



Monthly Report, June 2021

Highlights

- With 4.6 million words added by participants in our Student Program, we far exceeded our goal for the spring term of 3 million words.
- Executive Director Frank Schulenburg received the "Excellence in Education Award" at the Global Forum for Education and Learning in Las Vegas. In his acceptance speech, he dedicated this award to the many innovative instructors at American colleges who have been using Wikipedia as a teaching tool for over a decade now.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2021 in numbers:

- We supported a total of 344 courses.
- 6,105 students enrolled on the dashboard.
- Students added 4.57 million words and 49,300 references to Wikipedia. They edited 6,530 articles and created 545 new entries.



Performance at a glance: With 4.6 million words added, we far exceeded our goal for the spring term of 3 million words.

As June came to a close, so did our [Spring 2021](#) cohort of courses! With the uncertainties of the pandemic still raging, it was a tough time for students and faculty, and we're incredibly proud of all they achieved! Almost 5 million words added to Wikipedia is nothing to scoff at!

We also saw a flurry of applications for our Fall 2021 term come in during June. We launched a new [application](#) process last year for the Student Program that has proven quite successful in helping us to plan for coming terms.

A few [summer](#) courses also began during June.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [NOPREN Wiki Scientists](#): This month we began a Wiki Scientists course in collaboration with the Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN). Participants in the course have been working on articles related to a range of nutrition and health topics.
- [Smithsonian Women's History Initiative](#): These past six weeks have flown right by. This Smithsonian course created eight articles, edited 39, and added just under 300 references to Wikipedia articles.
- [Smithsonian Women's History Initiative-2](#): This Smithsonian course also wrapped up. We're pleased with their progress too. They created one new article, edited 24, adding 145 new references to Wikipedia. Their articles have been viewed more than 312,000 times since the course began.
- [Smithsonian Women's History Initiative-3](#) We have started a third Smithsonian course. These 17 participants represent a broad collection of museums from across the country. Similar to the other Smithsonian courses, we're looking forward to the biographies of women they will be contributing to Wikipedia. They're already starting to have an impact. Take a look at this article about [Estelle Reel](#), the first woman elected to public office in Wyoming in 1895.
- [OER Wiki Scholars](#): Work continues in this busy OER course. See the impact these subject area experts are having on articles like [Open Textbooks](#) and [Open Education](#). We're looking forward to all of their contributions in the coming weeks.
- [OER Wiki Scholars-2](#): This group has continued to improve OER-related articles. To see collaboration on Wikipedia in action, take a look at the [Open Educational Practices](#) article, where five participants have been collaborating on different sections. The [Open Educational Practices in Canada](#) article has been greatly improved by a team in this course. We are pleased that you can already see article improvement in this topic area on Wikipedia.
- [AAJA Wiki Scholars](#) - We began another Wiki Scholars course with the American Asian Journalists Association. This course will be creating and improving articles about Asian journalists. We are eager to see the impact

that these 17 participants will have on Wikipedia. Check back on the above link to watch their work develop.

Advancement

Partnerships

In June, we kicked off our LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course thanks to funding from a donor. Participants—most of whom identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community— will join us weekly to learn about Wikipedia and will each add or expand a biography of a notable LGBTQ+ figure. We're excited about this course and the eager group of participants!

Fundraising

Kathleen had seven conversations with Student Program participants who donated in 2020 over Zoom or phone. Each of them provided great feedback and gratitude for being able to connect with someone directly at Wiki Education. The result was increased engagement and provided Kathleen with a more insider knowledge about how Wikipedia assignments are used to teach the subject matter, which will help fine-tune her pitch to prospects. Kathleen continued to meet with David Peters to discuss the Case for Support document. Ideas and key arguments for the piece were placed on a Jamboard. Names for the Advisory Board were approved internally and sent to the Board for approval. Kathleen drafted two letters of inquiry and submitted one to a foundation for \$30K, and continues to work on an extensive grant application to a large foundation. She signed Wiki Education up for a three-year subscription to FoundationSearch, which holds the largest amount of foundation prospects. With Andres, Kathleen had a preliminary conversation with a Salesforce consultant on our fundraising needs.

Communications

In June, we welcomed Reema Haque as our summer marketing and communications intern. Reema will be helping tell the story of the Scholars & Scientists Program. Her work includes identifying communications opportunities and marketing needs, writing and designing marketing materials, creating case studies, writing blog posts, promoting program stories on social media, sending mass emails and newsletters, and updating the web copy about programs. She is currently an undergraduate student at California State University, Northridge, majoring in Communication Studies and minoring in Journalism.

