Wiki Education Monthly Report, July 2022

Highlights

- While summer is mostly a time for reflection and preparation for the Student Program team, we're supporting 22 courses this summer.
- We finalized plans with the National Science Policy Network to run another Wiki Scientists course in support of their members' goals to share science policy with the public, and we're excited to work with their ambitious early career scientists again! We also made plans for two Wiki Scholars courses in August, where participants will add and expand biographies of notable women, helping Wiki Education continue its ongoing goal to make Wikipedia more equitable.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Summer 2022 in numbers:

Performance at a glance: We're gearing up for another busy fall term.

- 22 courses were in progress.
- 374 students were enrolled on the Dashboard.
- Students added 233,000 words and 2,320 references to Wikipedia. They edited 226 articles and created 14 new articles.

While summer is mostly a time for reflection and preparation for the Student Program team, we're supporting 22 courses this summer! So far, our summer cohort has added more than 230,000 words to Wikipedia. In any other context, that would be an incredible number, but when we compare it to the millions of words our students add in the fall and spring, we often lose sight of the immense impact our students have no matter what time of year.

Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal spent most of July recruiting for the Fall 2022 term. This meant reaching out to returning instructors in our program as well as continuing to add new instructors to the program as well. In the past year, Helaine has done a lot of work to find new channels through which we can reach new faculty, and interest in the program remains high. Helaine also spent a lot of time planning for a range of programmatic engagements to be held in the fall, including our small mentorship program, office hours, faculty panels, and other chances for faculty to engage with Wiki Education.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars-2: This second LGBTQ+ Wiki Scholars course has come to an end. To see the tremendous impact these participants had on Wikipedia, look no further than the article for Reggie Williams, an activist who fought for more education around AIDS. Another great addition appeared on the article for Rachel Levine, the assistant Health Secretary for the Biden Administration. In addition to that, she became the first openly transgender four-star officer in the United States. There are several other excellent contributions you can view by visiting the Dashboard linked above.
- July Wikidata Institute: This month we launched a small and fascinating Wikidata Institute. With participants from the University of Amsterdam and the University Ottawa, libraries will be well represented as usual. The new element this time? Three of Wiki Education's own board members are taking the course. We're looking forward, as always, to all the perspectives these course participants will bring.
- APS Wikidata Institute: We are also starting a Wikidata course focused exclusively on the American Physical Society (APS). After several Wikipedia courses, APS and Wiki Education agreed that it would be interesting to explore what an APS Wikidata course looks like. We're eager to see what these 19 participants think!

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, we finalized plans with the Association for Psychological Science and the Society of Family Planning to work with them again on a potential project, depending on whether we get the related grant.

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Fundraising

During the first two weeks of the month, Kathleen worked with LiAnna to put together a very extensive proposal to PCORI for a $250,000 grant. We submitted by their deadline and we expect to receive a final decision within 90 days. Kathleen picked up her foundation prospect research and attended a few informational webinars with potential institutional funders, and had a phone call with an officer at a family foundation. She was notified of the Guru Krupa Foundation's positive decision to gift us a $25,000 grant to sponsor STEM students in our Wikipedia Student Program. She also began work on a LOI for a new foundation that she has cultivated a relationship with from our large FoundationSearch prospect pull. In addition to studying our finalized annual plan and participating in the all-staff meeting, Kathleen joined the Wikipedia Student Program planning meeting to better understand what's coming for the program and what she can communicate to potential funders.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Wikidata at the Detroit Institute of Arts](#) (July 7)
- [Leveraging Wikidata for Wikipedia](#) (July 14)
- [Wikipedia Student Program professor featured in Black EOE Journal](#) (July 20)
- [Announcing our Annual Plan for 2022–23](#) (July 21)
- [Welcome to our Equity Outreach Coordinator, Andrés!](#) (July 27)

Technology

This month, our two software development internship projects were in full swing, and we completed a set of key Dashboard framework and infrastructure upgrades.

