AfLIA

AFRICAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
ASSOSIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

African Librarians' Week in Context

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Connecting Africa's Libraries
and Information communities

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AfLIA in Brief

Formation of AfLIA

➢ The acronym stands for the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions - AfLIA

➢ It was established in 2013 and registered as an independent international non-governmental organization (NGO) under the laws of Ghana in October 2014.

➢ The purpose was to have a continental Library Association which will serve as a platform to discuss issues and further the cause of the library and information sector in Africa.

African Librarians Week

AfLIA in collaboration with Wikimedia initiated the African Librarians week in 2019.

A planning committee made up of AfLIA and Wikipedia staff was set up to oversee the organization of the event to coincide with the #1Lib1Ref campaign.

Purpose

To engage the library community in Africa to participate in the global #1Lib1Ref event and to help fill key gaps in African content on Wikipedia by adding contents and missing references to articles about Africa.

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Committees' Activities

The Committee after several meetings/ deliberations agreed to:

a. Develop a dashboard to track the contributions

b. Select Champions for the event

c. Publicise the event

d. Organise webinars on the #1Lib1Ref campaign and sensitise Librarians in Africa

e. Train champions and editors on Wikipedia editing

f. To award the top five contributors with branded items

g. Award certificates to all participants

Selecting Champions

➢ A message was sent to Library communities in Africa for interested persons to apply to become champions for the event.

➢ Champions were responsible for:

    a. organizing librarians in their countries

    b. developing their own publicity materials and publicising the event in country

    c. Give the librarians basic training such as how to signup for Wikipedia account

➢ Forty seven (47) librarians from 10 English speaking countries in Africa expressed interest, two French Librarians to bring on board the French Librarians

Publicity of the Event

➢The Committee came up with a hashtag (#AfLibWk) to
  - ➢attract Librarians to the event and increase engagement
  - ➢categorize the citations that would be added by Africans
  - ➢strengthen the African Librarians Week brand image.
  - ➢increase the ease of searching

➢Flyers were designed and circulated on all platforms (Websites and Social Media pages/groups)

➢Country specific flyers were designed by Champions.

➢WhatsApp groups were created for easy communication

➢Information was sent to all Library Associations inviting them to participate.

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Kenya Library Association Members Support African Librarians Week from 24th - 30th May, 2020

#AfLibWk #1Lib1Ref

web.aflia.net · aflianetwork · AFLIACon · AFLIA

I am Elizabeth Matheus. I am a Namibian Librarian. Join us for the 1st African Librarians Week 24-30th May, 2020.

https://web.aflia.net/aflibwk/

#AfLibWk #1lib1ref

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Training

Webinars were organised between February and April 2020 to help Librarians understand:

➢ Why Wikipedia in Libraries?

➢ The Global Library Outreach Program (1Lib1Ref)

➢ how Wikipedia has helped bring knowledge about Africa and African diaspora communities to a global audience

➢ Learn more about African Librarians Week and how to participate in the campaign!

Training

➢ Training workshop were organised for Champions and Intended editors both French and English speaking African countries were trained on:

  ➢ how to signup for Wikipedia account

  ➢ How to sign on to the AfLibWk dashboard

  ➢ How to identify articles that needs citation

  ➢ How to identify authentic sources for citation

  ➢ How to edit articles, add citations and publish on wikipedia

Events

AfLIA has organized three successful African Librarians Week since 2020.

➢ 1st 24th – 30th May 2020, with the theme *"Promoting African Scholars to the World."*

➢ **AfLibWk 2.0:** 17th-24th May, 2021 with the theme *Learning in Africa"*.

