Monthly Report, June 2022

Highlights

- With 4.8 million words added to Wikipedia, we exceeded our spring term goal for the Student Program of 4.5 million. Also, in mid-June, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal joined long time faculty in our program, Matthew Vetter and Zach MacDowell, at the Cultural Studies Association annual conference to discuss their book, "Wikipedia and the Representation of Knowledge." Our program was also featured in a week-long expose on the Academic Minute, a podcast hosted by Inside Higher Ed.
- This month also saw us kick off our second LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course to celebrate Pride month. As with our previous course, the emphasis will be on improving articles about people in the LGBTQ+ community. With participants coming from a variety of colleges and universities and other organizations across the US, Canada, and Italy, we hope they will update and create a wide range of articles.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2022 in numbers:

- 341 courses were approved for the Spring term.
- 6,140 students were enrolled on the Dashboard.
- Students added 4.8 million words and 49,500 references to Wikipedia. They contributed to 5,670 articles and created 392 new entries.

Performance at a glance: With 4.8 million words added to Wikipedia, we exceeded our spring term goal of 4.5 million.

While most of our Spring 2022 courses wrapped up in May, a handful continued into June, adding several hundred thousand more words to Wikipedia in just one month! June also saw the beginning of our Summer 2022 cohort with 20 courses currently running.

During June, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal spent much of her time ramping up for the Fall 2022 term. This meant ensuring existing faculty got their course pages up and running in a timely fashion and answering questions from new faculty trying the Wikipedia assignment for the first time.

In mid-June, Helaine also joined long time faculty in our program, Matthew Vetter and Zach MacDowell, at the Cultural Studies Association annual conference to discuss their book, "Wikipedia and the Representation of Knowledge." Our program was also featured in a week long expose on the Academic Minute, a podcast hosted by Inside Higher Ed to highlight new and interesting research taking place across higher education. Five of our faculty discussed a variety of research they've undertaken regarding their experiences with the Wikipedia assignment.

Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis also presented about teaching with Wikipedia at ISTE Live, the annual conference of the International Society for Technology in Education. ISTE's CEO, Richard Culatta, is on Wiki Education's advisory board.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- Wikidata May Institute: We wrapped up another Wikidata Institute. This group made some excellent additions around forty Wikidata items. You can see some big improvements on items like The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois (a book) and the item for Mary Johnson Ambler, who previously did not have a Wikidata item. To see all of the edits this group made, follow this link.
- LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars-2: This month also saw us kick off our second LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course to celebrate Pride month. We are eager to see the impact these 20 participants will have on Wikipedia. As with our previous course, the emphasis will be on improving articles about people in the LGBTQ+ community. With participants coming from a variety of colleges and universities and other organizations across the US, Canada, and Italy, we hope they will update and create a wide range of articles.

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, we finalized preparations for the LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course, in which we invited those in our network and beyond to sign up to add notable LGBTQ+ figures to Wikipedia. This is the second year we've been able to run the course, helping bring new voices to Wikipedia as we share important stories with millions of readers.

We worked to seek new partners for our Wiki Scholars and Wiki Scientists courses and to begin planning for new training experimentation we will do in the next fiscal year. We finalized a new Wikidata Institute course we'll run in partnership with the Smithsonian and continued recruiting participants into our regularly scheduled Wikidata Institute.

Fundraising

Director of Donor Relations Kathleen Crowley was away on vacation or sick in the first couple weeks of the month. After a busy May of foundation prospect meetings and preparing information to send, she was able to return to foundation prospect research. She organized an internal Advisory Board meeting with Frank, TJ, Andres, and Oly. They discussed in more depth how they want future touchpoints with Advisory Board members to look like. They agreed to have a Kick-off Social in August to bring all the members together for the first time. Kathleen captured next steps in moving forward and scheduling the meeting. She touched base with a couple Advisory Board members on their connections. Kathleen created, emailed, and mailed impact reports to individual donors that gave at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. Kathleen also worked with Andres and LiAnna to create a grant report for the Broadcom Foundation's seed grant in support of increased recruitment at HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs of instructors willing to use a Wikipedia assignment to add diverse STEM biographies. Finally, Frank, LiAnna, and Kathleen discussed different types of content campaigns that could engage institutional funders.

