

2016 Art and Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

*March 5, 2016. València
Report*

Reasons



It is a well-known fact that there is a gender gap in Wikipedia. In fact there are two different gender gaps that many times intersect. On one hand, there are far more male than female editors. Whether the ratio is four to one or eight to one is open to study, but in any case there is a very remarkable lack of female editors.

On the other hand, there are many more articles about men than about women in Wikipedia. To what point it is an extension of the historical underrepresentation of women in encyclopedias or the result of not enough women editing is a debated point, but the fact is that such a gap does exist.

The intention behind this event is reducing both gaps. We are well aware that they cannot be closed by a single activity or group of activities but it is every little step that helps.

Concept

Art+Feminism is an annual Wikipedia Edit-a-thon that is running for its third year in 2016. This project started by Siân Evans, Jacqueline Mabey, Michael Mandiberg and Laurel Ptak in New York in 2014 has expanded into a global event with acts in more than a hundred cities in four continents. Editors create or expand articles about women artists of all periods and places.

Wikimedia España –WMES– events are usually followed by a month of online editing that allows for longer editions to be done. Many editors took advantage of this extra time as will be later explained.

Another feature of WMES is that we try to use as many Spanish languages as possible. That implies both organizational particularities and improved results.

Partners

Edit-a-thon in València was organized by WMES Diversity Section, which is a part of the Board of Directors. This section is in charge of gender gap, but also of linguistic diversity too.

As València is a bilingual city, Amical Wikimedia, organization promoting the use of Catalan in Wikimedia projects, was also invited to join into the organization. The event took advantage of the support of the València City Council. Council Departments of Gender Equality (*Regidoria d'Igualtat i Polítiques Inclusives*) and Cultural Action (*Regidoria d'Acció Cultural*) were involved in promoting the event and facilitating premises. A key person in WMES contact with the City Council has been Isabel Lozano, Councilor in charge of Gender Equality, who in addition to helping with premises and promotion, also came and edited.

