



Monthly Report, April 2023

Highlights


- We started a 12-week Wiki Scholars course in partnership with the National Security Archive. Participants are archivists who work for the National Security Archive, and they're learning how to edit Wikipedia so they can amplify their research through Wikipedia. Participants will improve articles ranging from human rights to climate change to biographies of notable figures, especially focused on using government sources obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, which their organization specializes in.
- Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn presented to the New Mexico Library Association's Spring Symposium in April on the topic "Should you trust Wikipedia? Maintaining information quality in an encyclopedia anyone can edit" while Executive Director Frank Schulenburg gave a keynote speech titled "How Wikipedia fosters information literacy in the higher education classroom" during the World Literacy Summit 2023 in Oxford, UK.

Programs



Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn presented to the New Mexico Library Association's [Spring Symposium](#) in April on the topic "Should you trust Wikipedia? Maintaining information quality in an encyclopedia anyone can edit". Ramjohn discussed community processes used to assess and maintain article quality, and situations in which they worked well and fell short. The audience was also introduced to the use of the article history, talk page discussion, traffic, and numbers of page watchers as additional measures to assess the reliability of content in any given article. As librarians, the audience was accustomed to using Wikipedia articles as a source of answers for communities they served, and these new tools prompted a lively discussion.

Recording

Should you trust Wikipedia? Maintaining information quality in an encyclopaedia anyone can edit



Ian Ramjohn, Senior Wikipedia Expert
Wiki Education, @WikiEducation



*Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn presents to the
New Mexico Library Association Spring Symposium on April 14, 2023*

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2023 in numbers:

- 351 courses were live on the dashboard.
- 5,960 students were enrolled.
- Students added 4.5 million words and

45,000 references to Wikipedia. They edited 6,160 articles and created 464 new entries.

April is a busy month in the [Wikipedia Student Program](#). While our spring quarter classes were getting started, most of our courses were finishing up their drafts and moving them into the article main space.

While it's several months away, the Student Program team began to prepare for the Fall 2023 term. They're working on a number of projects to update our resources to provide students and instructors with better support. They'll continue to work on these over the summer in the hopes of having them ready for the next academic year.



Performance at a glance: With 4.5 million words added, we were on track to reach our goal of 5.25 million words.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [Psychology and Medicine Wiki Scientists](#): We completed work in the Psychology and Medicine Wiki Scientists course. These nine participants edited 17 articles, adding 61 references. Check out some of their notable work: [Ecological Systems theory](#), [Diabetes management](#), and [Rupture of membranes](#).
- [Idaho OPAL Fellows Wiki Scholars](#): These 14 editors had a busy set of weeks. By the end of this course, this group created four articles, edited 77, and added more than 400 references! Take a look at their amazing work here: [National postsecondary student aid study](#), [Heyburn State Park](#), and a new section in the [Boise, Idaho article](#).
- [Wikidata Project course](#): After six quick weeks, these participants have developed, implemented, and in some cases, completed projects on Wikidata. This is our second iteration of this more advanced course. We feature more advanced tools, presentations from participants, as well as a specific emphasis on project workflows. Check out the Dashboard to see some of the +4,000 edits they made.
- [National Security Wiki Scholars](#): We started a new course with the National Security Archive based at George Washington University. We're working with 13 participants to better represent people, places, and concepts under the umbrella of National Security. Keep an eye on this Dashboard to watch new articles and polished sections to appear.

Advancement

Partnerships

- We started a 12-week Wiki Scholars course in partnership with the National Security Archive. Participants are archivists who work for the National Security Archive, and they're learning how to edit Wikipedia, so they can hopefully continue amplifying their research through Wikipedia, well beyond the course. Participants will improve articles ranging from human rights to climate change to biographies of notable figures, especially focused on using government sources obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, which their organization specializes in.
- This month, the Director of Partnerships, Jami Mathewson, developed the annual plan for earned income for next fiscal year, setting the stage for campaigns related to strengthening democracy, medical information, cultural institutions, and climate science. Additionally, we officially kicked off our project to work with a video production firm to develop marketing videos in support of our PCORI grant, aiming to bring more medical professionals and content to Wikipedia.

