Wikipedia Editing – Is it for you?

National Museum of American History

October 4, 2019
Slides courtesy of Wikimedia DC
wikimediadc.org

Greetings from Wikimedia DC!

Wikimedia DC is the regional outreach organization for Wikipedia and the other projects of the Wikimedia Foundation. Our mission is to promote participation in Wikimedia projects in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and throughout the United States.

This presentation was created by Wikimedia DC for the purpose of training new Wikipedia editors. It may be downloaded at:
Commons.wikimedia.org, Search ' 2019 Virginia Association of Museums '

More about the Wikimedia Affiliates Model

Agenda

- **What is Wikipedia?**
- **Wikipedia basic policies**
- **Wikipedia's gender gap**

- **Why edit?**
- **Wiki projects**

Create A Username/Sign-in : en.wikipedia.org

Search Wikipedia

Special page

Create account

Username   (help me choose)

Enter your username

Password

Enter a password

Confirm password

Enter password again

Email address (optional)

Enter your email address

How do we collect data for detecting bots?

To protect the wiki against automated account

Wikipedia is made by people like you.

851,394,955
edits

5,702,628
articles

121,967
recent contributors

Navigate to the wiki event page

1. Go to en.wikipedia.org
2. Enter the following shortcut into the search bar (top right).

WP:WMDC-NMAH19

3. Bookmark this page. We will use it throughout the day.

Wiki Event Page

Shortcut
WP:WMDC-NMAH19

Wikipedia Editing – Is it for you? National Museum of American History Informational Session

Do you have questions about how Wikipedia and its related projects work? Are you wondering if it's worthwhile to contribute information about your collections to Wiki projects? Are you curious about how to work collaboratively with experienced local Wikipedians (some of whom even work at SI)?

Come to an informal lunchtime learning session with Diane Shaw, SIL cataloger, and Ariel Cetrone, institutional partnerships manager for Wikimedia DC, to get answers to these and other questions and concerns you may have about the reliability of Wikipedia as a resource for sharing information about Smithsonian collections and research.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP to Trina Brown at BrownKM@si.edu by Oct. 1. A complimentary variety of sandwiches and beverages will be served.

Please create a Wikipedia username prior to our upcoming session. Wikipedia limits username creation to six per IP address per day. Creating your username ahead of time will help to avoid this problem.

When

Friday, October 5, 2019 Time: 12PM - 1PM

Where

National Museum of American History - This is a closed event.

Contents [hide]

Wikipedia

What exactly is it, anyway???

What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is a multilingual, web-based, free encyclopedia based on a model of openly editable content. It is the largest and most popular general reference work on the Internet. [Wikipedia] is supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization which operates on money it receives from donors.

From Wikipedia (en)

Wikipedia: the 21st-century encyclopedia

"Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing."

-Jimmy Wales, co-founder, Wikipedia

About us

Free as in beer, Free as in freedom ... gratis et libre

Created and edited by volunteers

Overseen by nonprofit Wikimedia Foundation

All edits and versions recorded forever (revision history)

5+ million articles, 270+ languages

Free...

All content freely licensed without restrictions

Creative Commons Attribution Sharealike or Public Domain

Written content or image/video/audio uploads

Wikimedia Commons - multimedia repository commons.wikimedia.org

Commercial re-use is absolutely allowed. Google, publishers...

Wikipedia Basics and Policies

Photo: Georgetown Slavery Archive Editing Workshop
Georgetown University

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Wikis

- A website where anyone can edit any page at any time
- Meant to be "quick"
- Remembers all versions (nothing ever destroyed)
- Hyperlinks between pages