➢ **AfLibWk 3.0:** 22nd - 29th May, 2022 with the theme *Strengthening African narratives on Wikipedia and sister projects"*
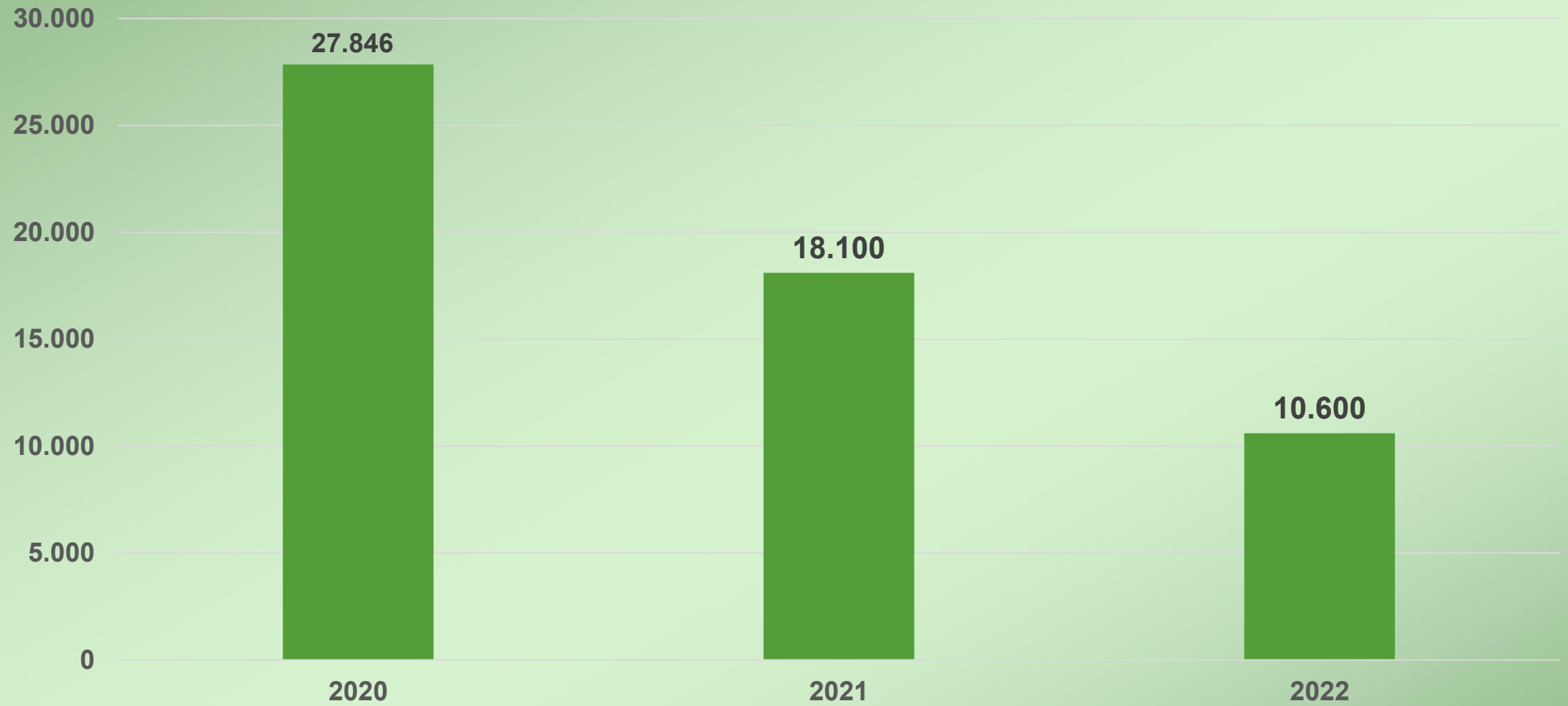
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Event

- Individual contributions are tracked from 12 midnight of the commencement date.

- The dashboard automatically updates itself to reflect contributions made by editors.

- All contributions are reviewed by Wikipedia reviewers before the dashboard updates itself.