Fundraising

Director of Donor Relations, Kathleen Crowley, finished and submitted the final draft of the grant application to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. We are asking for support for improving the "Climate change in the Arctic" Wikipedia article through two Wiki Scientists courses. Kathleen completed a letter of inquiry to a new foundation prospect that their Board of Trustees will review and provide feedback on related to improving environmental education through the Wikipedia Student Program. Kathleen spent time preparing her fundraising presentation for the week-long Annual Planning retreat in Chico, California. The retreat resulted in a consensus for new approaches to securing more funds from institutional giving, including exploration of government funding opportunities, as well as an increased focus on raising more awareness in this space. Kathleen has also begun writing this plan in the first draft of the 2023–24 Annual Plan document.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Take-aways from Fall 2022's community of instructors and students](#) (April 4)
- [How students at HBCUs are changing Wikipedia for the better](#) (April 6)
- [The challenges of adding underrepresented artists to Wikipedia](#) (April 25)
- [Underrepresented STEM leaders to shine on Wikipedia with new grant from Broadcom Foundation](#) (April 27)

Technology

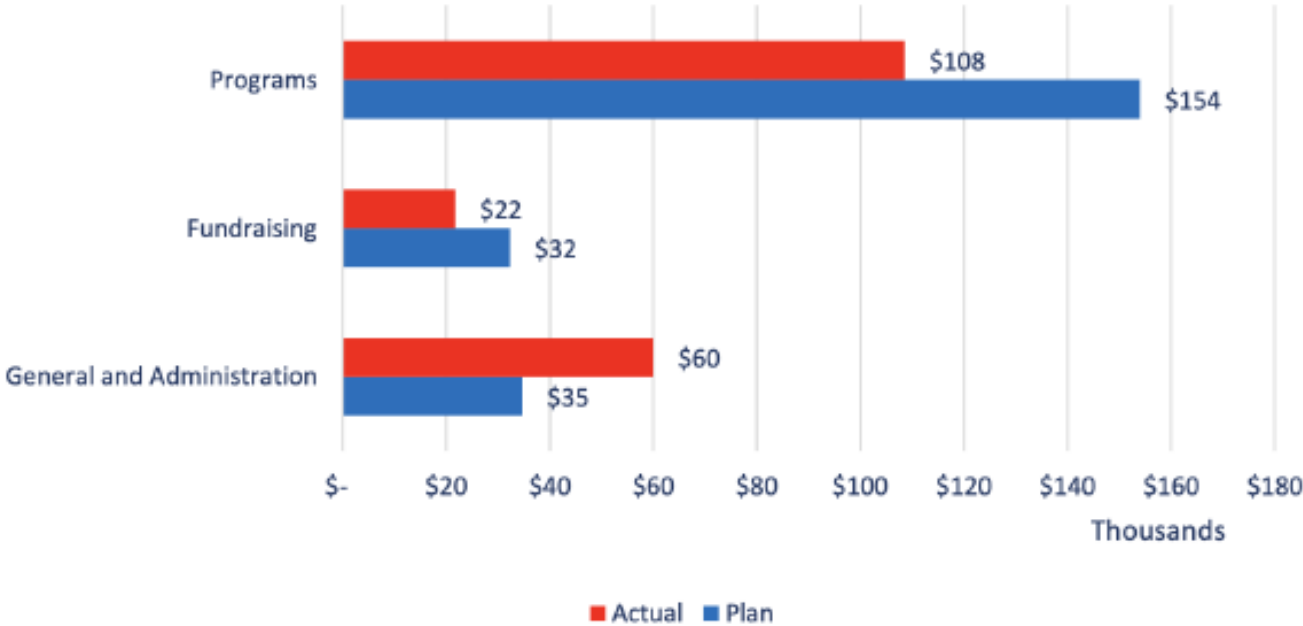
This month we started working towards building a team for the Visualizing Impact project: we launched the hiring process for the Data Scientist, and identified the contractor for the web development and design aspects of the project.

We also shipped an assortment of bug fixes and improvements for the Dashboard. The most notable change is improved account registration and account request behavior for enrollment links; thanks to returning Google Summer of Code student Shashwat Khanna, now it automatically detects when a user won't be able to create an account from their IP and provides some guidance on how to get an account in that situation.

