Wiki Edu

Monthly Report, March 2023

Highlights

- March is a busy time in the Student Program. Classes on the quarter system wrapped up for the winter term, and their spring quarter courses just began. For schools on the semester system, students began to take a deep dive into their Wikipedia projects. Many began to draft their final contributions, while others already began moving their work into the article main space. With half the term left, students already added almost 1.5 million words so far this spring.
- We secured a major six-figure gift that will fund two important future projects: improving the public's access to quality information about the theoretical, political and practical aspects of citizenship and democracy in the United States through Wikipedia, while also building the technical infrastructure to measure the impact of such content campaigns.

Programs

In early March, Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis and Executive Director Frank Schulenburg traveled to New York City for a series of meetings with Wikimedia Foundation staff and board members and Wikipedia & Education User Group members about a potential global education hub. While in New York, LiAnna and Frank visited courses participating in the Wikipedia Student Program at New York University, LaGuardia Community College, and CUNY Graduate Center. They gave a short talk about Wikipedia and answered student questions. Visiting classes is always a great opportunity to see our programs in action.

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2023 in numbers:

- 350 courses were live on the Dashboard.
- 5,580 students were enrolled.
- Students added 1.43 million words and 14,600 references to Wikipedia.

Performance at a glance: With 350 courses on board, we're projecting to fall just short of our goal of 375.

- They edited 2,960 articles and created 204 new entries.

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In addition to our weekly office hours, we held another virtual session for instructors. Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal and Wikipedia Expert Brianda Felix led a session focused on drafting work and moving it into the article main space. We hope these sessions will provide instructors with yet another layer of support. Helaine, along with long time instructor in our program, Dr. Amin Azzam, hosted a session to recruit more participants for our PCORI initiative. Helaine also finished reviewing our instructor survey from the Fall 2022 term. You can read about her reflections here.

In March, Equity Outreach Coordinator Andrés Vera hosted two *Teaching with Wikipedia* workshops. In addition, he gave presentations about teaching with Wikipedia to the Teaching and Learning Center at UC Santa Cruz and Temple University. He also coordinated meetings between Executive Director Frank Schulenburg and California State Senator Scott Wiener to discuss the prospects of finding government funding.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- Psychology and Medicine Wiki Scientists: This is our first Scholars and Scientists course that is part of our Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) initiative. This set of physicians and psychologists are working to improve medical topics on Wikipedia. Follow their work from the link above.
- PIT-UN Wiki Scholars: Work has wrapped on this PIT-UN course. Many participants collaborated in this course to produce this amazing article about Public Interest Technology. Courses like this demonstrate how subject experts from around the world to generate significant articles that did not exist previously. Bringing in experts to do this work is especially important given the nuance and complexity of these topics. Their work instantly represents several perspectives about one topic that otherwise would likely take more time to appear on an article.
- Idaho OPAL Fellows Wiki Scholars: We are continuing to draft and develop articles in this OPAL Fellows Wiki Scholars course. Check out some of their work on these articles: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Direct Election, and Service-learning.
- American Physical Society Wiki Scientists-6: This set of physicists have been busy developing articles specifically about energy and climate change. Their impact in this specific area demonstrates how subject experts can fill specific content gaps on Wikipedia — even if articles already exist. For example, take a look at Climate change and birds to see how the physical changes section was expanded to include

more details and references. You can see similarly important details emerging in the Climate of Nigeria article.

Advancement

Partnerships

We kicked off our first Wiki Scientists course we're running as a part of Wiki Education's PCORI initiative, filling the course with participants who have a medical background. For our ongoing partnerships, the support for these Wiki Scientists courses have given us the opportunity to target medical organizations and communities to invite them to edit Wikipedia. Partnering with medical institutions will remain a focus for the next year, and hopefully beyond, as we facilitate bringing medical professionals to Wikipedia to improve important medical content.

This month, Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson was able to meet in person with some of our program participants at the Detroit Institute of Arts. We've worked closely with them to train several employees how to edit Wikidata, and we're looking forward to ongoing collaborations to improve Wikipedia, especially related to art history.

Finally, we finished filling a Wiki Scientists course focused on improving biographies of women in STEM, and we're excited to continue recruiting scholars, scientists, and partners into our long-running initiative to improve Wikipedia's coverage of women.

