



# Wiki Education Monthly Report, August 2022

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## Highlights

- August is a time of transition as [Summer](#) classes wrap up, and the [Fall](#) term begins. Though a small cohort, we're very proud of the work our summer students did. Fewer than 500 students still managed to add over 300,000 words to Wikipedia, an impressive feat!
- We met with National Women's Studies Association and are excited to return to their annual conference in November. After several years of working individually with their members, whose students bring incredible knowledge related to women, gender, and sexuality to Wikipedia, we're thrilled for the opportunity to approach them in a more targeted way to invite new people into our programs.
- We made several performance improvements for the Dashboard's update cycles. These efficiency improvements cut the update time for resource-intensive highly active courses to less than half, by avoiding some of the most expensive unnecessary database queries.

## Programs

Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis moderated a Wikimania 2022 panel discussion with Wikipedia Student Program professors Naniette Coleman, Shira Klein, Heather Sharkey, and Delia Steverson and Wiki Education's Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn. The panel discussed why they teach with Wikipedia, what their students get out of it, how their students are adding to knowledge equity, and what their perspectives of the Wikimedia movement are, as well as taking questions from the audience.



You can watch a video recording of the session on YouTube.

## Wikipedia Student Program

Summer 2022 in numbers:

- 22 courses were in progress on the Dashboard.
- 413 students were enrolled.
- Students added 335k words and 3,300 references. They edited 371 articles and created 23 new entries.



**Performance at a glance:** With 337 courses enrolled, we are well on track of hitting our goal of 350 courses in the fall 2022 term.

Fall 2022 in numbers:

- 337 courses were in progress on the Dashboard.
- 1,550 students were enrolled.
- Students added 6,400 words and 68 references across 65 articles.

August is a time of transition as [Summer](#) classes wrap up, and the [Fall](#) term begins. Though a small cohort, we're very proud of the work our summer students did. Fewer than 500 students still managed to add over 300,000 words to Wikipedia, an impressive feat!

August also saw the beginning of most of our Fall cohort of classes. Students began to set up their Wikipedia accounts and enroll on the Dashboard. Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal and Ian ran an introductory session for instructors running Wikipedia assignments this fall. We began these sessions during the pandemic, and they have

continued to prove quite successful in familiarizing new instructors with the program and reacquainting existing instructors with all Wiki Education has to offer.

We have also been running a small mentorship program for the past several years where in experienced instructors guide new instructors running Wikipedia assignments for the first time. Helaine set up 29 pairs of mentors/mentees for the Fall term as we continue to provide our instructors with new opportunities to engage in this dynamic community.

We're excited to see what the Fall term brings.

## Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [July Wikidata Institute](#): Our July Wikidata Institute drew to a close this month. We're excited to report that all participants in this course made several edits to Wikidata. Over the three weeks in our course, they created six new items, edited 40 items over 175 individual edits. They also added 32 references to statements. We are eager to see where these participants take their Wikidata knowledge next.
- [APS Wikidata Institute](#): Our first APS Wikidata course has also come to an end this month. This was an exciting course for us since most of our Wikidata participants come from the library and museum fields. Working exclusively with scientists offers a new opportunity for us to share the benefits (and challenges) of linked data with a new population of subject experts. In the last three weeks they edited 20 items over 127 individual edits. They also added 24 references. Although the course didn't result in a robust number of edits, we are following up with APS to build a WikiProject so members can continue to edit Wikidata in a structured, effective way.
- [Women in Red-2](#): This month we are starting our second Women in Red-themed Wiki Scholars course. We ran our [first one back in 2020](#) and are very excited to return to improving articles about women-identifying individuals. We will be working with 19 participants, representing a diverse set of institutions and interests. Keep an eye on this Dashboard link to see their article improvements appear as they happen.
- [Women in Red-3](#): There was so much demand for a Women in Red course, that we had enough applicants to run a concurrent course. This group of 19 will be working in the same topic area, but covering a different set of individuals. We hope their combined results can have a large impact on the [Women in Red WikiProject](#). This course Dashboard will track their progress over the next six weeks.
- [NSPN-4](#): We are returning to a fourth course with the National Science Policy Network (NSPN). As with the rest of the courses, these 18 participants will work to improve articles related to science policy in areas of their choosing. Their

interests are diverse and we may see article improvements in the following areas: health care, psychedelics, rare earth metals, cell migration, and genetic disorders. The Dashboard link, above, will keep you up to date with all of their progress.

## **Advancement**

### **Partnerships**

This month, Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson has begun conversations with several prospective new partners, both in academic institutions and in the Wikimedia ecosystem, to identify ways to bring better climate science to Wikipedia. She has worked closely with Communications and Marketing Coordinator Cassidy Villeneuve to develop materials about how we can leverage Wikipedia's reach and trustworthiness to bridge the gap between scientists' understanding and the public's perception of climate change and climate solutions. The long-term goal is to develop a targeted approach to bringing on new partners for Wiki Education's work, especially in the Scholars & Scientists Program. Over the past several weeks, we've begun laying the foundation for this work.