Among other improvements, Google Summer of Code intern Shashwat Khanna converted the Dashboard to use a more efficient JavaScript datetime library, "date-fns". This and related work has shaved a significant amount of size from our JavaScript bundle, reducing the data usage and improvement loading speed for Dashboard users.
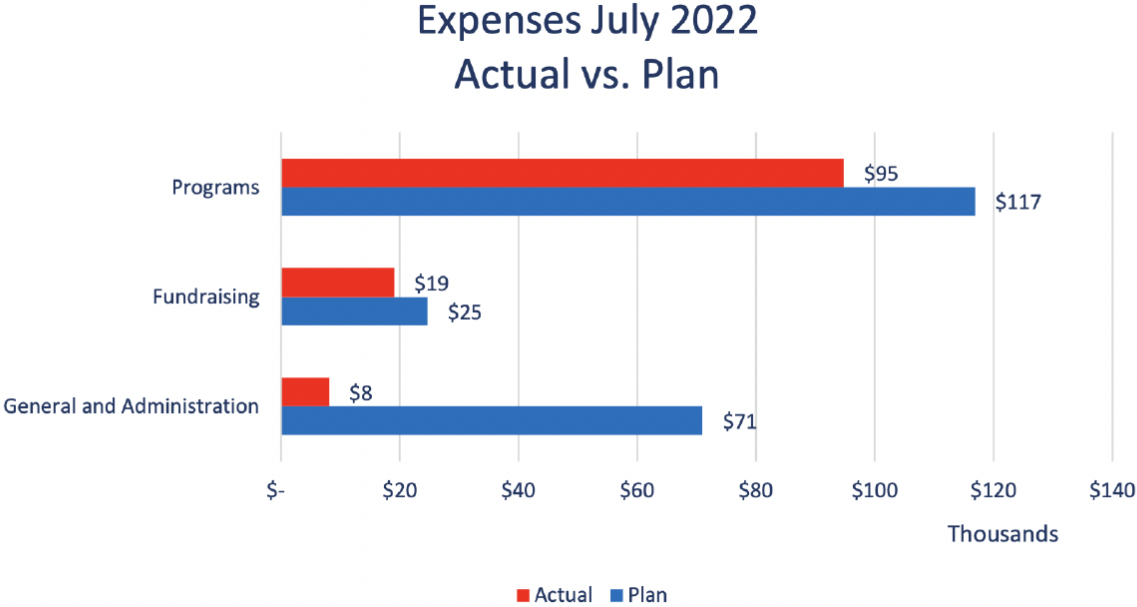
Outreachy intern Vaidehi Atpadkar made major progress toward adding support for tracking stats on a per-namespace basis. The Dashboard now has code for generated and displaying stats for namespaces like the "Cookbook" of Wikibooks; it will go live once Vaidehi finishes the user interface for controlling which namespaces to track for an individual Dashboard course page.

Volunteer Mark Locklear added the ability to update your Dashboard email address via user profile page.

Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross upgraded both Wiki Education Dashboard and the global Programs & Events Dashboard from version 2.7 to version 3.1 (the latest release) of the Ruby programming language, as well as from version 6 to version 7 (the latest release) of the Ruby on Rails web application framework. Sage also created a pair of new services on Wikimedia Cloud to improve the reliability and performance of the Dashboard's data pipeline and its Turnitin-powered plagiarism monitoring system.

Finance & Administration

The total expenditures for the month of July were $122K, ($91K) under the budget of $213K. Fundraising was under budget ($6K) due to a combination of being under ($1K) in Payroll, ($1K) and Travel, and ($4K) in Printing. General & Administrative were under ($63K) mostly due to moving the staff meeting from in-person to meeting remotely. This is seen where they were under ($17K) in Meetings, ($9K) in Travel. Additionally, G&A were under ($18K) in Recruiting, ($11K) in Computer Equipment, ($6K) in Payroll, ($4K) in Taxes, and ($3K) in Accounting, while over +$2K in Indirect Expenditures and +$3K in other Direct Expenditures. Programs were under ($22K) due to being under ($16K) in Consulting Services, ($2K) in Travel, ($1K) in Payroll, ($2K) in Indirect costs and ($1K) in other Direct Expenditures.

Expenses July 2022
Actual vs. Plan

Programs — Actual $95, Plan $117
Fundraising — Actual $19, Plan $25
General and Administration — Actual $8, Plan $71

(Thousands)

■ Actual ■ Plan

Office of the ED

Current priorities:

- Annual performance reviews
- Supporting the Advancement Team
- Ensuring alignment around the new annual plan

At Wiki Education, we provide immediate feedback to everybody on staff through weekly check-ins. In addition, managers also aim at having annual performance conversations with their direct reports in July and August. This month, Frank provided performance reviews to four of his five direct reports in fiscal year 2021–22. These reviews usually include an hour-long conservation and an extensive document with observations that gets handed to each individual staff member at the end of the process.

Given that our new fiscal year starts in July, this month is also the time when we create group alignment about the new organizational plan during the first of our two annual all-staff meetings. Due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in the San Francisco Bay Area, we decided to cancel our in-person meeting and instead move the event online. On the first day of our July all-staff meeting, staff members met on Zoom and engaged in a number of activities aimed at creating a shared understanding of what the year ahead will look like. On the second day, staff attended a chocolate-making class as a fun social activity.

In mid-July, Cassidy Villeneuve re-joined Wiki Education in a half-time position. As Communications and Marketing Coordinator, she will provide much needed support for our organizational communication and for supporting our Scholars & Scientists Program with materials that will incentivize more institutional partners to book our courses. Given that Cassidy will be part of our Advancement team, she will be reporting to Frank directly for the time being.

Also in July, Frank prepared for the upcoming board meeting in early August. The meeting will inform board members about the current state of the organization and also to have an initial conversation about the upcoming Strategy 2023 process. As the board meeting will be followed by the quarterly and annual financial review, Frank also worked with Jordan on preparing all materials for the board's Audit and Finance committees.

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