



# Research on Gender gap on Wikipedia: What do we know so far?

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# What proportion of editors are women?



Global South User Survey (2014)	: 20% female (n=10,061)
Gender micro survey (WMF, 2013)	: 22% female (n=32,199)
Editor Survey (WMF, 2012)	: 10% female (n=8,716)
Editor survey (WMF, Dec 2011)	: 9% female (n=6,503)
Editor survey (WMF, April 2011)	: 9% female (n=4,930)
UNU-MERIT/WMF survey (2008)	: 13% female (n=53,888)

# Are women sufficiently self-confident to edit Wikipedia?

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- Significant differences in self-perceived competence of men and women [Helgeson (2014), sv-wiki]
- Beliefs about one's competence explain a large share of gender gap in Wikipedia editing [Hinnosaar (2015), US population]
- Female Wikipedia users have a lower confidence in their expertise and lower confidence in the value of their contribution. [Collier & Bear (2012), en-wiki]
- Women readers lack self confidence with respect to their knowledge and technical skills [Protonotarios & Sarimpei (2015)]

# Are women's edits reverted more?



- Female newcomers are reverted more than males, [Lam & Uduwage (2011), en-wiki]
- Being reverted as newcomers has the same apparent effect on males and females [Lam & Uduwage (2011), en-wiki]

# How does Wikipedia's fighty culture affect women?

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- Female contributors prefer to share and collaborate rather than delete and change. [Collier & Bear (2012), en-wiki]
- Women's behaviors may be driven by personal motivations such as enjoyment and learning. [Protonotarios & Sarimpei (2015)]
- Articles with high female editor concentrations are more contentious. [Lam & Uduwage (2011), en-wiki]
- Female Wikipedia users perceive high level of conflict. [Collier & Bear (2012), en-wiki]
- Women report more discomfort in editing other's work (which typically involves conflict) and getting negative responses to critical feedback. [Collier & Bear (2016)]

Women have too little leisure time.

Since there are fewer women leaders, there are fewer role models which women can relate themselves to.

The perception that Wikipedia is a 'male space' dampens the motivation to edit.

Women do not possess devices to connect to the internet, and therefore have poorer internet skills. The use of shared devices in the household is monitored by older men.

Women did not get support from the community when male editors harassed or threatened them

# Takeaways



- Boost confidence, give invitations for participation
- Think before you revert or change something, especially if the editor is a newcomer
- Support women who report harassment
- Make opportunities for women to socialize with other women leaders
- Make shorter and easier contributions possible

# Do we have enough articles about women?



- Many missing articles compared to Britannica [Reagle, Rhue (2011)]
- It is sometimes harder for women to get articles [Wagner, et al. (2016)]



# The good news is...



This situation has been getting considerably better [Wagner et al. (2015)]. Perhaps due to the changes in the real world (which Wikipedia reflects [Klein et al. (2016)]) and/or the various initiatives that have been taking place.

Let's keep it up!

# Do articles about women look different?



- Internal links frequently lead to articles about men [Wagner et al. (2015)]
- Infoboxes include the “spouse” attribute more than articles about men [Graells-Garrido, Lalmas & Menczer (2015)]
- Articles edited a lot by women are not long enough [Lam et al. (2011)]

# What about the content & language of the articles about women?




- Relationship and family issues are discussed more [Wagner et al. (2015), Graells-Garrido et al. (2015)]
- Words that convey subtle bias [Wagner et al. (2015)]

# Takeaways



1. Revise & add articles about women especially historic figures
2. Extend articles that are heavily edited by women
3. Double check notability criteria when it comes to women
4. Be careful with internal links

# Takeaways

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5. Add equal amount of details about all topics in articles about women
  6. Reform NPOV policy
  7. Avoid using words that introduce bias & use verbs
  8. Do more research on more language editions
  9. Make sure what you include in infoboxes is not included only because the subject is a woman

# Wikipedia:Writing about women

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*"WP:WAW" redirects here. For the "words as words" guideline (MOS:WAW), see Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Text formatting § Words as words.*



## This page is an essay.

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Shortcut  
WP:WAW

When **writing about women on Wikipedia**, make sure the content and titles do not use **sexist** language or promote sexist stereotypes.

Women are thought to comprise between 8.5<sup>[1]</sup> and 16.1<sup>[2]</sup> percent of editors on the English Wikipedia. This means that most articles are written by men, as are most of the content policies, including the notability and referencing policies. Those policies determine which articles about women can be hosted and frame how they are written.

The combined effect of personnel and policy is the **gender imbalance** of our content. As of 5 March 2018, 267,241 biographies on the English Wikipedia were about women (17.49%) out of 1,527,862 overall.<sup>[3]</sup> As a result of sourcing and notability issues, almost all biographies before 1900 are of men.<sup>[a]</sup> Achieving gender balance, diversity and fairness is in the interests of all editors and readers.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing\\_about\\_women#Gender-neutral\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_about_women#Gender-neutral_language)

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# Questions?

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