



File:Ada Lovelace portrait.jpg

Women Scientists and Women Philosophers on English Wikipedia: Best Practices in Targeting Systemic Bias

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Women Philosophers

There is a systemic bias against non-Western/female philosophers, which affects feminist philosophers very heavily.

See the example of [[en:Alison Jaggar]], the founder of modern feminist philosophy and feminist philosophy education, who didn't have an article till the beginning of Kevin's initiative.

The online component to his initiative is located at [[en>User:Kevin Gorman/philosophers]]. He has compiled a list of hundreds of missing female philosophers that are clearly notable in their field.

Identify what articles are missing in the underrepresented area and collect them in a centralized public space.

Kevin has engaged the American Philosophical Association, which has created a blog written by prominent women philosophers that profiles important & notable women philosophers, located at <<http://www.apaonlinecsw.org/>> and a monthly Feminism Newsletter, located at <www.apaonline.org/?feminism_newsletter>.

Engage academic groups that may have or be creating resources about the underrepresented group of biographies.

The University of California at Berkeley has a robust instance of the US Education Program and Kevin is partnering with their philosophy and women's studies classes to engage students in writing about women philosophers and feminist philosophy.

Use established programs to encourage new editors to contribute in the designated topic area.

These sources and editors are all working from English language sources, which are usually biased.

Find and engage people from other communities and seek out sources that address non-Western/non-English speaking biographies.

Women Scientists

We estimate that English Wikipedia is missing over 1500 biographies of women scientists. WikiProject Women Scientists has as of November 2013 1,664 articles tagged, 5 FAs and 12 GAs. Much of the project's work has been focused on creating new content through Did You Know at Start or C-class. In one year of existence 30 members have joined and the amount of quality content has doubled.

Create a collaborative, supportive space online for Wikimedians.

One-off events for Ada Lovelace day have been the main offline venue for focused contribution. They create good content but run into the typical problem with edit-a-thons: no editor retention.

My pilot program at Loyola University Chicago is based on the idea that regular, focused workshops will create better content and more long-term editors than one-off edit-a-thons. I am working with the Women in Science and Math (WISAM) group, which aims to promote women in these disciplines and is a student-run initiative.

Find an interest group at an institution that aligns with your aims.

Editing workshops will be advertised to women but open to all and will happen every 2 weeks. We collect metrics on who attends and why, and incentivize returning more than once.

Create a safe editing space that can become a part of a routine for women editors. This is an invitation and an impetus to edit.

The first workshop had 11 attendees (short of the target 15) and word-of-mouth was essential in recruiting attendees. Free food was provided to attendees and they were given the chance to win a Wikipedia t-shirt.

Use networks and interest groups at an institution to invite people.

Challenges: Finding missing articles, learning model, sister projects