

wellcome
collection

The Past, Present and Future of Wikimedia at Wellcome

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The past, the present and the future

- Past:
 - Why did Wellcome begin to work with Wikimedia?
 - How did we get a Wikimedian-in-Residence?
 - What did we do during the residency?
- Present
 - How was the role incorporated into a full-time job at Wellcome?
 - What are we currently working on?
- Future
 - What will we do next?

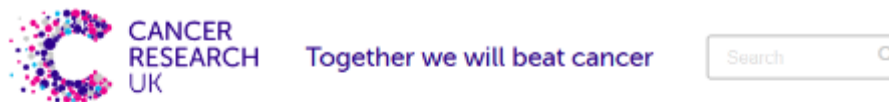


Welcome
Collection
Reading Room.
Image by
Burnsc10,
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The Past

Background to Wiki-work at Wellcome

What happened before?



About cancer ▾ Get involved ▾ Our research ▾ Funding for researchers ▾ Shop ▾

Home > About us > Cancer news > Science blog > We've joined forces with Wikipedia to improve cancer information

We've joined forces with Wikipedia to improve cancer information

Category: Science blog 📅 January 16, 2014 👤 Oliver Childs 💬 2 comments



If you've been affected by cancer, the chances are you've googled your disease or symptoms at some point. And it's pretty likely you've skimmed at least one page of the online encyclopaedia [Wikipedia](#) along the way.


Wikipedia is vast – 31,977,295 pages [and counting](#). And it's free. It's no wonder that it's [often one of the first stops](#) for people looking for medical information or that it's the [fifth most visited](#) website in the world.

We're extremely proud of [our own online information](#) for cancer patients. Over the course of almost 20 years we have built up an [accredited](#), evidence-based resource for people affected by cancer.

But we've been thinking hard about how we help the people looking for cancer information who happen not to reach one of our many easy-to-understand pages about cancer. Do we simply

Latest news

 **News cancer tumour cigars chew!**
May 11
Categor

 **Bowel rising but dc behin**
May 11
Categor

 **Cance for NH gives myelo anoth**
May 11
Categor

 **Breas**

Blog

Thousands of years of visual culture made free through Wellcome Images

2014/2014

FROM THE COLLECTION

THE RESEARCHER'S VIEW

EARLY MEDICINE

GENITAL DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE LIBRARY

EVENTS AND VISITS

TAGS

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Illustration of human torso, by Paolo Mattei, Wellcome Images Commons

We are delighted to announce that over 100,000 high resolution images including manuscripts, paintings, drawings, early photography and anatomical models are now freely available through Wellcome Images.

Drawn from our vast historical holdings, the images are being released under the [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC-BY\) license](#).

This means that they can be used for commercial or personal purposes, with an acknowledgement of the original source (Wellcome Library, London). All of the images from our historical collections can be used free of charge.

The images can be downloaded in high-resolution directly from the Wellcome Images website for users to view, copy, distribute, edit, manipulate, and build upon as you wish, for personal or commercial use. The images range from ancient medical manuscripts to drawings by artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Francisco Goya.

The earliest items in Egyptian prescriptions on papyrus, and treatises include classical medical illustrated manuscripts and anatomical drawings, from classical 16th century fugitive sheets, whole paper paper books, several more volumes to show anatomy's anatomy, colouring, printing of an 'inspired' torso.

Other treasures include a beautiful Persian heroscope for the 18th-century prince shahans, deeply illustrated notes by Rostandson, Gilray and Chalkers, as well as photography from Roseward Maybridge's studies of modern John Thompson's remarkable nineteenth century portraits from the Royal College of Surgeons, as well as a new selection of photographs of historic and specific patients of the famous Ospedale Maggiore.

Since Clapham Head of the Wellcome Library, said: 'Together the collection amounts to a living visual record of centuries of human culture, science, medicine, and history that can be used to improve our understanding of the world and ourselves.'

