Ask the Wiki Education Foundation

Wikimania London
August 8, 2014

Who we are

- Frank Schulenburg, Executive Director

- Jami Mathewson, Educational Partnerships Manager

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Wiki Edu

Session agenda

- What our organization is about

- Where we've come from

- Where we are

- Where we're going

- Your questions!

What our organization is about

" We aim at significantly improving Wikipedia's content in targeted areas by empowering students, teachers, and universities to contribute their expert knowledge and resources "
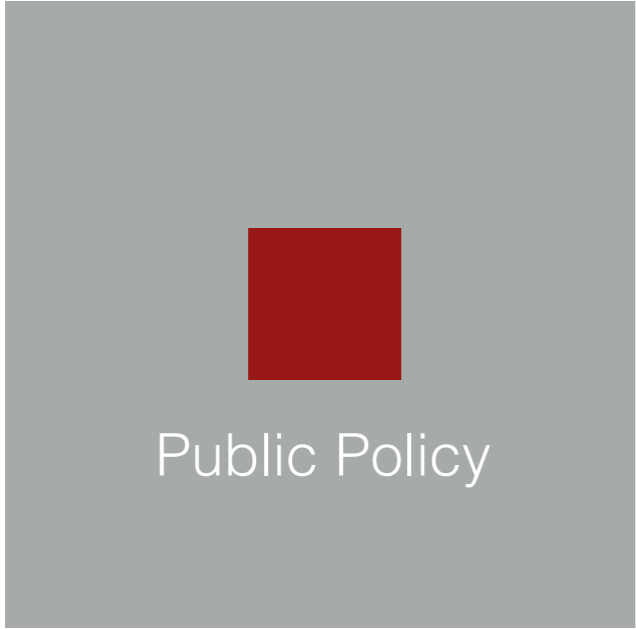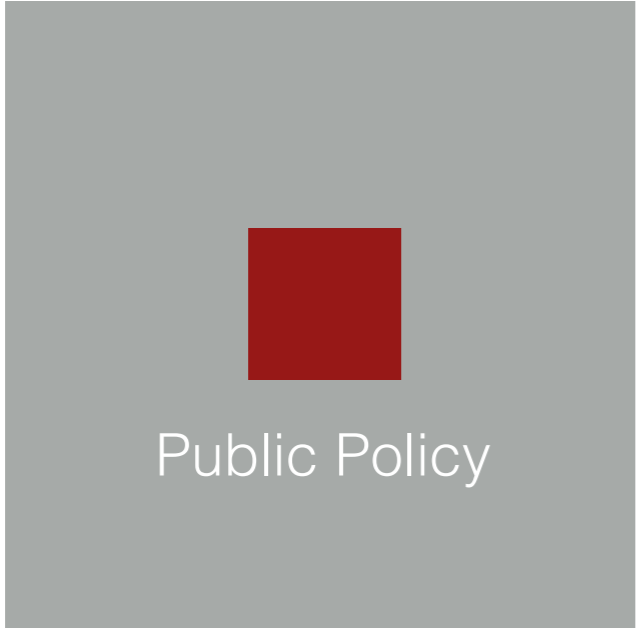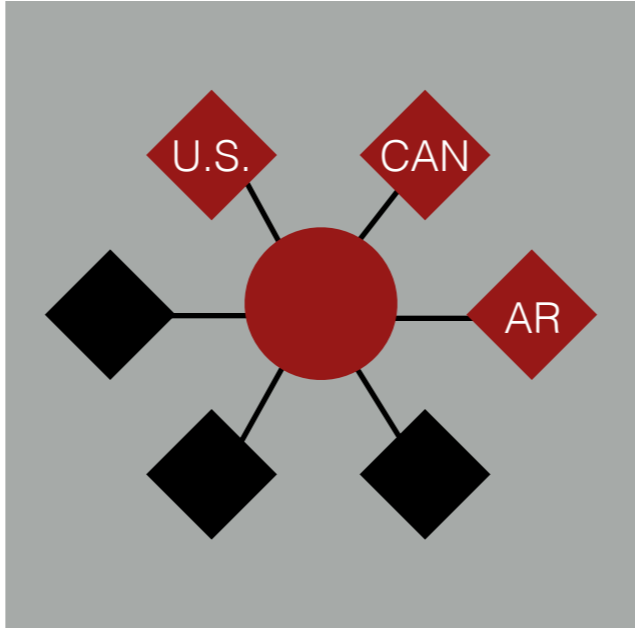
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Where we've come from