Blog posts:

- [Teaching with Wikipedia during a pandemic](#) (June 1)
- [Real-world learning of biological systematics](#) (June 3)
- [Sharing ecological expertise through Wikipedia](#) (June 8)
- [Comic book data on Wikidata: Graphic Possibilities at Michigan State](#) (June 9)
- [Welcome, Reema!](#) (June 10)
- [Can “behavior” exist absent a brain or nervous system?](#) (June 15)
- [A reliable future for Programs & Events Dashboard](#) (June 16)
- [Sea slugs, jellyfish, and crabs](#) (June 21)
- [Celebrating and recognizing Black women in psychology on Wikipedia](#) (June 23)
- [My good deed this year? A Wikipedia assignment](#) (June 29)
- [Announcing our 2021–22 Annual Plan](#) (June 30)

Technology

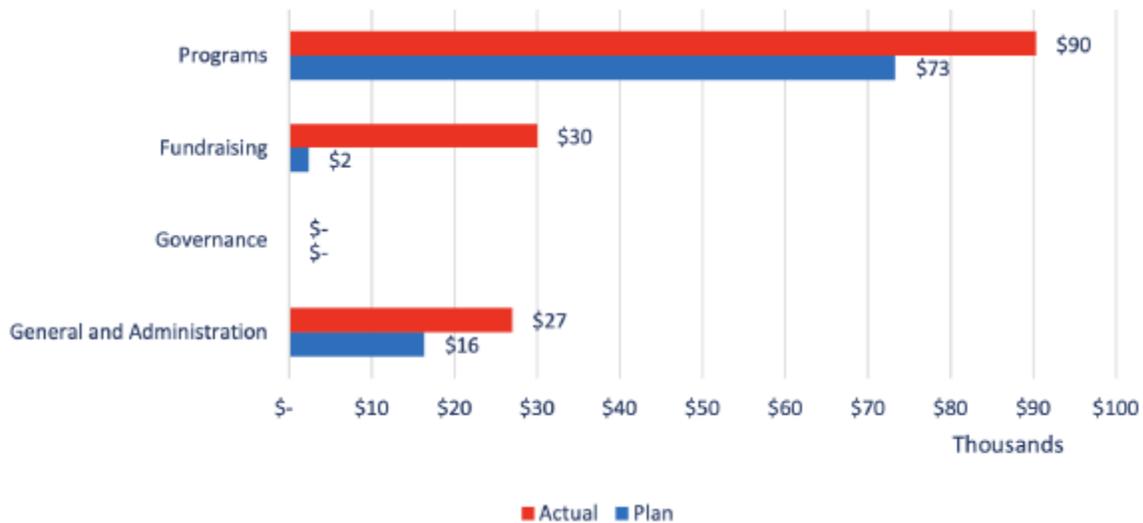
This month, Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross focused on tying up loose technical ends and preparing for the larger projects of our 2021–22 annual plan. Sage fixed a swath of Wiki Education Dashboard bugs, refined the user interface to make it easier for student editors and Wiki Education staff to reach key features and updated several key dependencies. Sage also updated the set of custom Wikipedia guided tours that we use to provide interactive tutorials, ensuring that they will continue to work after the release of upcoming changes to the Wikipedia API.

Sage also coordinated with the Wikimedia Foundation's nascent Campaigns team and began laying the groundwork for Programs & Events Dashboard user research, which will kick off in earnest with a user survey in the coming weeks.