Finance & Administration

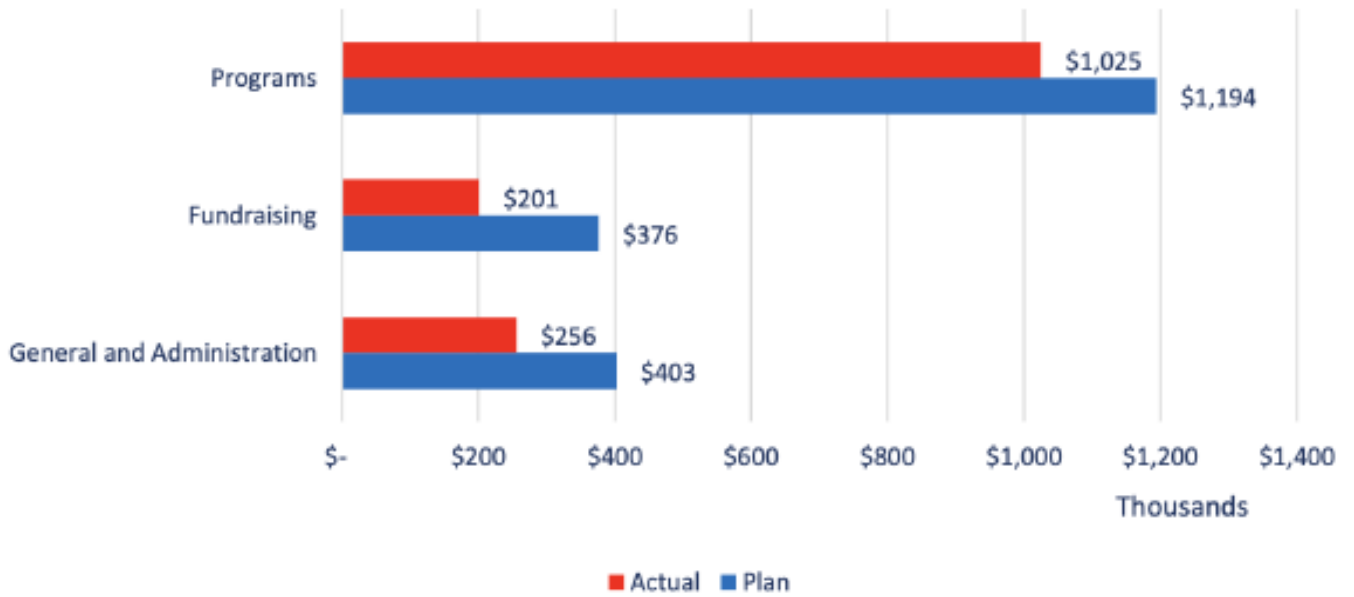
The total expenditures for the month of April were \$190K, (\$31K) under the budget of \$221K. Fundraising was under (\$10K) underspending all (\$10) in Payroll. General & Administrative were over +\$25K due to paying +\$28K in Audit fees that were slated in prior months, over +\$7K in Indirect expenses, +\$5K in Travel and underspending (\$6K) in Payroll and (\$9K) in Taxes and Insurance. Programs were under (\$46K) comprised of underspending (\$25K) in Outside Consulting, (\$10K) in Payroll, (\$7K) in Indirect Expenses and (\$4K) in Travel.

Expenses April 2023 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$1,481K, (\$491K) under the budget of \$1,972K. Fundraising was under budget (\$175K), of which, (\$96K) in Marketing, (\$67K) in Payroll, (\$8K) in Travel, (\$7K) in Outside services, while over +\$3K in Direct and Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under (\$147K), underspending (\$60K) in Payroll, (\$35K) in Recruiting, (\$33K) in Staff and Board Meetings (\$14K) in Professional Services, (\$7K) in Desk Equipment, (\$4K) in Travel, while over +\$6K in Direct and Indirect Expenses. Programs were under (\$169K) due to being under (\$77K) in Consulting Services, (\$48K) in Payroll, (\$27K) in Travel, (\$11K) Software, (\$6K) in Advertisement and (\$4K) in Recruitment, while over +\$4K in Printing and Copying.

Year to Date Expenses April 2023 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Creating alignment around the direction for next fiscal year
- Work on the annual plan for 2023–24 and the new strategy brochure



Main stage at the Sheldonian Theatre during the 2023 World Literacy Summit in Oxford

In early April, Frank attended the World Literacy Summit 2023 in Oxford, UK, where he gave a keynote speech titled "How Wikipedia fosters information literacy in the higher education classroom" at the [17th-century Sheldonian Theatre](#). At the conference, he met Bukola James, Wikipedian from Nigeria, and special advisor to the Wikipedia & Education User Group. On his way back, Frank had a meeting with Fiona Romeo, Wikimedia's Sr. Manager, Culture and Heritage, and George Oates, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Flickr Foundation, to discuss the future of Wikimedia Commons.

In mid-April, Frank hosted a 3-day annual planning and strategy retreat in Chico. It was the first time since 2019 that staff members from different key areas of Wiki Education came together for an in-person meeting to create alignment around the plan for the following fiscal year. The retreat also marked the first time that a larger group of staff members visited our new office in Northern California.

Only interrupted by a couple of meetings with the representatives of the Wikimedia Foundation and the Wikipedia and Education User Group, Frank spent the rest of the month working on the two key documents due to be sent to Wiki Education's board by mid-May: the first draft of the new strategy brochure, and the first draft of the new plan for fiscal year 2023–24.

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