- AfLIA staff are always on standby to assist participants

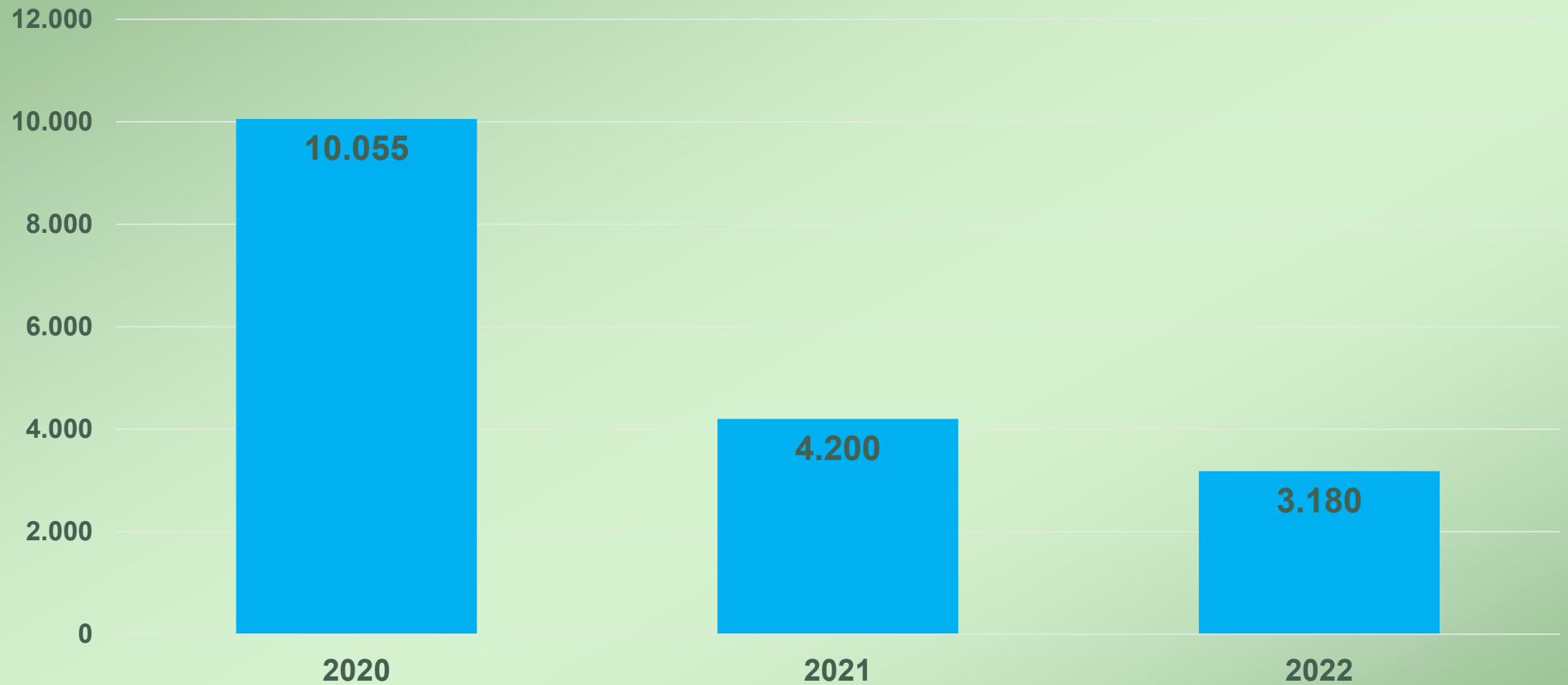- Office hours and training are also conducted to address challenges during the event

Statistics - Total Edits

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Statistics - References Added

