

Editing Wikipedia for Medical School Credit

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Purpose



What is the impact of our elective for UCSF MS-4's to be editing Wikipedia for academic credit?

Background

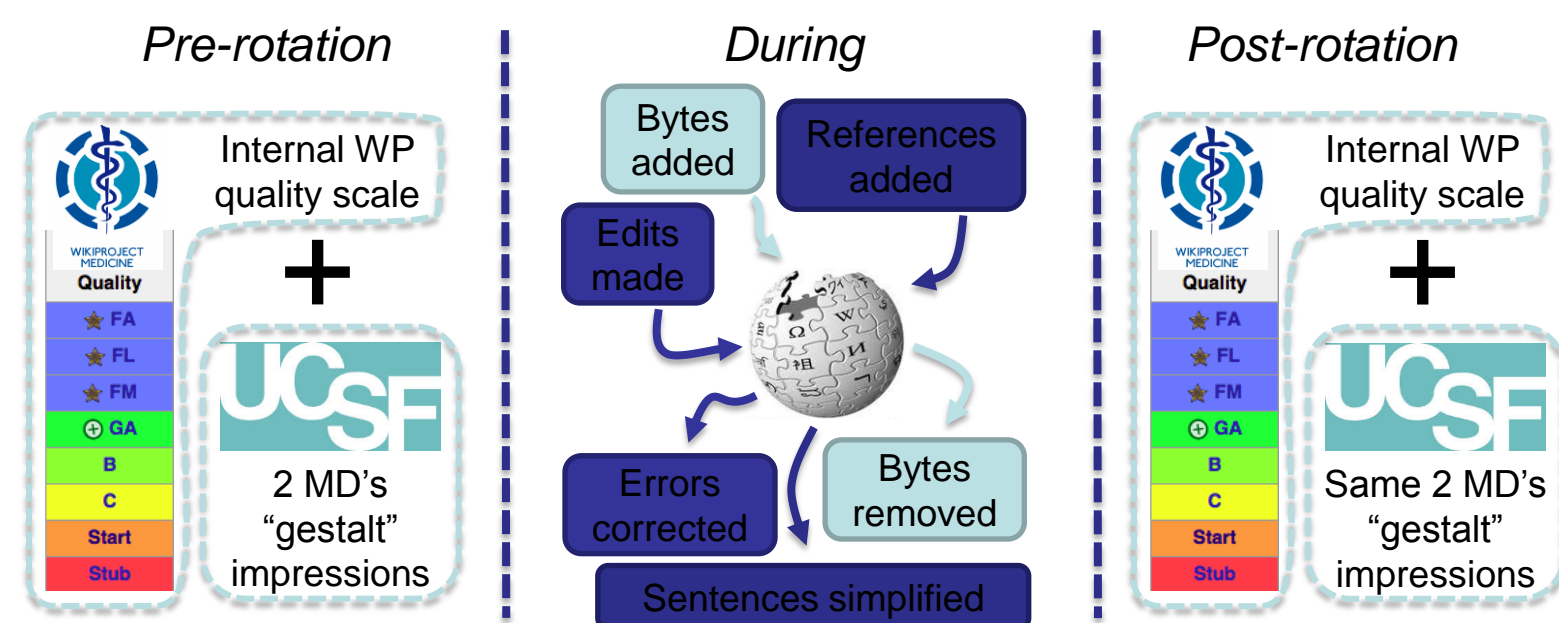
- In the fall of 2013, we began offering an MS-4 elective to edit Wikipedia's health-related content.
- UCSF faculty & librarians partnered with WikiProject Medicine, Wikipedia Education Program, and experienced Wikipedians to design, deliver and evaluate the elective.
- Between 2013 – 2015, across 3 cycles of the month-long immersion rotation 28 students enrolled.

Methods

Impact on the students



Impact on WP article quality



Impact on WP readers



→ Article traffic statistics during **only** the months students were actively editing

Results

Impact on WP readers

Student	Article	Views	Wiki quality PRE	Wiki quality END
Eaamed	Cirrhosis	151,621	C	C
LaurenSMS4	White blood cell	138,597	C	C
Acallen88	Stroke	119,117	C	C
emhawkins	Hepatitis	112,459	C	B
Lmciszak	Dementia	85,048	C	C
UCSF2014	Alcohol withdrawal syndrome	52,514	C	C
Dr. MRM 23	Endometriosis	51,283	B	B
Plm234	Appendicitis	39,857	C	C
UCSFrb1983	Diabetes	36,943	C	B
Dswatcha	Headache	32,186	B	B
Asaadi1	Amyloidosis	25,369	Start	C
Wwtele	Cholecystitis	24,492	C	B
Rkronen	Post-partum depression	19,087	B	B
Snwatson14	Dyspareunia	12,373	C	C
Future FamDoc	Actinic keratosis	12,300	C	C
Jmtseng	Toxic epidermal necrolysis	10,221	Start	B
Veronicagon4	Placental abruption	8,957	Start	C
Jorgeo005	Therapeutic hypothermia	7,009	C	B
Dorafriedman	Premature rupture of membranes	6,608	Start	B
DrPFili	Prostatectomy	5,265	Start	Start
CmcUCSF2014	Preeclampsia	4,607	B	B
lieeric	Race and health	3,880	B	B
EricaNM	Vulvar cancer	3,662	C	C
Sho2014	Umbilical cord prolapse	3,308	Start	B
Ktteli	Ventilator-associated pneumonia	2,876	C	C
Jksingh2014	Nicotine replacement therapy	2,657	C	C
Yst22	Omphalitis of newborn	1,446	Start	C
TWii2014	In silico medicine	323	Stub	Start

Impact on the students

“Simplifying the lead is really challenging.”

“I wrote for a lay audience.”

“Contributing to the digital space is now part of my identity as a future physician.”

“This was easier than I expected.”

“I loved the travel flexibility.”

“It’s hard to delete other people’s work.”

“This was harder than I expected.”

“I feel good giving back to Wikipedia.”

“It’s challenging to edit live instead of in my sandbox.”

“I’ve drunk the Kool Aid.”

Discussion/Dissemination



These 28 Wikipedia articles were collectively viewed **974,065** times during **only** the months students were actively editing



Working in over **100 languages** have translated over 600 articles to other language Wikipedias



Provides Wikipedia access to **400 million** people **for free** in 46 developing countries through 54 mobile phone operators

Reflective Critique

- Wide variability in baseline student aptitude and effort.
- UCSF MD quality “scale” is entirely subjective and not validated.
- Students have not continued editing Wikipedia after the rotation ended.

Institutional Affiliations

- UCSF Department of Psychiatry
- Stanford University Library
- UCSF Library
- University of California, Berkeley College of Arts and Sciences
- University of British Columbia Department of Emergency Medicine
- Content Rules, Inc.
- The DocGraph Journal
- Wikimedia Foundation
- UCSF Department of Internal Medicine



Impact on WP article quality

Bytes added → + 369,994

Bytes removed → - 82,559

net +287,385 bytes (average 10,264/student)

Edits made → 1,084 edits (average 39/student)

References added	Pre	Post
Average number of references / article	29.4	37.6

UCSF	“Very improved”	“improved”	“unimproved”
2 MD's “gestalt” impressions	14	13	1