Wikipedia Five Pillars

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute
- Wikipedia's editors should treat each other with respect and civility
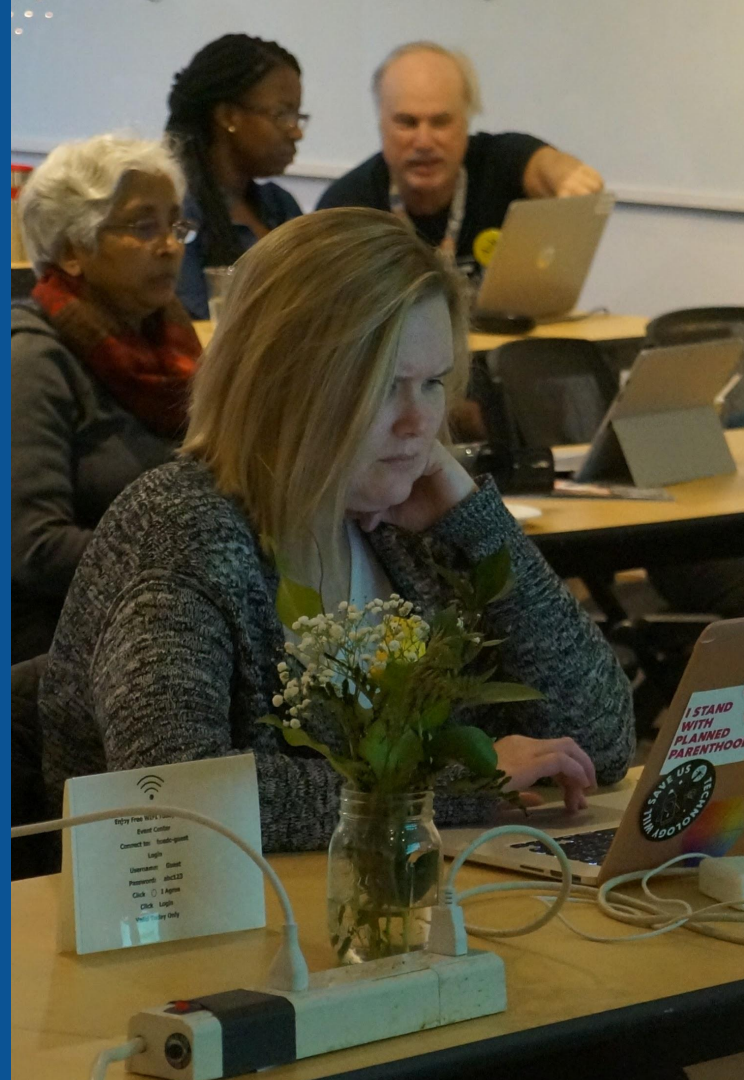- Wikipedia has no firm rules

Wikipedia Policies

- **Neutral Point of View** - written so all sides can agree
- **Notability** - significant independent sources -> importance
- **Verifiability** - Using reliable sources to reference information
- **No original research** - point to existing scholarship
- **Assume good faith** - start with congenial spirit
- **Conflicts of interest** - disclose and abide by terms of service

Additional policies: Wikipedia:List of policies

Why Edit?

Photo: Women's Economic Empowerment Edit-a-thon, Embassy of Sweden

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Why Edit? Because #FactsMatter

We are not
in a post-fact world.

Why Edit?

- **Improve accuracy in Wikipedia**

- **Share useful resources**

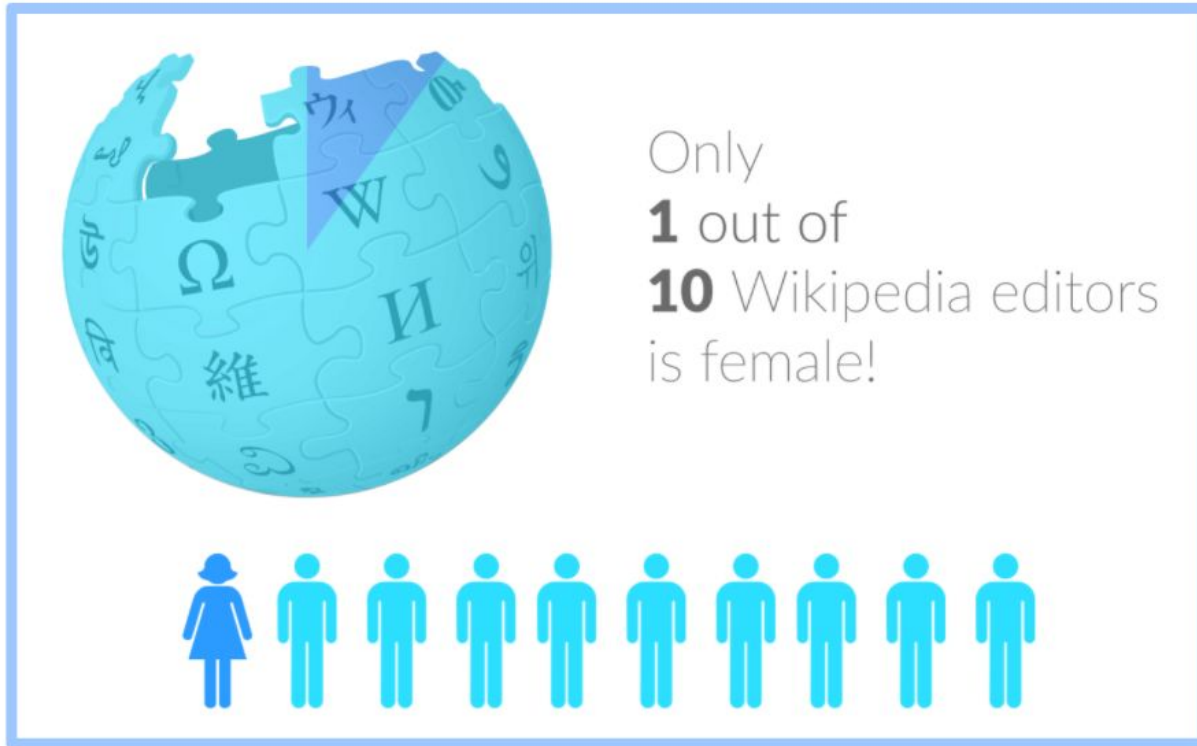- **Help to close content gaps - Make the invisible visible**

Wikipedia's Gender Gap

Photo: Art and Feminism Wikipedia-Edit-A-Thon
National Museum of Women in the Arts

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Editor gender gap? Unsilence the silent

Only **1** out of **10** Wikipedia editors is female!