COMMUNITY, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wellcome Library donates 100,000 medical images to Wikimedia Commons

By Ashley Van Tooten (For) January 16th, 2014

The high resolution photographs and scans are used to illustrate a wide range of Wikipedia articles such as disease, art history, cartoons, sexuality and biographies. (...)



This image of a female housefly (*Musca domestica*) is part of the Wellcome Library's medical image collection, now available on Wikimedia Commons. Drawing by Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, Wellcome Library, London, Wellcome Images Commons

The Wellcome Library has donated over 100,000 images on medical history, which have now been uploaded on Wikimedia Commons. The high resolution photographs and scans are used to illustrate a wide range of Wikipedia articles such as disease, art history, cartoons, sexuality and biographies.

Wellcome Images provide free public access to their digital collection online, covering topics from medical and social history to current healthcare and biomedical science. Wellcome Images is part of the Wellcome Collection, with an extensive range of manuscripts, archives, paintings, prints and drawings. See [http://wellcomeimages.org](#).

“

The Wellcome Library are thrilled with the mass upload of the historical Wellcome Images to Wikimedia Commons, and would like to thank Wikimedia UK for its support, and Dave, an independent Wikimedia Commons volunteer, who has worked on the uploads over the past few months. We are delighted that 100k images from our extraordinarily diverse collection are now visible through the most consulted information resource on the planet.

Robert Kiley, Acting Head of Wellcome Library

As a long-time Wikimedia Commons supporter, I contacted Wellcome Images with a proposal to upload the entire collection, which Wellcome Images supplied on a hard disk (the collection took 300 gigabytes). The images have proven highly popular, with nearly 500 fellow Wikimedia Commons volunteers helping to categorize and reuse the images in Wikipedia articles, along with significant interest for related projects with [Wiki Travel Mod](#) and [Wikimedia LGBT+](#). The images were released on the Wellcome Library's website in 2014 with a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license](#) to ensure that the images are available to all.

Recruiting a Wikimedian

- Initially the role was for a contractor (self-employed).
- Duration = 2 days per-week for 9 months.
 - Allows time for the Wikimedian to get to know the organisation's people, content, and plans.
- The role was extended...
...and then incorporated into the staff!

Blog

Wikimedian in Residence at the Wellcome Library

FROM THE COLLECTIONS
THE RESEARCHER'S VIEW
EARLY MEDICINE
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE LIBRARY
EVENTS AND VISITS

TAGS
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22/01/2016

BY PHOEBE HARKINS | [EDITED](#) | [TAGS](#) | [SHARE](#) | [PRINT](#)

Incurably curious? Interested in the history of medicine? Know a bit about Wikipedia?

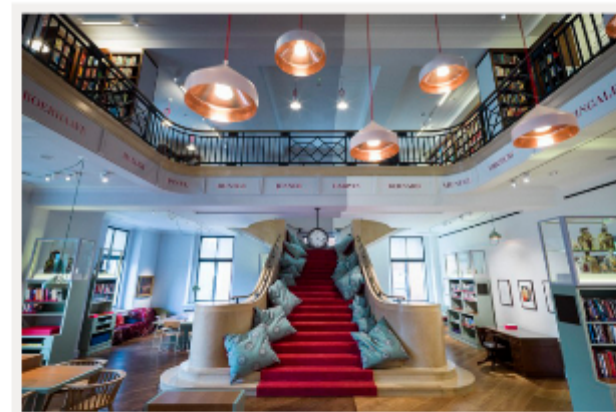
Would you like to work with us on a fantastic new project and be our Wikimedian in Residence?

Building on our previous projects with Wikimedia UK and our commitment to share our fantastic collections as widely as possible, we're now looking for a Wikimedian in Residence to help us make that happen.

Wikipedia is one of the world's most popular websites, and is often the first place people look for content about subjects covered by our collections. That's why we want to make the content on Wikipedia as rich and comprehensive as we possibly can.

Our collections cover so much more than the history of medicine – essentially life, death and everything in between, so there's huge potential for improving the content on Wikipedia. We'll also be looking at enriching other Wikimedia projects.

