

Wikimedia ZA

First eight months of 2019

UCT History workshop

On February 23 Wikimedia ZA hosted a day long workshop at the University of Cape Town to train History post-graduate students how to edit Wikipedia. Followup workshops at the university will be held. So far the seventeen participants in the program have created 184 articles, edited 925 existing articles, and added 673 references on English language Wikipedia.



Afrikaans writing competition

One of the first activities Wikimedia ZA hosted in 2019 was the Afrikaans writing competition to help incentivise the addition of content to Afrikaans Wikipedia. A total of 156 articles were created and an additional 1,840 articles edited during the month long event involving 3,740 edits by seven participants. These articles received over 498,000 views.

2030 Strategy Salons

As part of Wikimedia ZA's engagement with the Wikimedia Foundation's 2030 strategy process we have run a number of strategy salon's in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The focus has been to get feedback and local insight for the 2030 strategy design process on the topics of Diversity and Capacity Building.



Wiki Loves Africa in South Africa

Wikimedia ZA hosted the South African component of Wiki Loves Africa. The photographic competition encouraging people to submit photographs for use on Wikipedia on African related subjects received 434 submissions this year.

Copyright advocacy

Wikimedia ZA has been involved in a long term ongoing effort to get Freedom of Panorama and Fair Use adopted into South African law since 2014. The current bill now passed by parliament has both provisions. So as to help support the bill Wikimedia ZA organised a panel discussion on March 19 with copyright experts and groups impacted by copyright legislation.



School Librarians Conference

Wikimedia ZA gave a number of presentations on to South African librarians at the South African School Librarians' Conference on July 1 at Rhodes University in Makhanda (Grahamstown) so as to inform and encourage greater participation in the free knowledge movement. Additional presentations were given across the town to a number of other educational organisations.

Climate Change workshop

From August 6-8 Wikimedia ZA in partnership with climate change NGO South South North hosted the first African Climate Change workshop. The event climate change scientists from across Africa being introduced and trained to edit Wikipedia so as to improve the number and quality of climate change related articles on Wikipedia, with particular a focus on African subjects. Over 240 edits on 54 article pages were made in the 3 days the event ran for by 40 first time editor. An African Climate Change task-force was created on English Wikipedia to continue this work by participants in the future.



Other events hosted by Wikimedia ZA in the first part of 2019:

- Ongoing Wikimeetups
- Media representation
- Partnership building
- Technology development (Kiwix TV Datacast)

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Wikimedia South Africa, better known as Wikimedia ZA, is the South African chapter for Wiki editors. Founded in 2012 the chapter is a membership volunteer driven organisation that strives to promote Wikimedia projects whilst also growing the local editing community. Currently the chapter is entirely volunteer driven and has no staff.

