



Monthly Report, March 2022

Highlights

- With 328 courses on board, we exceeded our goal of 325 courses for spring 2022. At this point in time, students already added 1.22 million words and 12,500 references to Wikipedia. They edited 2370 articles and created 145 new entries. Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn and Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal guided instructors and students as they dove deeper into the Wikipedia process.
- The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication hosted Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson for a virtual talk during their Midwinter Conference. Jami spoke to attendees about the state of women on Wikipedia, encouraging journalism professors to join the Student Program or help sponsor a Wiki Scholars course to add women journalists to Wikipedia.
- New contributors to our Dashboard codebase were highly active, posting a wide assortment of bug fixes. One prospective intern implemented a key dependency upgrade that let us fix a longstanding and annoying bug that affected certain usernames. He also added URL parameters to the filter tools on the "Articles Edited" tab, so that you can easily link to a specific view.

Programs

Wikipedia Student Program

Spring 2022 in numbers:

- 338 courses were in progress.
- 5240 students were enrolled on the Dashboard.



Performance at a glance: With 328 courses on board, we exceeded our goal of 325 courses.

- Students added 1.22 million words and 12,500 references to Wikipedia. They edited 2370 articles and created 145 new entries.

March is a busy month for the Student Program. It often marks the end of Winter Quarter courses and the beginning of our Spring Quarter cohort. It's also the time when most students from our [Spring term](#) begin to draft their contributions in earnest and start to move that work into the article main space.

Senior Wikipedia Expert Ian Ramjohn and Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal spent most of their time guiding instructors and students as they dove deeper into the Wikipedia process. Helaine also joined faculty from the University of Hawaii for a presentation on how instructors are using the Wikipedia project on their campuses. Even though the Fall term seems miles away, Helaine is beginning to plan for our next major term.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- [APS-5](#): We're excited to kick off our fifth (!) APS Wiki Scientists course. These 19 participants will be creating and improving articles about physicists from underrepresented communities. Check out some early submissions about [Eugenie Lisitzin](#), a Finnish physical oceanographer who was the first woman in Finland to earn a PhD in physics in 1938. This article about [Svetlana Zaginaichenko](#), a Ukrainian physicist and Nobel Prize nominee, shows a strong grasp of Wikipedia formatting. This usually takes time to develop and is impressive coming just a few weeks into this course. Keep an eye on the Dashboard linked above for more developments.

Advancement

Partnerships

This month, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication hosted Director of Partnerships Jami Mathewson for a virtual talk during their Midwinter Conference. Jami spoke to attendees about the state of women on Wikipedia, encouraging journalism professors to join the Student Program or help sponsor a Wiki Scholars course to add women journalists to Wikipedia.

We launched our 5th Wiki Scientists course in partnership with the American Physical society, continuing to guide physicists as they ensure Wikipedia better represents accomplished figures from their field.

Fundraising

Kathleen pulled a list of approximately 1,500 names from Foundation Search to research. Frank and Sage are assisting in performing an initial screen. Kathleen made plans for outreach to the prospects that we've highlighted in green and sent introductory emails, mailings, and made phone calls to get invitations to submit a letters of inquiry. She checked in with Todd Siegel, our Advisory Board member, to make plans for initial outreach to some of his contacts. She had a Zoom call with two program officers at a New York foundation. Their funding strategies are staying the same in 2022, but there is a possibility that things will change in 2023 with their new president. Frank drafted a one-pager for a foundation. Kathleen completed and submitted an intake form to this foundation. Kathleen and LiAnna met with program officers at a large institutional funder interested in getting Systematic Reviews cited on Wikipedia. Kathleen submitted the letter of inquiry to this funder by the end of the month. She tested a new screening tool in iWave that allows you to screen connections efficiently. Kathleen began work on foundation grant application, which will be focused on environmental education and Wikipedia.