The Wikimedian will work with us on the project to help develop areas of Wikipedia covered by our amazing holdings. We'd love you to help us to make our world-renowned collections, knowledge and expertise here at the Wellcome Library even more accessible.



The Reading Room at Wellcome Collection. Wellcome Images reference: C0106486.

Working with staff here at the Wellcome Library and our colleagues in Wellcome Collection, you'll have access to amazing content and resources. One of the main aspects of the project will be to help us to develop and sustain relations with Wikimedia UK and the wider Wikimedia community, so as well as helping us to share our amazing collections with the world online, you'll also be working with us to develop some edit-a-thons and outreach events in our amazing Reading Room.

This is a flexible position, and will last between 6 and 12 months depending on the projects the Wikimedian proposes and develops.

Further details about the post and the project can be found in the [terms of reference](#) - if you have any questions about the project [just drop me an email](#).

To apply for the role, send a CV and covering letter to: p.harkins@wellcome.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 12 February 2016

PHOEBE HARKINS

Phoebe Harkins is Library Communications Co-ordinator at the Wellcome Library.
[See more posts by this author](#)

The Present

What we're doing with Wikimedia currently

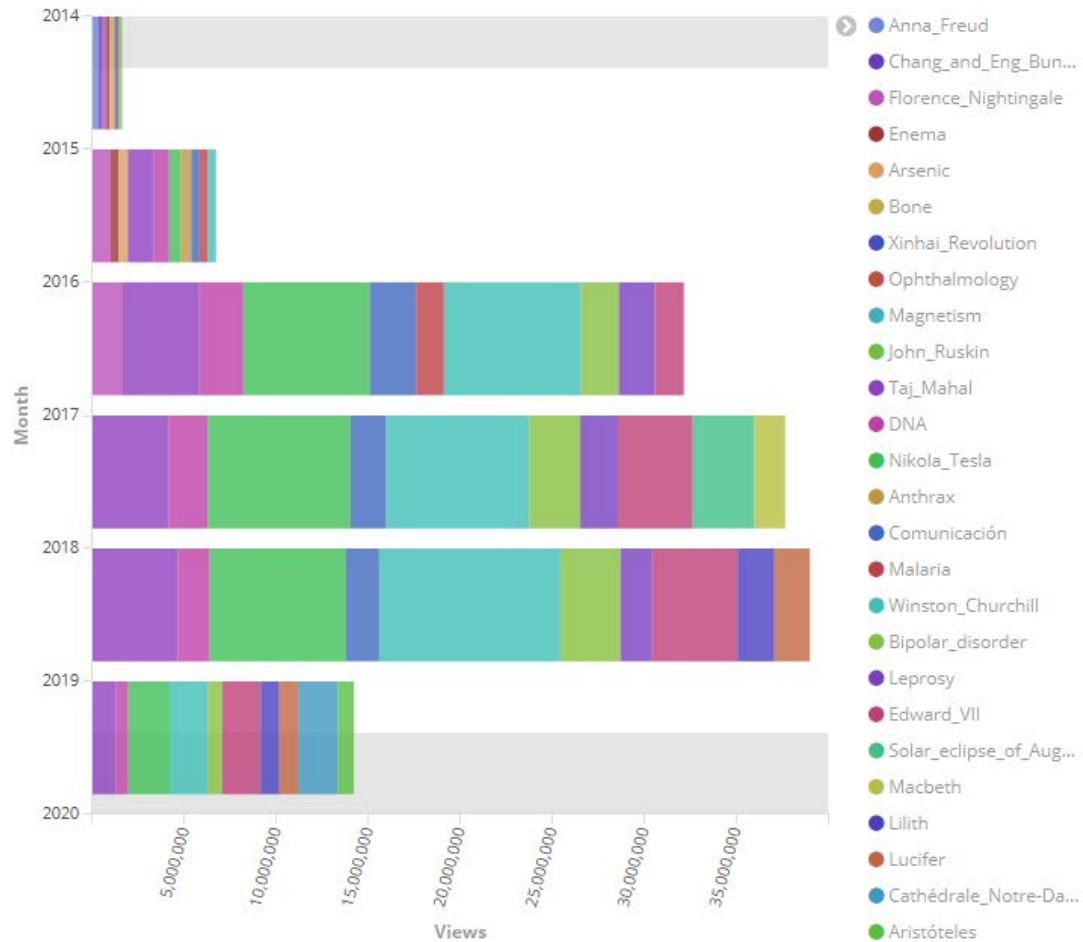
Going full-time



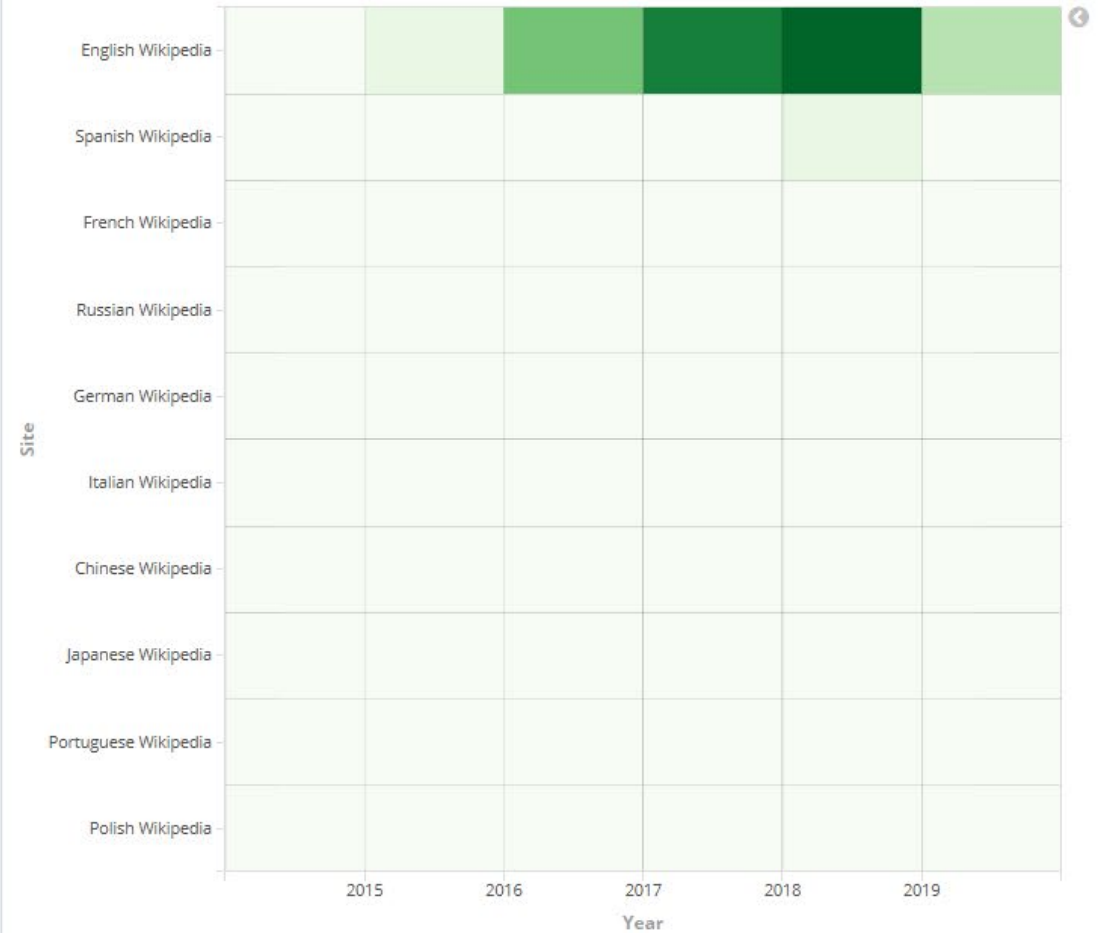
- Now I am a Digital Editor and a Wikimedian-in-Residence:
 - I work on content for our website.
 - I help share our content beyond our website, via Wikimedia.