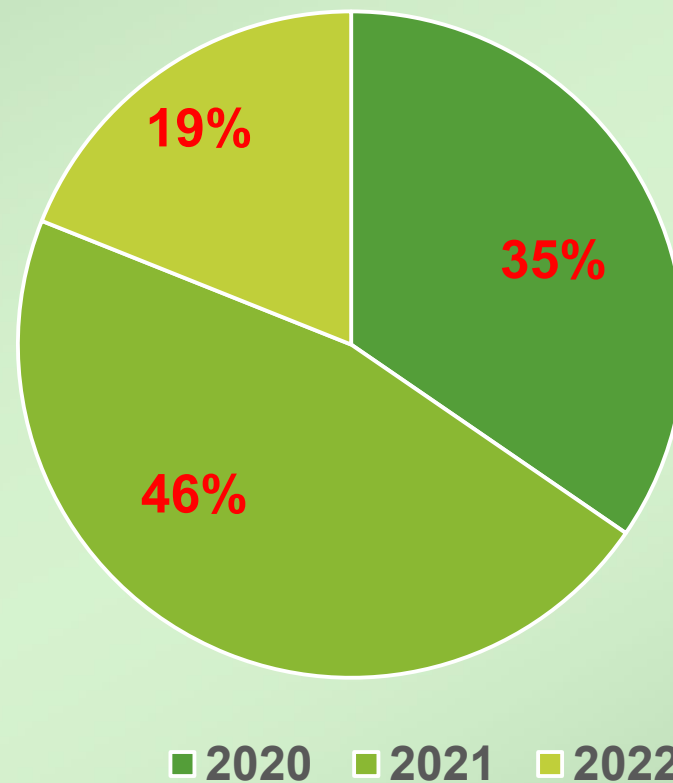Connecting Africa's Libraries and Information communities
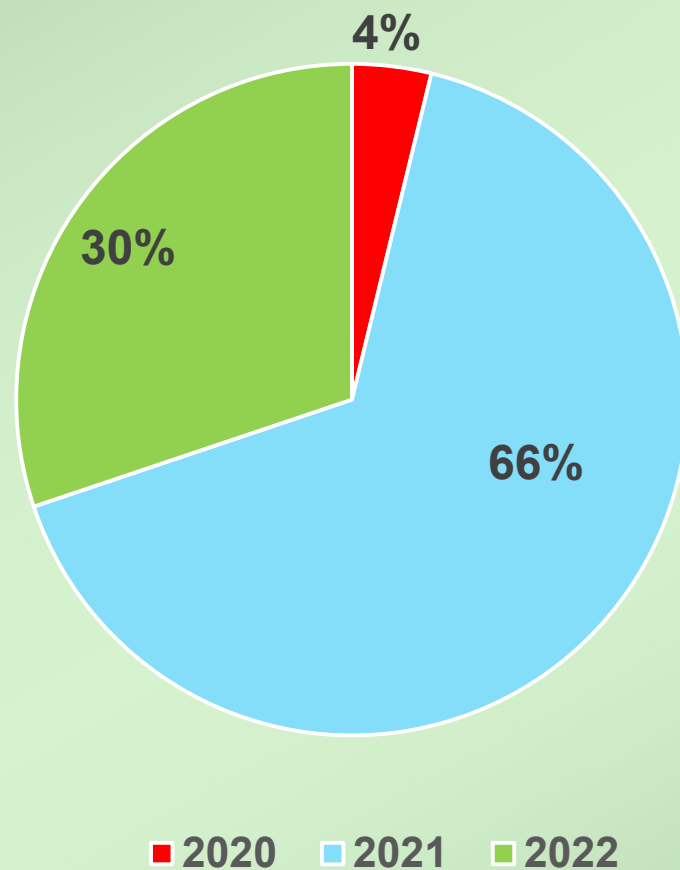
Statistics - Editors