Communications

Blog posts:
- Why the American Physical Society partners with Wiki Education (June 1)
- Adding women physicists to the Spanish Wikipedia (June 8)
- How students are using Wikipedia as a tool toward decolonial-Indigenization (June 13)
- When a Wikipedia research project becomes a thesis (June 16)

Technology

This month, our two summer interns officially started their Google Summer of Code and Outreachy projects.
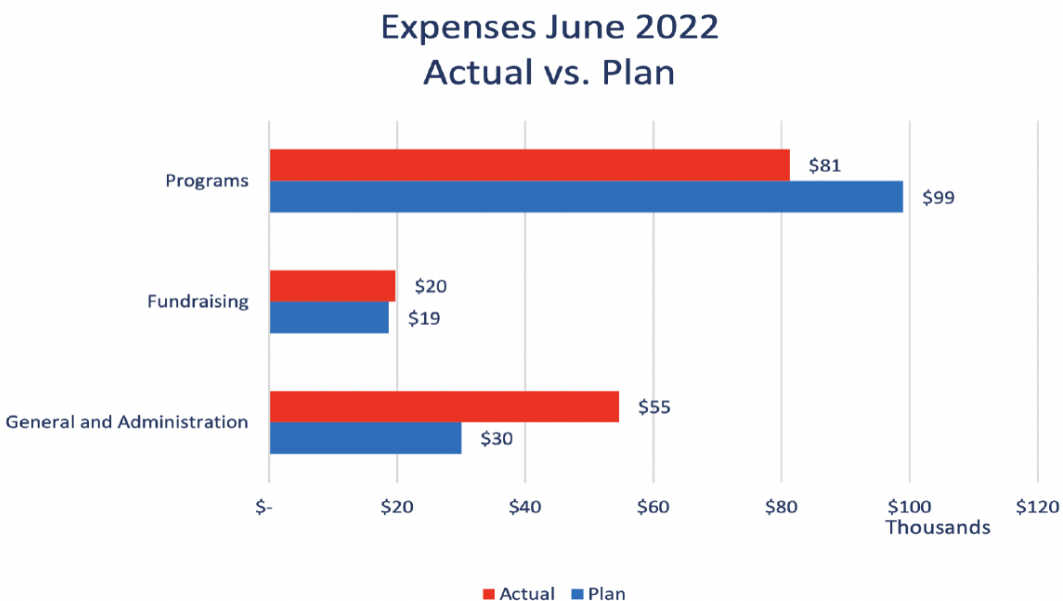
Shashwat Khanna worked on upgrading our codebase to use the newest version of the *yarn* package manager (rather than the "classic" version we'd been using), updating our system for collecting test coverage data for our JavaScript code, and enabling the "hot module reloading" feature for Dashboard development.

Vaidehi Atpadkar completed an improvement to the Wiki Education course approval form she developed in May, and then started work on adding statistics support for non-mainspace namespaces.