Topics and languages

WikiViews: Top pages per year



WikiViews: Top sites by year



Our images in numbers

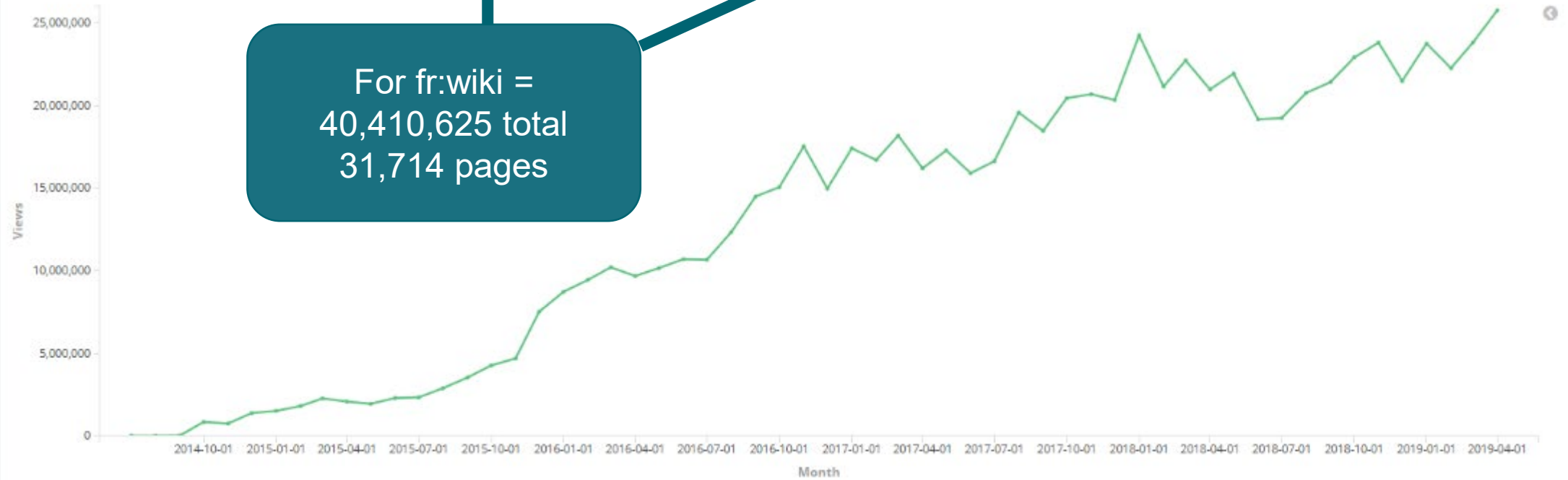
WikiViews: Total views

757,473,637
total views

WikiViews: Total pages

182,365
pages using our images

WikiViews: Views per month







Editathons / Wikithons


...are events where people improve Wikimedia.

- We supply content, expertise and space.
- People who attend learn new information and skills and share their knowledge online.



Staff training

200mark   Talk Sandbox Preferences Beta Watchlist Contributions Log out

Article Talk Read Edit Edit source View history  More TW

Godfrey's Cordial

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Godfrey's Cordial was a *patent medicine*, containing *laudanum* (tincture of opium) in a sweet syrup, which was commonly used as a *sedative* to quieten infants and children in Victorian England.^[1] Used mostly by mothers working in agricultural groups or industry,^[2] it ensured that she could work the maximum hours of her employment, without being disturbed by her infant, and thus increased the family income.^[3] It was also used by nurses and baby-minders to enable them to neglect their duties if they wished.^{[3][4]}

Contents [hide]

