latter event in May also included a video conference talk with [James M. "Doc James" Heilman](#) just before his election to the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees.

[Monika Sengul-Jones](#) and [Amanda Menking](#) organized the Seattle Art+Feminism 2015, which included a Learn to Contribute to Wikipedia! editing workshop the day before and a Wikipedia Editing Facilitation Training Workshop led by James Hare, then President of the Wikimedia DC chapter. Although the edit-a-thon was well attended, much of the time was spent on discussing gender issues and Wikipedia, and only a couple of articles were effectively changed.

The Seattle Privacy and security themed edit-a-thon with Seattle TA3M taught us what to do if the edit-a-thons entire IP range is blocked (get on IRC quick). The Seattle UW Library Special Collections edit-a-thon was evenly split between librarians and seasoned editors, and was an interesting exercise in collaboratively creating and editing a single article, [Silme Domingo](#), a Filipino American labor activist in Seattle who was assassinated by gang members acting as operatives for Ferdinand Marcos, then dictator of the Philippines.

After a summer hiatus, we resumed in September with a collaboration with the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute. This was part of the larger [WikiAPA 2015](#) effort in the US and Asia. About a dozen attended, evenly split between seasoned Wikipedia editors and volunteers and staff from the Wing Luke Museum. We created six articles and substantially improved a seventh.

Although most edit-a-thons were individual events during the weekends, we wished to try an ongoing series with the UW Libraries. At their suggestion, we tried weekly Monday edit-a-thons focusing on Women in Science in October and the Northwest for November. These events were sparsely attended and mostly consisted of subject matter expert librarians talking to a few seasoned Wikipedia editors. Although some articles were created and improved as a result, overall the attempts to attract new editors was disappointing. It is likely that we will try more for weekend events with a follow-up edit-a-thon occurring a couple of weeks later.

The Bigger Picture: CWUG interaction with other organizations and WMF affiliate events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>CWUG Participants</i>
10/06/14	Q&A at Education Program:University of Washington/Interpersonal Media (Fall 2014)	Peaceray
11/03/14	Panel at Education Program:University of Washington/Interpersonal Media (Fall 2014)	Pine, Monika, Sage, Peaceray

12/15/14	Seattle TA3M, the Seattle Privacy Coalition, & Cascadia Wikimedians User Group joint holiday party	Lightning presentation by Benjamin Mako Hill
03/08/15	Wikipedia:Meetup/Vancouver, B.C./ArtAndFeminism 2015	Peaceray
03/13/15 - 03/17/15	Wikimedia Conference 2015	Another Believer, for Wikimedia LGBT; Pine, for CWUG
07/17/15 - 07/19/15	Wikimania 2015	Benjamin Mako Hill, Sage, Peaceray Blueraspberry (currently working for CR in NYC), Another Believer, Monika, SounderBruce, Pine, & Peaceray
10/09/15 - 10/11/15	WikiConference USA 2015	Jmabel, SounderBruce, & Pine
11/12/15	Wikipedia:Wiki Ed/University of Washington/Interpersonal Media (Fall 2015)	

Cascadia Wikimedians also engaged with the [Community Data Science Workshops](#) in [Fall 2014](#), [Spring 2015](#), and [Fall 2015](#). Hosted at the University of Washington campus, among the organizers are [Benjamin Mako Hill](#), the Vice-President of CWUG and an Assistant Professor in Communication at UW, and [Jonathan T. Morgan](#), Senior Design Researcher, Wikimedia Foundation. These workshops teach the Python coding language, and one or more exercises use the Wikipedia APIs.

This next year, we hope to continue to grow our membership, conduct effective edit-a-thons, and work with GLAM partners like the UW Libraries, the Wing Luke Museum, and others. Our big project is to host WikiConference USA / Canada in the latter half of Summer 2016. We also hope to have members representing us at the 2016 Wikimedia Conference and Wikimania.