Finance & Administration

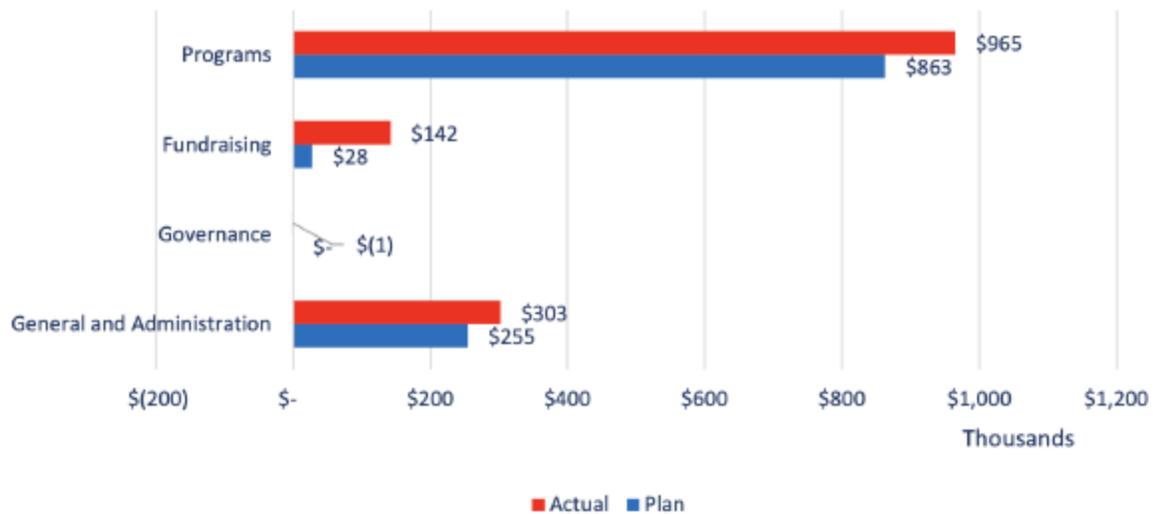
The total expenditures for the month of June were \$147K, +\$56K over the budget of \$92K. Fundraising was over budget by +\$28K, comprised of +\$12K in Payroll, +\$12K in Consulting fees and +\$4K in Indirect Costs. General & Administrative was over +\$11K consisting of +\$5K in Payroll, +\$2K in Professional Fees, +\$8K Administrative Expenses, +\$2K in Equipment and +\$1K in Travel, while under (\$7K) in Indirect costs. Programs were over by +\$17K due to overages in Payroll Costs by +\$9K, +\$4K in Consulting Services, +\$2K in Equipment, +\$3K in Indirect Costs while under (\$1K) in Travel.

Expenses June 2021 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$1,408K, +\$263K over the budget of \$1,145K. The Board was under budget by (\$1K) due to a Vacation accrual adjustment. Fundraising was over +\$114K due to an increase in Payroll +\$64K, Consulting Contracts +\$33K, and +\$17K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were over +\$48K with a combination of being over +\$38K in Professional Services, +\$8K in location expenses, +\$13K in other Administrative fees, +\$2K in Communications and +\$8K in Equipment while under (\$2K) in Travel and under (\$19K) in Indirect Expenses. Programs were over +\$102K due to an increase in payroll +\$84K, +\$30K in Consulting contracts, +\$2K in Equipment, +\$2K In Software expenses, and \$1K in Indirect expenses while under (\$11K) in Communications and (\$7K) in Travel.

Year to Date Expenses June 2021 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Year-end Board Meeting
- Getting the organization ready for the start into next fiscal year

At the virtual board meeting in early June, LiAnna Davis, Sage Ross, and Frank Schulenburg presented the progress made in fiscal year 2020–21 towards the organization's strategic goals. Despite the global pandemic, fiscal year 2020–21 was a successful year for Wiki Education. The results exceeded our expectations: not only were we successful in supporting an impressively large number of courses in our Student Program, we even grew the number of subject-matter experts Wiki Education brings to Wikipedia and Wikidata through our Scholars & Scientists Program.

Subsequently, each department head provided an overview of the plan for next fiscal year 2021–22. As a result, Wiki Education's board of trustees unanimously approved the plan & budget for 2021/22. On the second day of the board meeting, the board voted on amendments to the bylaws and



Frank Schulenburg at the Global Forum for Education and Learning where he received the "Excellence in Education Award"

committee charters, thereby finalizing a review- and update-effort for key organizational documents. Then, Executive Director Frank Schulenburg provided the board with an outline of Wiki Education's policies and achievements in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Also in June, the planning for our first in-person all-staff meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic started. If the circumstances allow, staff will gather in San Francisco in mid July for five days. Goals of the meeting will be to create alignment around the new annual plan and to discuss the path forward for fiscal year 2021–22.

At the end of June, Frank traveled to Las Vegas and attended the Global Forum for Education and Learning. On the last day of the conference, Frank received the "Excellence in Education Award". In his acceptance speech, he dedicated this award to the many innovative instructors at American colleges who have been using Wikipedia as a teaching tool for over a decade now.

Visitors and guests

- Dr. Robin Donatello, Associate Professor of Statistics and Data Science, California State University, Chico
- Dr. Lori Weber, Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, California State University, Chico

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