Monthly Report, October 2022

Highlights

- October 29th was Wikidata's birthday! To celebrate, we gathered some Wikidata luminaries to discuss their various Wikidata projects in a Wikidata 10th Birthday Speaker Series. Each week we held an hour-long webinar that featured different projects, presenters, and themes. These discussions generated some useful recommendations for anyone interested in running a Wikidata event.
- October was a busy month for the Student Program team. Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal opened up enrollment for the spring 2023 term. We also attended a number of conferences and workshops. Helaine spoke on a panel at Open Ed 2022 along with three of our experienced instructors in the Student Program. Helaine also presented alongside Equity Outreach Coordinator Andrés Vera at several events, including a workshop at the University of Southern California and UC Berkeley, all in an effort to expand the program considerably in coming terms.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Fall 2022 in numbers:

- 358 courses were live on the Dashboard.
- 6280 students were enrolled.
- Students added more than 1 million words and almost 20,000 references to Wikipedia. They edited roughly 3,000 articles and created more than 100 new entries.

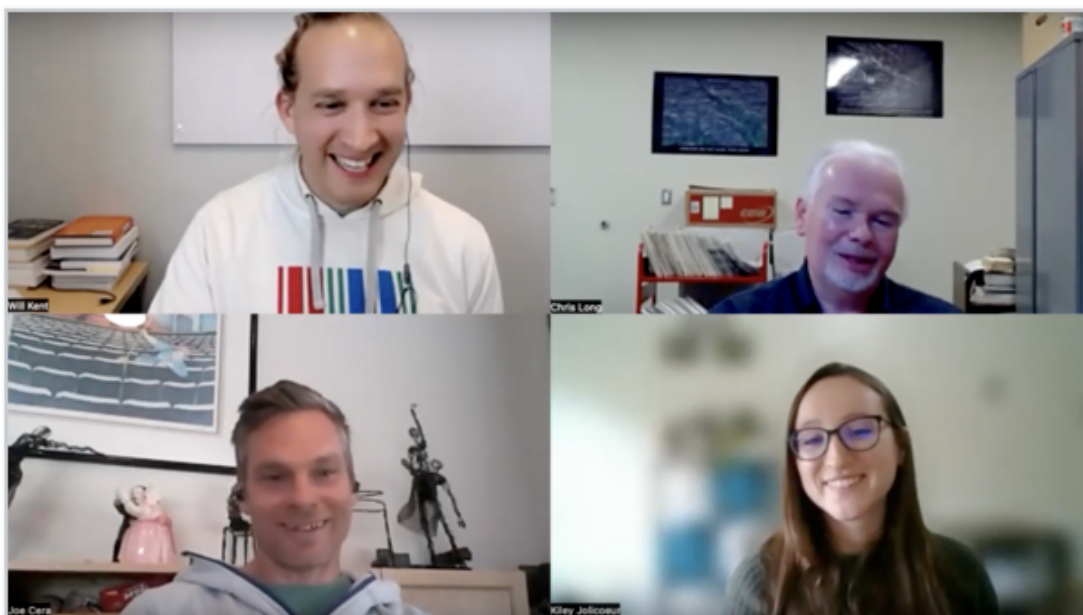**Performance at a glance:** With 358 courses onboarded, we exceeded our Fall 2022 goal of 350.

During October, the Fall 2022 cohort of students really got into full swing with their Wikipedia assignments! Students began to build out their bibliographies and draft their contributions. Many even began to take the dive into main space editing.

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In addition, the Equity Outreach Coordinator gave presentations to professors at the HBCU, Edward Waters University, to talk about the Broadcom Initiative and presented at the monthly faculty meeting of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music at the invitation of their head dean.

We were also very happy to welcome Brianda Felix as our new Wikipedia Expert! Helaine, along with Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn, have been working closely with Brianda to bring her up to speed. Brianda has dove right in, and her passion for and experience with knowledge equity is already shining through.

Scholars & Scientists Program

A screenshot from Wiki Education's Wikidata 10th Birthday Speaker series

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These discussions generated some useful recommendations for anyone interested in running a Wikidata event. Click the link above to learn more about the speakers and their projects.

Courses in progress:

- [Wikidata Institute September](#): Our September course stretched into this month, with this group of three stirring up some fascinating Wikidata conversation. They added 60 references, 115 edits, and created three new items. Follow the above link to see all the items they worked on.
- [Ghana Wikidata Institute](#) - We're excited to kick off another Wikidata course, this time working with 16 editors from Ghana. We are building a class around editing Supreme Court cases from Ghana. After [reading this report](#) that Irish judges were influenced by Wikipedia's law content, it's our hope that we can better represent cases from Ghana. Keep an eye on this Dashboard to see their edits roll in.
- [Smithsonian Wikidata Institute](#) - October saw us start another Wikidata course with 25 experts representing a range of Smithsonian Institutions. The group is made up of a set from the Bioheritage Library (BHL) and the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA). We are very eager to see the impact they will have on Wikidata. This is also a modified curriculum, so we are excited to check it out and curious to see how it goes. Follow along with the link above.