Public Policy
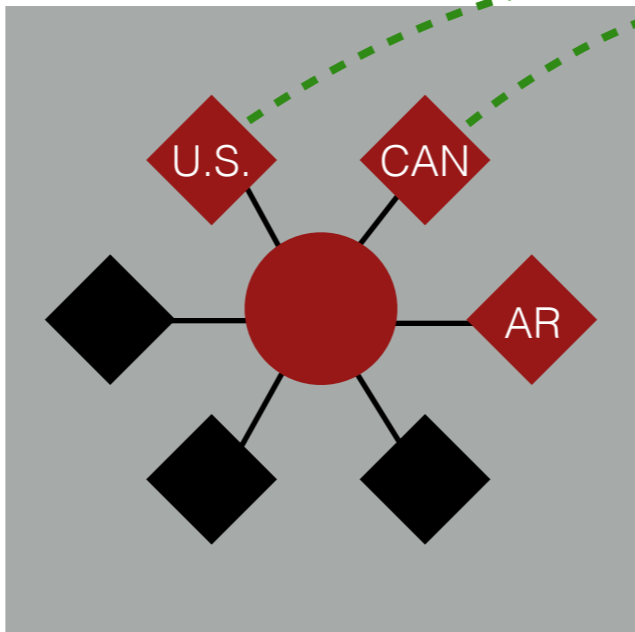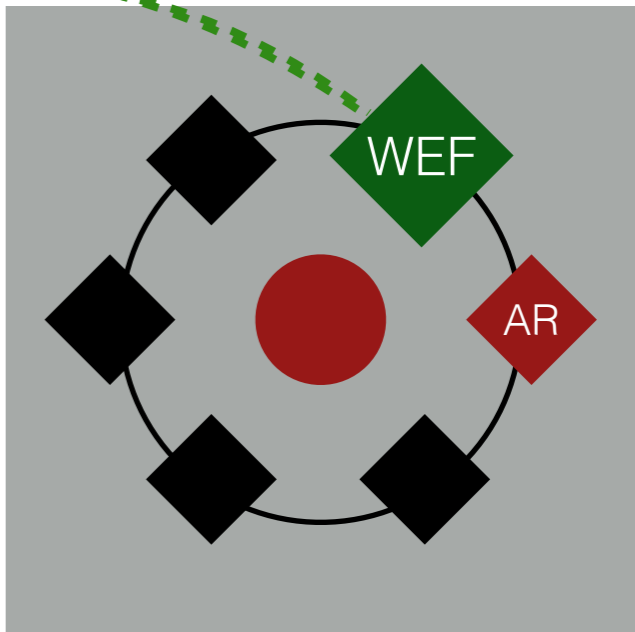
Public Policy

1

2

Public Policy

1

2

3

Why Wiki Ed?

- experience: we can head off assignment problems

Wiki Edu

Assignment design support

②

Learning objectives

Asking students to write a Wikipedia article generally meets these four learning objectives well.

Writing skills development

Students learn how to write for a diverse and interested readership that represents a significant percentage of the worldwide online population. Furthermore, with Wikipedia's emphasis on verifiability and "no original research," students gain a greater understanding of the difference between fact-based and persuasive writing styles.

Media and information literacy

Wikipedia's transparent and collaborative content development process allows students to gain a deeper understanding of how information is both produced and consumed. This provides an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on available sources and their appropriate usage.

Critical thinking and research skills

Students learn to critically analyze Wikipedia articles to determine how well an article covers the topic, to assess what information is missing, and to evaluate to what extent the article is documented with reliable sources. In the larger context, the evaluation of Wikipedia articles helps your students learn how to evaluate different sources, not only Wikipedia. The process of assessing an existing article and deciding what

③

Syllabus design

Experienced instructors say it is crucial for students who are going to be editing Wikipedia to become comfortable not only with the markup, but also the community. Requiring tiny assignments early in the term, such as those listed below, will acclimate them to the site. Instructors who do not set up these milestones throughout the term usually have bad experiences with their assignments.