Premises

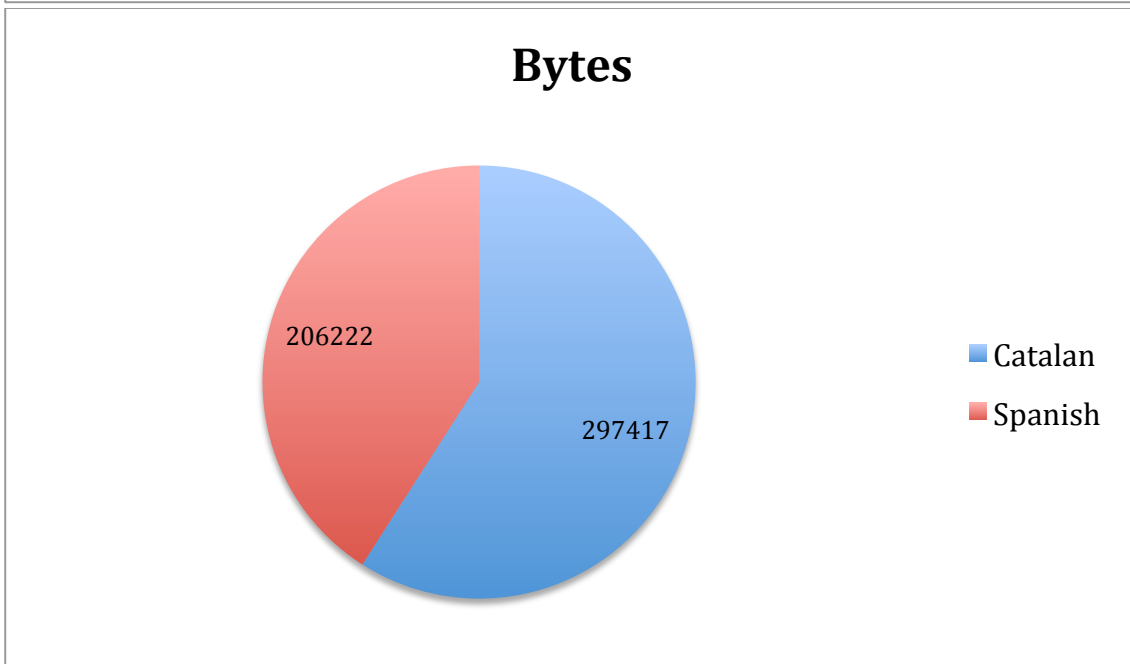
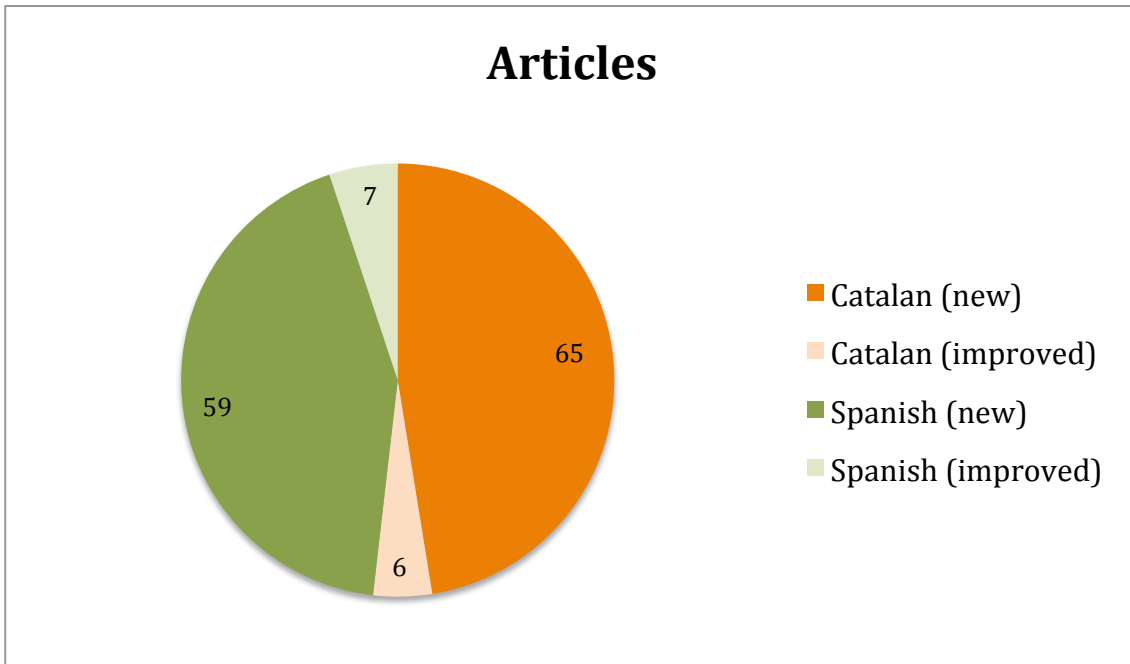
Premises were provided by the City Council. The event took place in Carmelina Sánchez-Cutillas Library, C/ Poeta Serrano Clavero 40, in the district of Benicalap, in the north of València. We had full support from the local librarians and the rooms and other means provided were perfect.



Edition activity

There were editors in Catalan, Spanish or both languages. 16 people have edited, not including 4 organizers. 8 of them were new editors, 12 were women (including all new editors).

The number of articles edited has been very large; 135 articles and 503,639 bytes. That is due to added time but also to the use of two languages. While the number of edited articles is evenly split, 66 in Spanish and 71 in Catalan, when measured by bytes added the difference is quite more marked: Catalan makes up for 59 percent of them.



Most editions were made in the editing period opened after the event. In fact some editors keep working on the proposed lists, so this numbers slightly understate the real impact of the event.

Conclusion

An edit-a-thon has to be fun and that is true for this one. It is important because in terms of new editors it has been a success, half the editors being new. Friendly atmosphere and nice location help to improve editing experience. There were some problems with the editor community, as usual, but as the mood was good things were easier to explain.

Two thirds of the editors were women. That compares with other WMES events. The question of why women will come to edit in person but not online is open.

As for edit counting, the number of new articles has been a complete success, well over anything we expected. We know that working with two languages is likely to improve numbers, but this time we have had an extraordinary quantity of bytes added, over half a million.

Another positive effect of this event has been increased visibility. We appeared on the news of two of the mayor Spanish TV chains plus in many newspapers. We have met librarians from different institutions. But the main benefit comes from contacting the City Council of the third mayor city in Spain, very helpful and friendly.

This event has been a great success.