Content gender gap? Make the invisible visible

Percentage of women's biographies

November 2014	September 2019
15%	**18.01%**
English language Wikipedia	English language Wikipedia

How Can We Fix This?

- **Engagement through edit-a-thons, training opportunities and Wikiprojects like Women in Red.**

    Example: NMWA event featured the the BBC

- **Partnerships with nonprofits*, colleges/universities, government entities and beyond**

    ***75% of nonprofit employees are female.
    These nonprofits include educational, scientific and literary organizations. It's time to engage these 'gatekeepers'.**

Engaging GLAMS

Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums

**Photo: Art and Feminism Wikipedia-Edit-A-Thon
Smithsonian American Art Museum**

Source: Wikimedia Commons

The **GLAM–Wiki initiative** ("galleries, libraries, archives, and museums" with Wikipedia; also including botanic and zoological gardens) helps cultural institutions share their resources with the world through collaborative projects with experienced Wikipedia editors.

WikiProject: An area for focused collaboration among Wikipedians.

The GLAM-WIKI project supports GLAMs and other institutions who want to work with Wikimedia to produce open-access, freely-reusable content for the public.

Why Engage GLAMs?

- **Gatekeepers of art, culture and history**
  - **Subject matter experts**
- **Access to collections, libraries, images**
- **Engaged audiences and stakeholders**

Why Partner with Wikipedia

- **Mission fulfillment (education, community engagement, interpretation)**
- **Share resources and collections with the world**
- **Drive millions of WP page views per day**
- **Measure impact by monitoring article views**

*Be mindful of the Conflict of Interest Policy

Why Partner with Wikipedia

- **Document collections in case of emergency**
- **Quickly mobilize the Wikimedia community**

See Article:
National Museum of Brazil fire

How Can GLAM Staff Engage with WP

- **Host edit-a-thons, editing workshops, scan-a-thons, upload-a-thons, behind the scenes tours**

- **Hire a Wikipedian-in-Residence**

- **Assist WIR or volunteers in accessing your collections**

- **Edit on your own while avoiding conflicts of interest**

What is a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon?

- A scheduled time where people edit Wikipedia together, whether offline, online, or a mix of both

- Typically focused on a specific topic, such as science or women's history

- A way to give newcomers an insight into how Wikipedia works.

Wikipedians-in-Residence

- **Wikipedians who dedicate time to working in-house at an organization**

  - **Paid staff or volunteers**

- **Work to lay the foundation for a lasting partnership between the Wikipedia community and an organization**

WIR Core Characteristics

A Wikipedian-in-Residence:

- Serves as a liaison between the organization and the Wikimedia community to promote a mutually beneficial cooperation.

- Promotes understanding of Wikimedia among staff through workshops/events.

WIR Core Characteristics

- **Works with organizational staff to digitize, compile, and organize resources to be shared with the Wikipedia community.**

- **Facilitates the improvement of content by the Wikipedia community, rather than directly editing articles as a core goal.**

WIR Core Characteristics

- **Coordinates events, such as Scan-a-Thons, Edit-a-Thons, or Backstage Passes, that bring Wikipedians on-site to work with staff on content creation and improvement.**

- **Formally coordinated by the institution for closer relationship with staff**

More about the WIR Program

Link is also provided on the WP:WMDC-VAM19 Event Page.

GLAM Engagement & Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- **Disclose affiliation on user page**

- **Sample Dominic Byrd-McDevitt, WIR NARA**
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Dominic

GLAM Engagement & Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- **Do not edit your institution's article. Some non-controversial edits are okay.**

- **Edit articles about items in your collections - Use caution and neutral language**

- **Upload photos**

GLAM Engagement & Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- **When in doubt, use an article's talk page to suggest changes.**

- **Share resources with others, i.e, links to collections, secondary sources**

User Page

User Page

- **All users/editors are assigned a user page**
- **Access user page by selecting your username (top right)**
- **Share affiliations if you plan to engage as part of your official duties**

User Page

- **Opportunity to share information and interests**
  - **Use is optional**

Talk Page

- **Receive messages**
- **Communicate with other users**