These simple tasks prepare students for a longer Wikipedia assignment by introducing students to skills they will need later.

> Students should create a user page, adding a sentence or two about themselves and adding an image from Wikimedia Commons (Wikipedia's image repository).

> Encourage students to upload a photo to Wikimedia Commons that they've taken themselves.

> Ask students to improve the clarity of a sentence or two in an article related to class.

> Students could use a reading from the course to add a reference to an article.

> Once they've selected a topic to write on, students should post a message on that article's talk page with some proposed sources

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Campus faculty support

Women's Health in India

spring 2013
University of Utah
graduate student

Women's health in India

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Women's health in India can be examined in terms of multiple indicators, which vary by geography, socioeconomic standing and culture.[1] To adequately improve the health of women in India multiple dimensions of wellbeing must be analysed in relation to global health averages and also in comparison to men in India. Health is an important factor that contributes to human wellbeing and economic growth.[2]

Currently, women in India face a multitude of health problems, which ultimately affect the aggregate economy's output. Addressing the gender, class or ethnic disparities that exist in healthcare and improving the health outcomes can contribute to economic gain through the creation of quality human capital and increased levels of savings and investment.[2]

Community health worker preparing a vaccine in Odisha, India

Contents [hide]

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Wikipedia article traffic statistics

Women's health in India has been viewed 4598 times in the last 90 days.
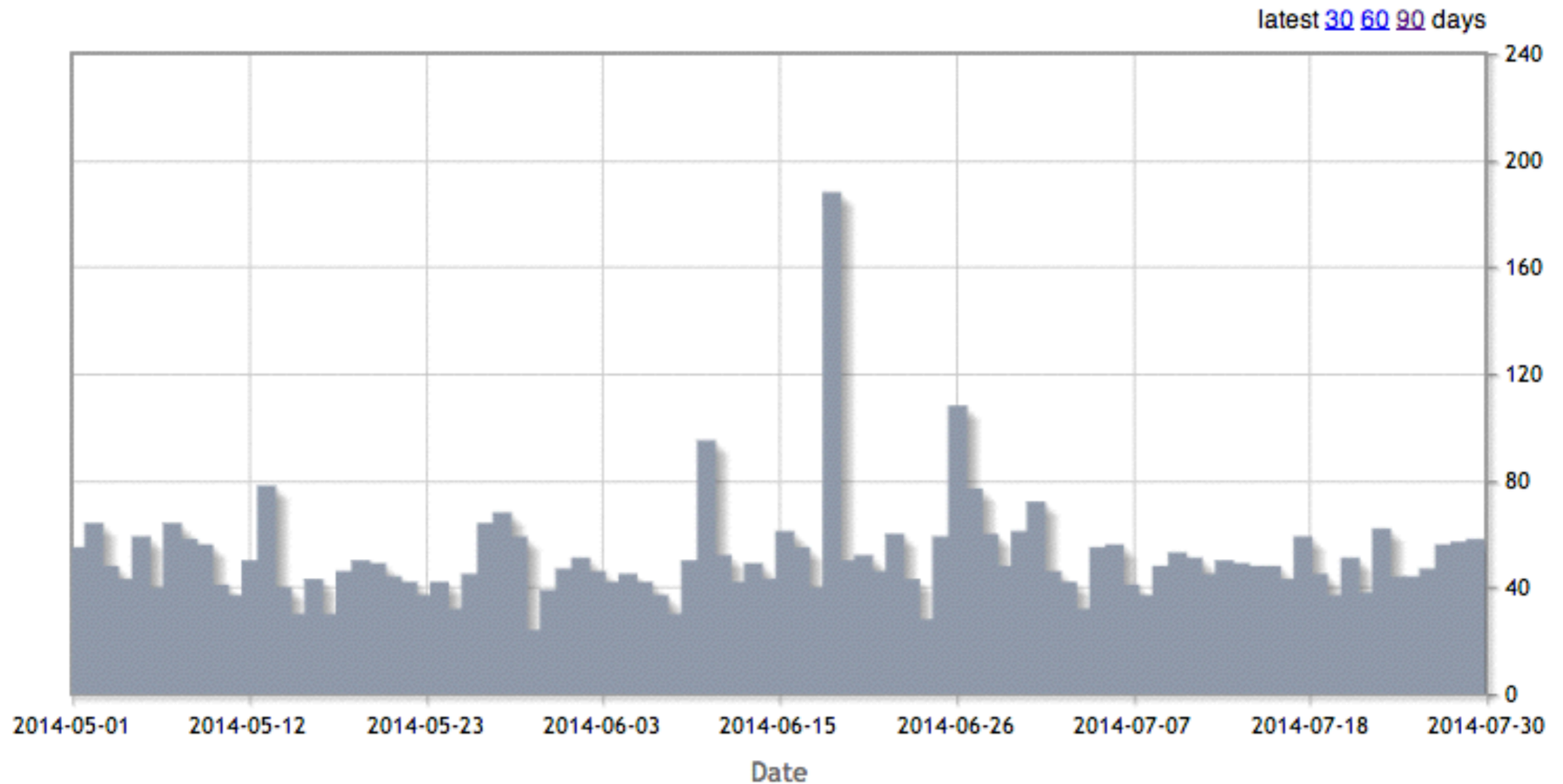
latest 30 60 90 days