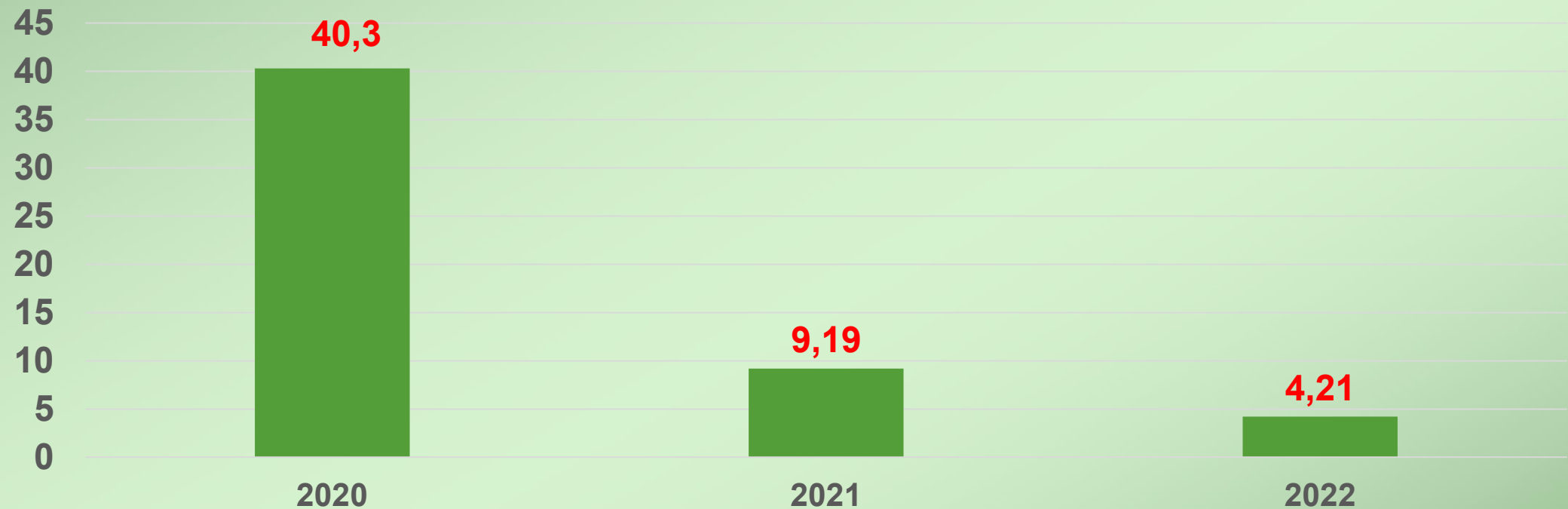Connecting Africa's Libraries and Information communities

Statistics – Words Added

19%

35%

46%

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022

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Statistics - Articles Created

■ 2020   ■ 2021   ■ 2022

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Article Views

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Top Contributors

Name/Username / Country 2020	Name/Username / Country 2021	Name/Username / Country 2022
Allan Cheruiyot Ngetich **Acngetich,** Kenya, 1693, **1ˢᵗ**	FAISAL ALI **DaSupremo**, Ghana, 949, 1st	Nwoyeka Charles Chiemerie **Lebron jay**, Nigeria 632
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Challenges

- Language barrier: reaching out to the Portuguese and French speaking countries

- Blocking of individual accounts: many of the blocks relating to IP address conflicts, which contributes to participants who signs up to the platform

- Sustaining the competition: awarding the participants to keep up the enthusiasm.

- Quality of content / sources especially in the 1st campaign

Impacts

Some benefits achieved during AfLibWk includes:

• Bridging the digital skills among Librarians.

• Acquisition of editing skills

• Breaking down the negative perception about Wikipedia articles.

• Identifying new sources of authentic information for research.

• frontiers of knowledge and connections

References

- https://web.aflia.net/wall-of-experiences-for-first-edition-of-aflibwk/

- https://web.aflia.net/introducing-champions-for-the-3rd-african-librarians-week-1lib1ref-campaign/

- https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/courses/AfLIA/AfLIA_1Lib1Ref_African_Librarians_Week_2021_(May_-_June_2021)?enroll=