- Origin and composition
- Infant deaths and usage
- Decline
- References

Origin and composition [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

The original formula was named after apothecary Thomas Godfrey of *Hunsdon* in Hertfordshire. After his death in 1721, without leaving a clear heir to his work,^[5] others claimed to have the formula and it was mass-produced across England.^[1] Some also ascribed the medicine to Ambrose Hackwitz, also an apothecary, at around the same time, who changed his name to Godfrey and did business in *Southampton Row*.^[1]

Thomas Wakley analysed the formula in 1823, and the ingredients, as he discovered them, were published in *The Lancet*. They included ginger, rectified spirits of wine, oil of sassafras, tincture of opium and *Venice Treacle*.^{[1][6]} Other preparations have also been suggested, especially in light of the fact that opium was one of the most adulterated drugs in Victorian England.^[1] Godfrey's cordial contained about 1¼ gram of opium per ounce apothecaries' system (~0.28% by mass) and was readily available without prescription in England and North America.^{[7][8]}

Infant deaths and usage [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Godfrey's cordial had long been recognised as leading to fatal cases of *opium poisoning*.^[9]

However, it continued to be made and used until the early twentieth century^[1] at least in part due to the ease with which it could be manufactured. It was reportedly sold in enormous quantities in eighteenth century England,^{[1][10]} a time span that has been popularly referred to as the golden age of physic, due to the widespread availability and consumption of enormous amounts of proprietary medicines.^{[1][10]} Its low cost^[11] and a lack of public knowledge about infant management^[12] further increased its popularity.

Though many cases of infant death had been conclusively linked to an indiscriminate use of the medicine by mothers and nurses,^{[1][13][14]} exact numbers are hard to ascertain.^[15] Those who survived often, reportedly, had a severely damaged physical constitution.^[16]

Decline [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

In 1857, with ill-advised opoid usage reaching alarming levels, a parliamentary bill was put forward which classified opium and its derivatives as poisons.



A woman and doctor funneling Godfrey's Cordial into a resisting man.



Venice quack-drugs suggest how they can help an ailing goose - Godfrey's Cordial is at the front of the queue.

- Staff have new skills.
- We have collaborated with other institutions, universities, researchers, practitioners.
- The media find it easier to find (our) materials and expertise.

Researcher training – example

Historians researching the National Health Service:

- 11 researchers trained to edit.
- 43,787 bytes of information added to 4 pages.
- Those pages viewed 189,546 times in total...
- ... a daily average of 208 views!





“It's clearly a great potential route to widening your audience - far in excess of any journal article! - and to have meaningful engagement with others passionate about this subject.”



Dr Jennifer Crane, People's History of the NHS, University of Warwick



School sessions

- Students hear about research from experts.
- They then share their new knowledge on Wikipedia.
- Some sessions involve Wikidata Queries too so students learn to write code.



Improving diversity

CNN Health + International Edition +

A physicist is writing one Wikipedia entry a day to recognize women in science

By **Christina Zdanowicz, CNN**
Updated 1734 GMT (0134 HKT) July 27, 2018



Jess Wade is a research scientist who champions diversity in the sciences.

(CNN) — When she's not working in a physics lab, one of Jess Wade's hobbies is writing Wikipedia entries about women in science.



We have worked especially hard to focus on under-representation.

- This includes topics - like mental health
- and groups of people such as women scientists, LGBT people and non-white people.

Improving diversity



EXPLORE

For the curious, the young, parents and teachers who want to know more about engineering and promoting it.

CONNECT

For women, engineers, scientists, technologists, engineering students and apprentices.

COLLABORATE

For employers, educators, organisations who support WES aims.



ABOUT - WHAT WE DO - EVENTS - NEWS - JOBS - MEMBERSHIP - PARTNERSHIPS - CENTENARY -

Centenary map



The Future



What's next?

- Updating the image metadata on Commons – structured data will make this even better.
- Uploading our catalogue data to Wikidata.
- Investigating structured data on Commons and Wikidata could enable translations so people could search our materials in their preferred language.
- Even more events and editing!

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Thank you for
listening!

 @HistorianAlice

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wellcomecollection.org