Date

Why Wiki Ed?

- experience: we can head off assignment problems

- most courses working with Wiki Ed produce high quality contributions

- **we can target content gaps via academic disciplines**

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Content gaps

- partnership with ASA (sociology)

  - 35 sociology courses

  - added 5,839 pages of content

  - sociology students: 71% women

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Women in the Arab Spring

spring 2013
Rice University
undergraduate student

Women in the Arab Spring

Women played a variety of roles **in the Arab Spring**, but its impact on women and their rights is unclear. The Arab Spring was a series of demonstrations, protests, and civil wars against authoritarian regimes that started in Tunisia and spread to much of the Arab world. The leaders of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen were overthrown;[1][2][3][4] Bahrain has experienced sustained civil disorder,[5] and the protests in Syria have become a civil war.[6] Other Arab countries experienced protests as well.

Women's involvement in the Arab Spring went beyond direct participation in the protests to include leading and organizing protesters and cyberactivism. Women face discrimination in the Arab world and many activists hoped the Spring would boost women's rights, but its impact has not matched expectations. Islamist parties have risen to power in states that experienced changes of government, and some view their power as a major threat to women's status.
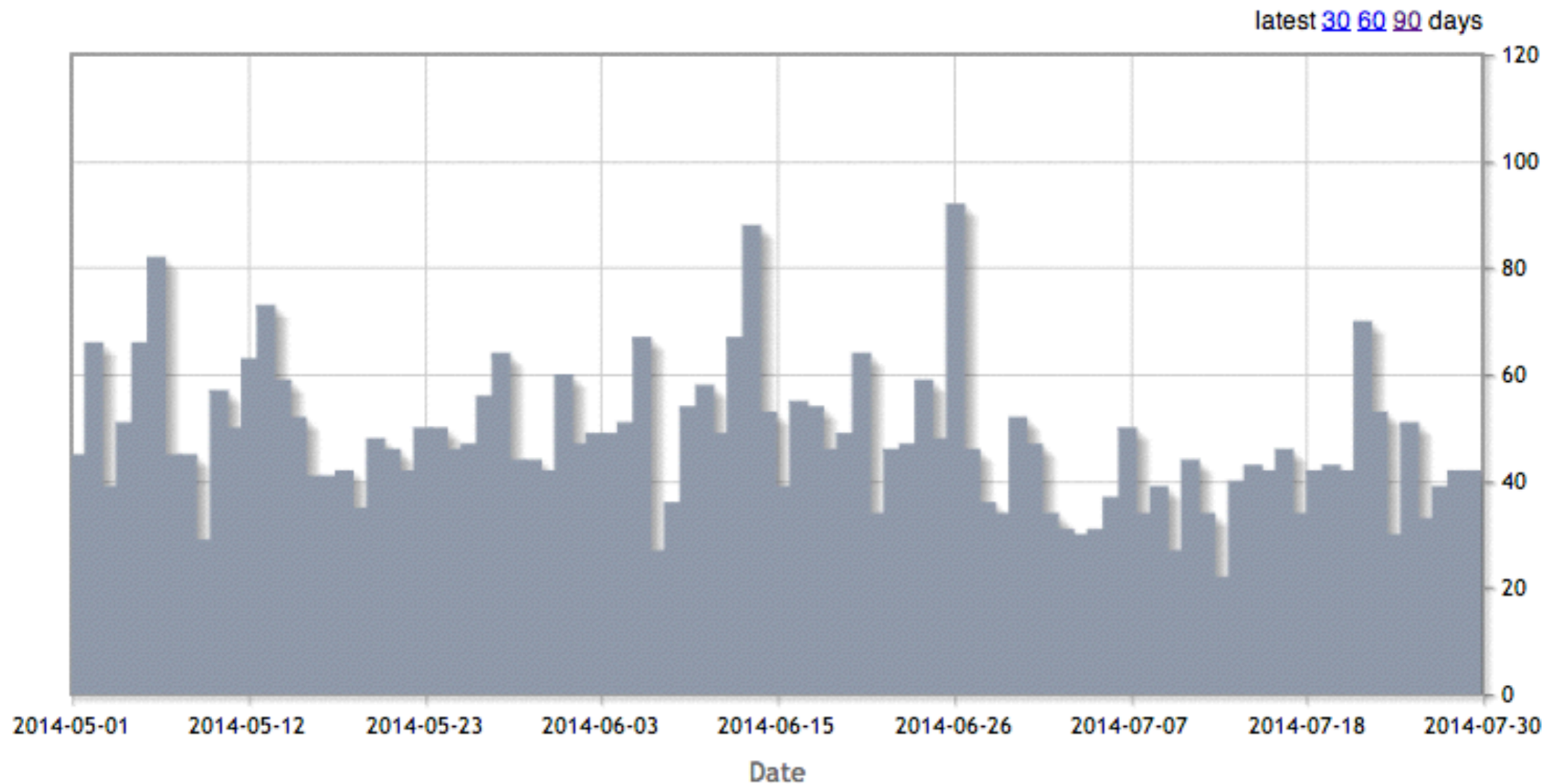

