About

Alok is a professor of Pre-Colonial History at the University of Delhi. Alok is also a Wikipedia editor and a Wikipedia Education Program partner. He believes in the power of free education to promote knowledge equality and empower Indian students to take an active role in shaping the story of their history and culture for posterity.

GLAM Involvement

Organizing collections, digitizing content and uploading University owned historical content on commons. Alok organizes field trips with students to teach them how to search and record meaningful historical content to be uploaded on Commons.

Goals

• Use of scalable upload options
• Documentation and guides to find and use upload tools
• Teach students to do research, help them gain digital literacy and digitization skills.

Activities

• Carry out site visits with students to teach them how to record and upload content.
• Digitizing content from museum archives.
• Uploading historical photos and pictures of 16th century sculptures.

Challenges

• Unsure of which licensing templates to use.
• Manual labor intensive task to search for the right uploads tool to be used.
• Manual labor intensive task to search for the right uploads tool to be used.

“Has to depend on student skill to collect and generate content.”

“Copyright template is confusing and time consuming to set up.”

“The first time uploading is the hardest, you are lost and confused and you don’t know where to look for information.”

“I want to teach others how to do uploads so that my workload can be distributed.”

“I wish it was easier to figure out which upload tool to use and how to use it.”

References: Sugra_mitra.jpg by Campus Party Brazil. Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 2.0
About

Sammy works as a Wikimedian in Residence at Library and Archives Canada. She is a PhD student in Information Retrieval. Sammy never edited Wikipedia before becoming a WiR, but she does have some contacts in the local Wikimedia User Group.

GLAM Involvement

Forging GLAM partnerships by leading edit-a-thons and teaching coworkers about how to do uploads.

Goals

• Needs to provide bilingual (Eng/Fr) descriptions for all uploads.
• Improve metadata for collections
• Convincing organizations of the benefits and practicalities of digitizing content on Commons.

Activities

• Leading edit-a-thons to teach her co-workers about Wikipedia.
• Doing background research on items to add metadata to uploads.
• Organizing metadata in spreadsheets for PattyPan.

Challenges

• Limited knowledge of different templates and template syntax.
• Needs to manually correct errors after batch uploads.
• Demonstrating the value of GLAM’s collection on Commons is difficult with current metrics tools.

“The hardest part is cleaning up the metadata and transforming it into the Commons format.”

“It gets frustrating to try and create metadata when sometimes I do not know much about the artifact.”

“I don’t understand Commons well and have a hard time optimizing my uploads.”

Editing Journey

References: Caitlin_Doughty_in_red_evengreen_background.jpg by Mara Zehler. Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 4.0
Museum Staff
Pat

About
Pat is an archivist who curates a digital collections for a museum of historic flight in Hungary and an occasional Wikipedia contributor. His job involves maintaining a database of 500,000+ multimedia records and their metadata, and selects collections to feature on the museum’s website.

GLAM Involvement
Pat has used simple upload tools to upload small number of images in the past while editing, creating articles for Wikimedia. Pat is comfortable reading technical documentation and using help channels online to learn how to use new tools and streamline his own upload workflows.

Goals
• Make it easy for people to find GLAM media items on Commons.
• Building a efficient workflow for uploading from GLAM database to commons.
• Increase awareness of GLAM collections.

Activities
• Creates custom code to do mass uploads from museum database.
• Creates custom code to do mass uploads from museum database.

Challenges
• Cannot upload pictures and videos at full quality.
• Figuring out which categories to use.
• Monitoring and maintaining the relationship between the database collection and Commons.

“I keep copying and pasting data from the database. It is all there but I don’t know how to use it easily.”

“Creates custom code to do mass uploads from museum database.”

“I discovered a data mapping incident and made sure that the items were not deleted, if they had been deleted it would have shut down ourWiki editing project”.

Editing Journey

References: Gavin_Schmidt_-_climate_scientist.jpg by NASA/GISS. Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 2.0
About
Nicholas is a Wikimedia volunteer works with local public archive organizations to digitize historical documents from over 400 years of west African history. He wants to increase the representation of Ghanan history on Wikipedia.

GLAM Involvement
Nicholas helps digitize content for local government institutions that do not have the resources to put historical artifacts online, and may not be familiar with Wikimedia.

Goals
- Gaining trust of archive organizations and convincing them to donate content.
- Efficiently digitize paper documents for long term preservation.
- Preserving rare and fragile historical artifacts that are at risk of vanishing.

Activities
- Explain non-monetary benefits for digitizing and donating content to GLAM.
- Upload content on Commons and linking it to the right WikiData entities.

Challenges
- Has to use personal resources (data plan, camera, etc.) to upload content.
- Challenges with respect to political leadership, public infrastructure, etc.

“Content donated includes Slave trade period monuments, buildings, maps, blue prints, treaties, bonds etc.”

“We could use someone else to help. I’m one person, doing a lot of stuff, so when I’m not around, often things don’t get done in a timely fashion.”

“WMF uses metrics of precedence to judge new projects to fund. But you have to consider context. People often don’t have jobs in Africa; you can’t expect people to volunteer their time like you can in places like Europe.”

Editing Journey

References: Wikipedia_Meetup_(Nov.12)_(16_of_18).jpg by Owula kpakpo Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 4.0