Fundraising

Kathleen Crowley, Director of Donor Relations, was on vacation during the first half of the month. In the second half, Kathleen completed and submitted the grant application to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for support of a 10-week Wiki Scholars course covering pre-modern European art and architecture. Kathleen and other key staff, including LiAnna Davis, Jami Mathewson, and Will Kent, met with the Executive Director at the WITH Foundation to answer follow-up questions on our grant application for Wiki Scientists courses tackling gaps in coverage on developmental disabilities and related topics. Kathleen and Wiki Education's Advisory Board members participated in a successful presentation led by Dr. Amin Azzam at UCSF. Kathleen connected with the President of the Broadcom Foundation, Paula Golden, and her communications team to discuss action items and next steps in raising awareness of our partnership to bring the hidden figures of STEM to light on Wikipedia. Kathleen had two Zoom meetings with foundation prospects: one expressed enthusiasm for Wiki Education's work, but has a different funding focus in how they define student success. The second focused more on hands-on workforce preparation for a career in chip manufacturing.

Communications

Blog posts:

- Students join centuries-long historian conversations and preserve art through Wikipedia (March 6)
- Putting our energy into Wikipedia as climate action (March 8)

- [Wikipedia deserves its spot in higher education](#) (March 14)
- [Bolstering women's voices and histories on Wikipedia](#) (March 29)
- [A literature review that lives way beyond the classroom](#) (March 31)

Press:

- [Wikipedia Has a Problem That Physicists Can Help Solve](#). Liz Boatman. *APS News*. (March)
- [Wikipedia has a climatetech problem](#). Mike Munsell. *Canary Media*. (March 31)
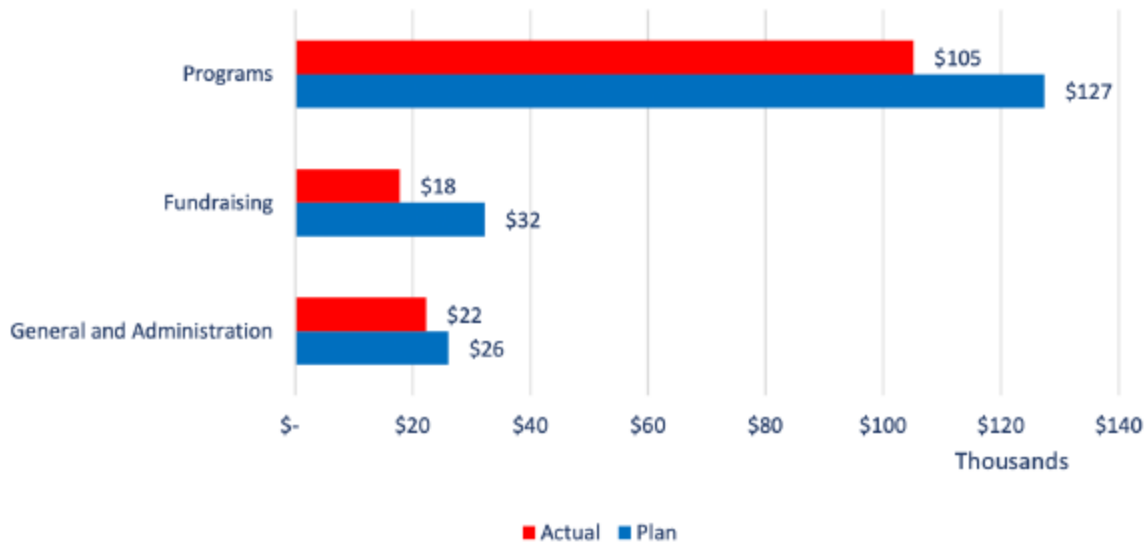
Technology

This month, the Dashboard codebase and developer chat spaces were buzzing with new and returning contributors, many of them working on proposals for summer Outreachy and Google Summer of Code internships. The results include a number of fixed styling and layout bugs, improvements to the project setup documentation, performacne enhancements, and dependency upgrades.

Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross also made a number of updates to Wiki Education training materials, participated in a Wikimedia community discussion about AI and the impacts it may have on our community and prepared for our upcoming Visualizing Impact project — hiring for which begins in April.
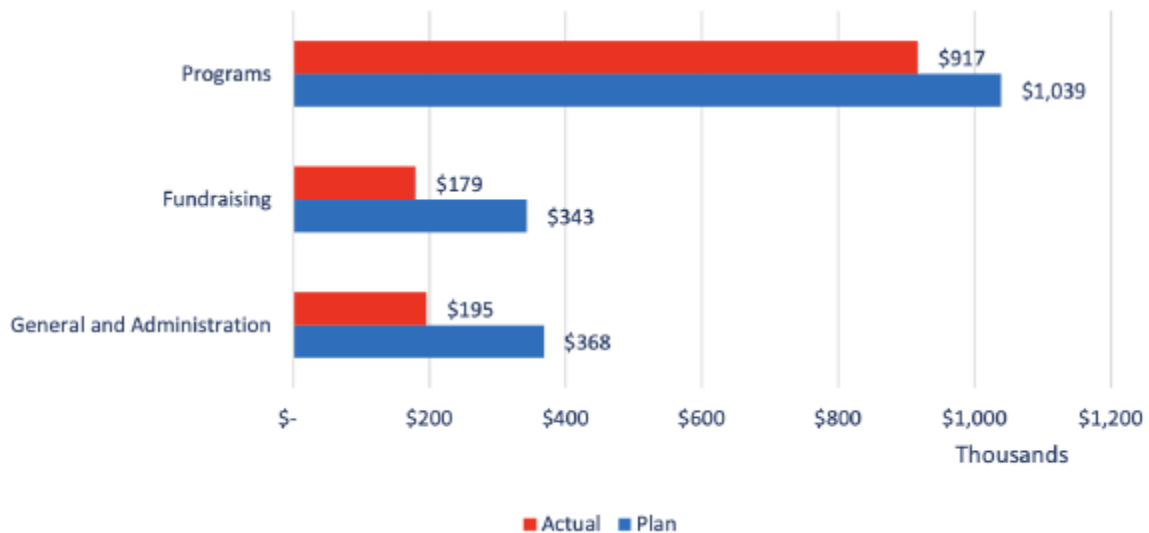
Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of March were $145K, ($40K) under the budget of $185K. Fundraising was under ($14K) being under ($13K) in Payroll and ($1K) in Travel expenditures. General & Administrative were under ($4K) due to underspending ($1K) in Accounting, ($5K) in Payroll, while over +$1K in Meeting expenditures and +$1K in Travel. Programs were under ($22K) comprised of underspending ($8K) in Payroll, ($6K) in Outside Consulting, ($6K) in Travel, ($2K) in Recruiting, ($2K) in Advertising and ($1 K) in Communications while spending +$2K in Meetings and +$1K in Software.

Expenses March 2023
Actual vs. Plan

Category	Actual	Plan
Programs	$105	$127
Fundraising	$18	$32
General and Administration	$22	$26

(X-axis: $-, $20, $40, $60, $80, $100, $120, $140 — Thousands)

■ Actual ■ Plan

The Year-to-date expenses were $1,291K, ($459K) under the budget of $1,750K. Fundraising was under budget ($164K), of which, ($96K) in Marketing, ($58K) in Payroll, ($7K) in Travel, ($7K) in Outside services, while over +$4K in Direct and Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under ($173K), underspending ($64K) in Payroll, ($35K) in Recruiting, ($42K) in Professional Services, ($27K) in Staff and Board Meetings, ($9K) in Travel, ($8K) in Desk Equipment while over +$2K in Direct and Indirect Expenses. Programs were under ($122K) due to being under ($51K) in Consulting Services, ($38K) in Payroll, ($23K) in Travel, ($10K) Software, ($4K) in Communications and ($3K) in Recruitment, while over +$7K in Indirect Expenses.

Year to Date Expenses March 2023
Actual vs. Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Preparation for the annual planning retreat in Chico
- Support for the Advancement team
- Representing Wiki Education in the conversation about a potential Education Hub and the May conference in Belgrade

LiAnna and Frank in New York City

The months between February and June are traditionally very busy for the ED given that this is the annual planning time. Frank had first conversations with his direct reports about the high-level direction for the coming fiscal year beginning in July. He also started preparing an annual planning retreat in Chico that will serve to create alignment across departments and working groups, and to coordinate work on the first draft that is due to the board in mid May.

In the first week of March, Frank and LiAnna flew to New York to attend a couple of meetings with the Wikimedia Foundation. They discussed questions around the possible creation of a Global Education Hub as well as the upcoming Edu Wiki conference (Belgrade, May 2023) with Wikimedia staff and members of the Wikipedia and Education User Group. While in New York, LiAnna and Frank used the opportunity to meet with instructors and their students in our Wikipedia Student Program.

Also in March, Frank secured a major six-figure gift that will fund two important future projects: improving the public's access to quality information about the theoretical, political and practical aspects of citizenship and democracy in the United States through Wikipedia, while also building the technical infrastructure to measure the impact of such content campaigns. Both projects are aligned with our new strategy to be published in mid 2023.

In order to explore state government funding as a new revenue stream, Frank met with California State Senator Scott Wiener and members of his team. They discussed a potential data literacy program for students and the requirements for getting California grants for such a project.

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