Advancement

Partnerships

Throughout October, we ran a Speaker Series about Wikidata in celebration of its 10th birthday. For the Partnerships team, this was an experiment in running webinars to see if others will attend sessions we facilitate and promote. The experience went well, and the "events" were well received. We also generated new leads of people and institutions interested in Wikidata, which will hopefully help us engage them further in designing Wikidata Initiatives and bringing high-quality knowledge to the world through Wikidata.

We confirmed plans for another Wiki Scientists course for the American Physical Society, which will begin in Spring 2023. Their members will work to improve Wikipedia articles related to energy and climate science. In order for the population at large to make adaptations for climate change, we need a cultural mindset shift about the urgency related to real climate change that is happening now. Wikipedia is an excellent platform to disseminate science about energy and climate, as research has proven how influential Wikipedia content is toward individual behavior and even policymakers. We're so excited to move forward with a climate-based Wiki Scientists course, which we've been working toward over the past several months, to help bring this knowledge to the world more quickly.

This month, Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson and Wikidata Program Manager spent a week working together in person for a "mini retreat." This was a great opportunity to bring teams together to design new programmatic activities we can offer to partners and prospective partners in order to meet their Wikipedia and Wikidata needs. We developed curriculum for a "Teaching with Wikipedia" workshop, which we can now implement for virtual or in-person events to help instructors design their Wikipedia assignments. We also planned for ways to adapt our existing training curriculum, based on participants' past feedback, so that participants

have more in-class time to make live edits and seek help. This planning period gave us the chance to step back and reflect on our program and make sure we're meeting participants' and partners' needs while bringing the highest quality knowledge to the world.

Fundraising

We received a verbal commitment from the president of the Broadcom Foundation that we will receive a $150,000 grant for the second year of the initiative to add new biographies of women and people of color in technology to Wikipedia. Director of Donor Relations Kathleen Crowley submitted a full grant proposal to the Nielsen Foundation for a new project to create an online portal that would help identify gaps on Wikipedia using Wikidata. Kathleen sent a roundup to Wiki Education's Advisory Board members informing them of organizational, programmatic, and fundraising updates from our blog. She researched and added fundraising trends to the office wiki. Kathleen collaborated with Jami and created a one-pager to submit to a connection for The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She also submitted two letters of inquiry to new foundation prospects: one for our Communicating Science initiative and the second for skill-building and equity building on Wikipedia. We received confirmation that we've been awarded a $250,000 contract, spread over two years, from PCORI. This will support the Scholars & Scientists Program and Wikipedia Student Program in adding PCORI-funded Systematic Reviews as citations on Wikipedia.

Communications

Blog posts:

- From toucan beaks to fungus, the wonderful world of biomaterials (October 6, 2022)
- The State of Wikidata and Cultural Heritage: 10 Years In (October 7, 2022)
- Randomized controlled experiments hint at Wikipedia's huge real-world impact (October 18, 2022)
- What you need to know to kickstart a Wikidata Initiative (October 19, 2022)
- A new way of teaching Latin American history (October 25, 2022)
- Scaling and sustaining a Wikidata Initiative (October 27, 2022)

Technology

This month, we completed the final steps of releasing the new namespecific-specific stats feature for Programs & Events Dashboard. This project, led by summer Outreachy intern Vaidehi Atpadkar, provides additional flexibility for tracking events that focus on atypical wiki namespaces, like the "Cookbook" namespace on Wikibooks.

Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross completed a round of updates to the Dashboard's API for interfacing with Wikimedia Foundation's upcoming Campaign Registration tool, which will debut in late November and add Dashboard integration soon after.
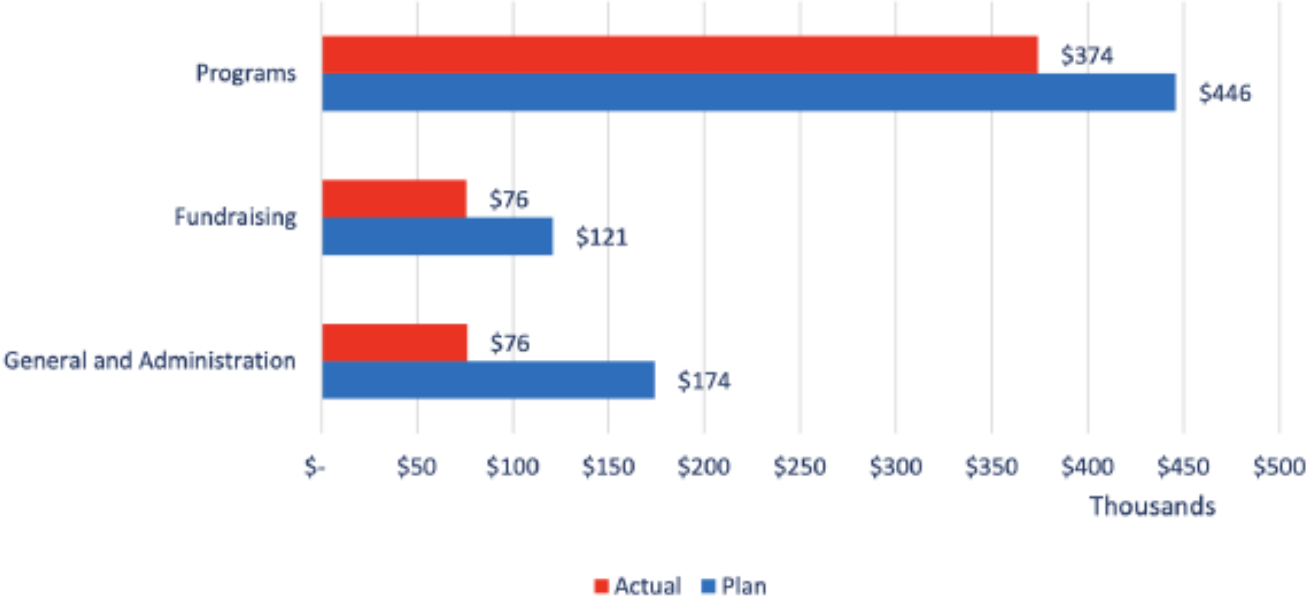
Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of October were $131K, ($58K) under the budget of $189K. Fundraising was under ($3K) comprised of ($4K) in Design Creative Services and +$1K in Software. General & Administrative were under ($32K) due to spending under ($10K) in Audit and Accounting expenses we expect to see in November, ($18K) in Recruitment, ($8K) in Payroll while over +$4K in Desk Equipment. Programs were under ($23K), comprised of ($5K) in Payroll, ($15K) in Professional Services and ($3K) in Travel.

The Year-to-date expenses were $526K, ($215K) under the budget of $741K. Fundraising was under budget ($45K), of which, ($35K) in Marketing that will occur in a couple of months, ($4K) in Travel, ($4K) in Printing, ($5K in Outside services and ($1K) in Payroll, while over +$3K in Software and +$1K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under ($98K). The Staff Meeting was moved from in person to remote resulting in being under ($16K) in Meetings, ($7K) in Travel. Additionally, General and Administration were under ($35K) in Recruiting, ($26K) in Payroll, ($4K) in Taxes, and ($16K) in Professional Services, while over +$4K in Desk Equipment and +$2K in Software. Programs were under ($72K) due to being under ($36K) in Consulting Services, ($9K) in Travel, ($16K) in Payroll and ($11K) in Software.

Year to Date Expenses October 2022
Actual vs. Plan

Category	Value
Programs	Actual $374 / Plan $446
Fundraising	Actual $76 / Plan $121
General and Administration	Actual $76 / Plan $174

Thousands

■ Actual ■ Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Organizational Strategy 2023
- Support for the Advancement Team

In October, Wiki Education's board conducted two virtual strategic planning meetings. These meetings kicked off the year-long strategic planning process that will conclude in mid 2023 with an updated strategic direction for the organization. During the first two sessions, select board and staff members summarized their findings with regard to trends and forces in Wiki Education's external environment that will affect how the organization is able to achieve its mission. In order to provide the board with information about the organization's potential path towards serving the global Wikimedia education community as an Education Hub, LiAnna and Frank embarked on creating a "Hubs Information Package" that they will send to the board in November.

Frank also attended a Development Committee Meeting that dealt with revising the Committee's charter, and provided the board with an update on the organization's status as part of the regular October board meeting.

Jordan Daly from Aurora Financials and Frank prepared for the Quarterly Finance Meeting and the Audit that are both scheduled for the first half of November.

Frank also supported the onboarding process for Brianda Felix, Wiki Education's new Wikipedia Expert. Brianda's hire is part of an effort to set the organization back on a path of growth in programmatic impact. The second Wikipedia Expert role is critical for supporting the thousands of participants in our Student Program.

Also in October, Frank received an invitation as keynote speaker for the World Literacy Summit in Oxford, United Kingdom, in April 2023, where he will talk about how Wikipedia fosters information literacy among university students.

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