Wikipedia Visiting Scholars

What are Wikipedia Visiting Scholars?

Wikipedia Visiting Scholars are experienced Wikipedia editors who partner with Research Libraries as "Affiliate Researchers." They gain access to high quality research resources in order to create quality content for Wikipedia. These *unpaid* and *remote* positions allow libraries at both universities and cultural institutions to demonstrate their interest in creating increased access to public knowledge while providing Wikipedians access to well-rounded research library resources. Visiting Scholars are organized by *The Wikipedia Library*.

How is OCLC involved?

OCLC wants to encourage libraries to realize all potential outreach and syndication opportunities -- this partnership with Wikipedia supports that goal. Additionally OCLC offers APIs to connect researchers to library full text e-resources on Wikipedia. OCLC's APIs help surface full text at the point of need for researchers.

Which Libraries have Wikipedia Visiting Scholars?

Several Universities are piloting our Wikipedia Visiting Scholars program:

- **George Mason University CHNM** selected an editor specializing in history. The Wikipedian they selected is one of the best quality content writers on Wikipedia.
- **Rutgers University** is selecting a Wikipedian to help them meet University strategic goals of researching "Cultures, Diversity, and Inequality."
- **University of California Riverside** is selecting a Wikipedian to expand historical or history of science topics, especially history of California or the West.
- **Montana State University** is selecting a Wikipedian specializing in environmental and historical topics, especially those related to Montana.

Why should you sponsor a Wikipedia Visiting Scholar? It...

- Creates a line of support to Wikipedia and the public with databases you already have, extending the impact of your resources well beyond your university
- Adds a researcher with great potential for public impact: Wikipedia gets 8000 views per second by 500 million monthly visitors. Discovery happens on Wikipedia and Wikipedia editors expose library content.
- Costs little – you give a single Wikipedian an account for your library's remote access protocol. After setting up the mechanism for issuing an accounts, there are no other required investments.
- Allows libraries to request visiting scholars in subject areas where their collections or academic programs are strongest. You can select the topical focus of the expert Wikipedians to areas where you have unique holdings or want to expose your collections.
- Supports larger initiatives by OCLC to integrate libraries with Wikipedia, a place where many people start their research.

Find out more!

Contact us to find out how to set up a Wikipedia Visiting Scholar
at wikilibrary@gmail.com or 484-684-2104