Women taking part in a pro-democracy sit-in in Sitra, Bahrain

Wikipedia article traffic statistics

Women in the Arab Spring has been viewed 4268 times in the last 90 days.

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- **instructors are doing this anyway—let's support them!**

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Posted on **May 5, 2014** by **Meghan Duffy**   ← **Previous**

Using Wikipedia in the classroom: a cautionary tale (Updatedx2)

(**Third and final update:** If you read this post, please also read this follow up post, which includes summaries of ways to try to reduce the likelihood of running into the same problem.)

Last fall, one of my students contacted me to ask if she could do an "Honors Conversion" of the first-year seminar I was teaching on Ecological and Evolutionary

Follow up to my cautionary tale regarding using Wikipedia in the classroom

Monday, I posted about an experience assigning editing a Wikipedia page as a class project. The very short version: I thought my student did a great job with editing a Wikipedia page, but all her edits ended up being reverted by the editor who created the page originally. At that point, we felt stuck and couldn't figure out what to do.

The post garnered much, much more attention than I expected. This process has been at least as much of a learning experience for me as for my student, I think. It generated a lot of good discussion in the comments on that post, and there were also comments on various Wikipedia talk pages related to it. In the hopes that some of those lessons will help others, I've decided to do a follow up post summarizing them (even though, for a while, I was hoping never to hear the word "Wikipedia" again, given how much this post took over my week).

Suggestions for people using Wikipedia in the classroom:
1. Register your course. It doesn't matter if only one student will be making edits. It doesn't matter if the edits will be minor. Create a course page. I think this would have helped a lot.

2. Make sure your students know to check their own talk page, in addition to the talk page for the article they are editing. Their talk page will have the name:

Resources

- Wikipedia Ambassadors

- online trainings for students, instructors, and new Ambassadors

- brochures for teaching with Wikipedia and for editing Wikipedia

- MediaWiki education extension

- Jami and the Classroom Program Manager

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Priorities Year One

- Helping to improve Wikipedia's quality
  - increased support
  - web infrastructure
  - institutionalization
  - pilot to fill content gaps
- Building a well functioning organization that has impact

Your questions!

More questions?
Ask us!

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