Jami also spent the month filling the Women in Red Wiki Scholars courses—wherein participants add historical women figures into Wikipedia—and the National Science Policy Network's next Wiki Scientists course.

Finally, we met with a few people at the National Women's Studies Association and are excited to return to their annual conference in November. After several years of working individually with their members, whose students bring incredible knowledge related to women, gender, and sexuality to Wikipedia, we're thrilled for the opportunity to approach them in a more targeted way to invite new people into our programs.

### **Fundraising**

Director of Donor Relations Kathleen Crowley connected with Rob Lanphier over Zoom, who is willing to introduce her to his network. Kathleen researched some of the names he suggested. She also connected with program officers at The Boston Foundation, who loved our Wikipedia Student Program. They are undergoing new strategic planning, but will be in contact as new grant opportunities arise. Kathleen has been in touch with Peter Kaufman on our Advisory Board, who has provided contact information to three of his institutional connections. Kathleen and LiAnna had another discussion with Paula Golden, who was pleased with our grant report on the Broadcom Foundation's seed grant for creating new diverse biographies in technology. We submitted a new proposal for 2023 and 2024 for consideration at the Broadcom Foundation's September board meeting. Kathleen submitted a brief menu of ideas for consideration to Janet Coffey at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Kathleen also submitted a LOI to the Nielsen Foundation to fund an online

portal using Wikidata to identify gaps in Wikipedia, which was viewed favorably. We are invited to submit a full proposal. We had our first Advisory Board Kick-off Social, which Kathleen helped organize and TJ led as the chair. Overall, the meeting was rated a "7" by Advisory Board members, who had an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another for the first time, participate in an ice-breaker, and learn more about our current expectations and upcoming communications. Kathleen finished reviewing and researching our first large batch of 1,400+ foundation prospects generated by FoundationSearch.

## Communications

### Blog posts:

- [Elevating diversity in academic research software development](#)
- [Judging Wikipedia's content](#)
- [Reflections on Spring 2022](#)
- [Thank you, Guru Krupa Foundation, for supporting STEM knowledge!](#)
- [18 years a Wikipedian: what it means to me](#)

## Technology

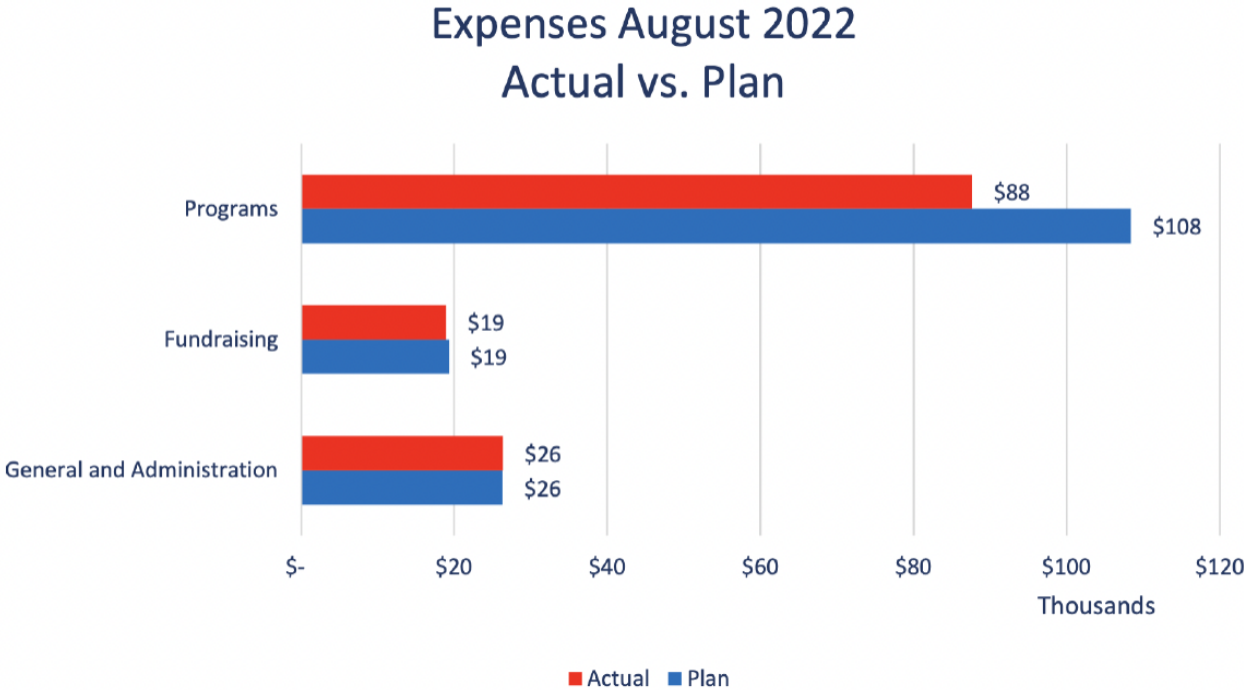
This month, Google Summer of Code intern Shashwat Khanna worked his final sprint of streamlining and updating the Dashboard's JavaScript dependencies, while Outreachy intern Vaidehi Atpadkar focused on extending the Dashboard's data update processes to generate statistics for specific namespaces.

Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross worked on several performance improvements for the Dashboard's update cycles. These efficiency improvements cut the update time for resource-intensive highly active courses to less than half, by avoiding some of the most expensive unnecessary database queries. Sage also worked on bug fixes for the Dashboard's Article Viewer and Authorship Highlighting features, and worked with WordPress developer Charles Cifuentes on a new design for our website's Impact page (which will debut in September).

Sage also began taking an introductory Machine Learning course, in preparation for our upcoming technical project to build a system for visualizing the impact of our programs.

# Finance & Administration

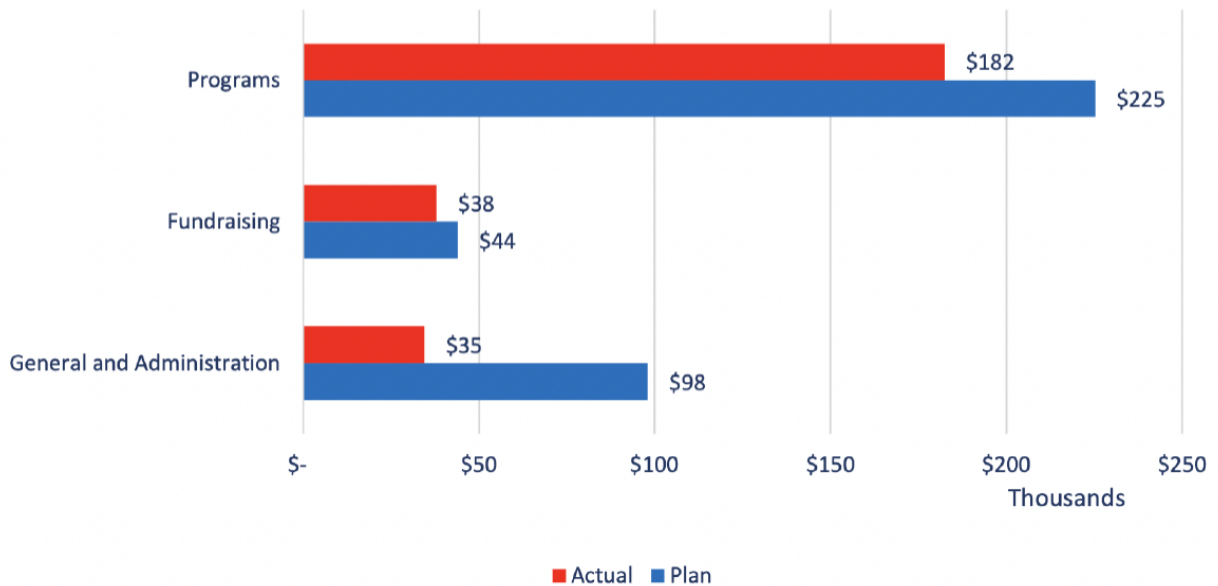
The total expenditures for the month of August were \$133K, (\$21K) under the budget of \$154K. Fundraising and General & Administrative were on target while Programs were under (\$21K) due being under (\$10K) in Payroll, (\$2K) in Travel and (\$9K) in Software that has been accrued over 12 months.



The Year-to-date expenses were \$255K, (\$112K) under the budget of \$367K. Fundraising was under budget (\$6K) due to a combination of being under in (\$2K) Travel, and (\$4K) in Printing. General & Administrative were under (\$63K) mostly due to moving the staff meeting from in-person to meeting remotely. This is seen where they were under (\$16K) in Meetings, (\$11K) in Travel. Additionally, G&A were under (\$18K) in Recruiting, (\$2K) in Computer Equipment, (\$12K) in Payroll, (\$4K) in Taxes, and (\$4K) in Professional Services, while over +\$1K in Indirect Expenditures and +\$3K in other Direct Expenditures. Programs were under (\$4K) due to being under (\$17K) in Consulting Services, (\$4K) in Travel, (\$11K) in Payroll, (\$10K) in Software and (\$1K) in Indirect.



## Year to Date Expenses August 2022 Actual vs. Plan



## Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Preparation for September trip to Europe
- Supporting the Advancement Team

Frank attended the board meeting on August 2nd and provided the board members with an update on the current status of the organization. He also presented a plan for the upcoming organizational strategy process. A day later, Frank and San Francisco-based accountant Jordan Daly provided the members of the board's Audit and Finance Committees with financial information about Q4 and fiscal year 2021–22. Also in August, Frank attended the kick-off meeting of Wiki Education's Advisory Board and the first meeting of the new Development Committee.

In mid-August Frank attended this year's Wikimania, which was held on an online platform. Given the technical problems during the conference and the general difficulties of meaningfully connecting with people online, he is happy that the next Wikimania will be held as an in-person event again.

Frank spent the rest of the month writing a grant proposal and preparing for his September trip to Europe. He will attend the Wikimedia Summit in Berlin, give a presentation about the

change in the relationship between Wikipedia and the academic world upon invitation by the *Göttingen State and University Library*, and meet with representatives of the *Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education* in Hamburg.

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