In addition to working with the interns and fixing several Dashboard bugs, Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross focused on preparatory research for our upcoming project to define and track changes to entire Wikipedia topic areas. Sage also worked with WordPress contractor Charles Cifuentes to design an updated *Impact* page for wikiedu.org, which we expect to be implemented in July.
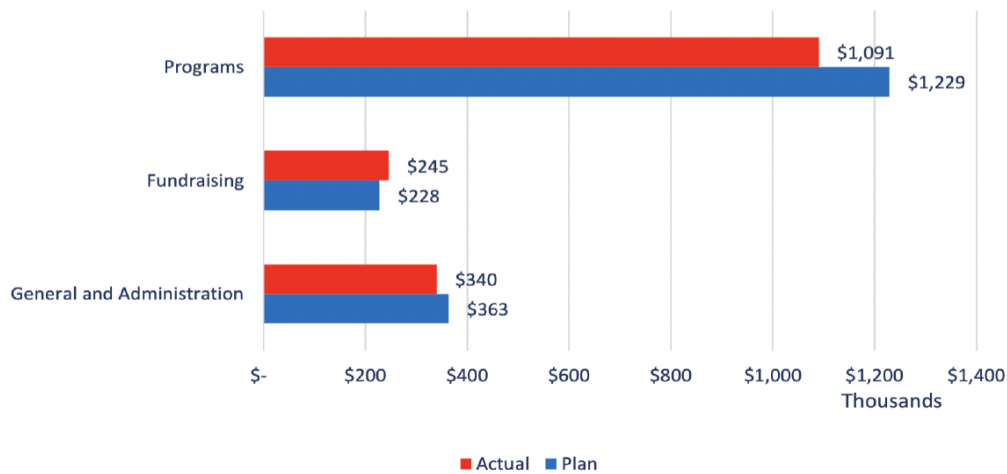
Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of June were $156K, which were over +$8K of the budget of $148K. Fundraising was over +$1K comprised of +$2K in Consulting Fees and ($1K) Marketing Refund. General & Administrative were over +$25K due to being over +$28K in Meetings that were budgeted in the previous month, +$2K in Other Indirect Expenses and +$1K Payroll while under ($4K) in Accounting Fees and ($2K) in Indirect Expenses. Programs were under ($18K) due being under ($12K) in Payroll, ($5K) in Consulting Services, ($2K) in Communications, and ($2K) in Travel while over +$3K in Other Direct and Indirect Expenses.

Expenses June 2022
Actual vs. Plan

Category	Actual	Plan
Programs	$81	$99
Fundraising	$20	$19
General and Administration	$55	$30

■ Actual ■ Plan

The Year-to-date expenses were $1,676K, ($144K) under the budget of $1,820K. Fundraising was over +$17K due to being over +$6K in Equipment, +$6K in Professional Services, +$1K in Travel, +$3K in Payroll, and +$2K in Software. General & Administrative were under ($23K) with a combination of being under ($14K) in Staff and Board Meetings, ($6K) in Other Direct Expenses, ($13K) in Professional Services, ($5K) in Equipment and ($4K) in Travel Expenses, ($1K) in Communications, ($1K) in Indirect Expenses while over +$7K in Occupancy Expenses and +$13K in Payroll. Programs were under ($138K), a result of being under ($63K) in Consulting Services, ($38K) in Payroll, ($25K) in Travel, ($19K) in Communications, while over +$7K in Direct Expenses.

Year to Date Expenses June 2022
Actual vs. Plan

Programs — Actual: $1,091 | Plan: $1,229
Fundraising — Actual: $245 | Plan: $228
General and Administration — Actual: $340 | Plan: $363

(Thousands)

■ Actual ■ Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Supporting the Advancement Team
- Year-end Board Meeting in the Bay Area
- Getting the organization ready for the start into next fiscal year

Board members at the meeting in Tiburon

After one and a half years of virtual board meetings on Zoom, Wiki Education's board of directors held its first in-person meeting since January 2019. Board members gathered in the small Bay Area-town of Tiburon for a two-day meeting. On the first day, members of the senior leadership team provided the board with information about the second half of the fiscal year 2021–22, and a high-level view of the plan for the new fiscal year starting in July 2022. On the second day, board members unanimously approved the annual plan and budget, and also voted to not continue further research into the option of forming a University Consortium around Teaching with Wikipedia. Board secretary Bob Cummings gave a presentation about the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and the creation of Wikipedia articles. In the afternoon of the second day, board and senior staff used the opportunity to reconnect in-person during a short trip to the Point Reyes Peninsula.

After the board meeting and some vacation days, Frank embarked on creating a grant proposal for a two-year capacity-building grant that aims at bringing Wiki Education's Scholars & Scientists Program to the next level. He also started working on performance reviews for his direct reports, scheduled for the beginning of the new fiscal year in July.

Also in June, Frank attended the next Global Conversation on Regional and Thematic Hubs organized by the Wikimedia Foundation as well as the Welcome Reception for Selena Deckelmann, the Wikimedia Foundation's new Chief Product and Technology Officer, at the WMF headquarters in San Francisco.

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