Communications

Blog posts:

- [Telling the story of Filipinos in Alaska](#) (March 1)
- [Students improve articles on how bills became laws](#) (March 4)
- [How Wiki Education and the Smithsonian shared untold stories of American women](#) (March 8)
- [My Wikidata journey](#) (March 10)
- [Filling Wikipedia's gaps about plant evolution](#) (March 14)
- [Peter B. Kaufman joins Advisory Board](#) (March 18)
- [Wikidata's lexemes sparked this librarian's interest](#) (March 22)
- [Wikipedia article, or essay?](#) (March 24)
- [Property exploration: How do I learn more about properties on Wikidata?](#) (March 30)

Media coverage:

- [Wooster student recognized for expanding coverage of Latin American topics on Wikipedia.](#) *College of Wooster.* (March 8, 2022)
- [UBCO students learn the pros and cons of Wikipedia.](#) *University of British Columbia Okanagan.* (March 30, 2022)

Technology

This month, we focused on code quality and prepared for some of the bigger upcoming projects.

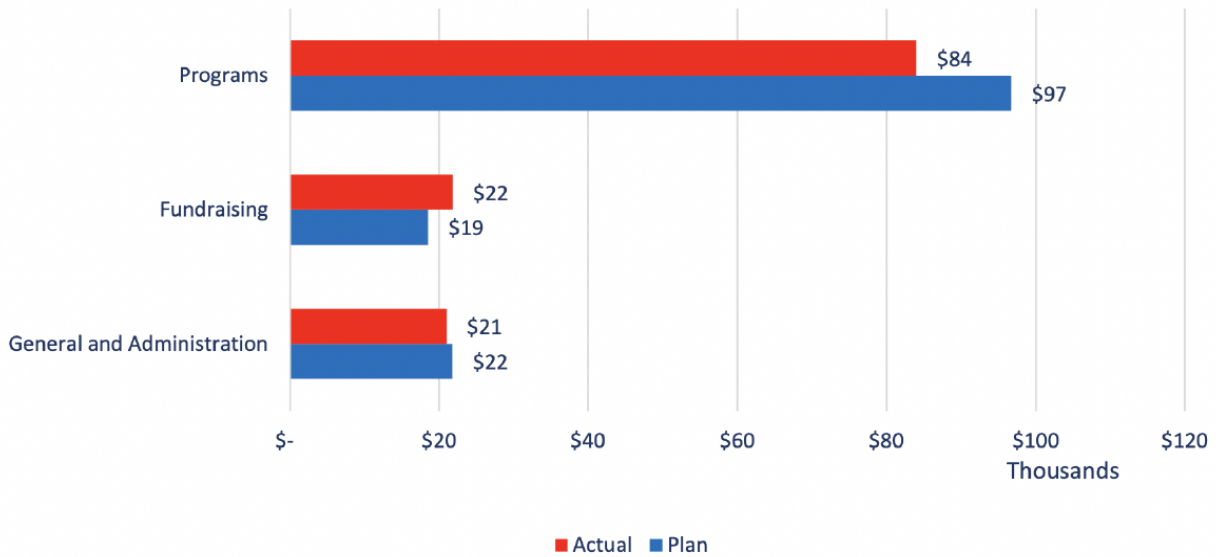
New contributors — including prospective interns for upcoming rounds of Google Summer of Code and Outreachy — were highly active, posting a wide assortment of bugfixes. Shashwat ("TheTrio") implemented a key dependency upgrade that let us fix a longstanding and annoying bug that affected certain usernames. He also added URL parameters to the filter tools on the Articles Edited tab, so that you can easily link to a specific view (such as just the newly created articles from a course).

Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross, along with previous Outreachy intern Ivana, contributed a few final tweaks to our recent Wikidata statistics project, including implementing a new UI design created by Upwork contractor Toqa. Sage also extended our browser-based test suite to cover a number of features that weren't previously tested, to support the ongoing modernization of the Dashboard's JavaScript front-end code.

Finance & Administration

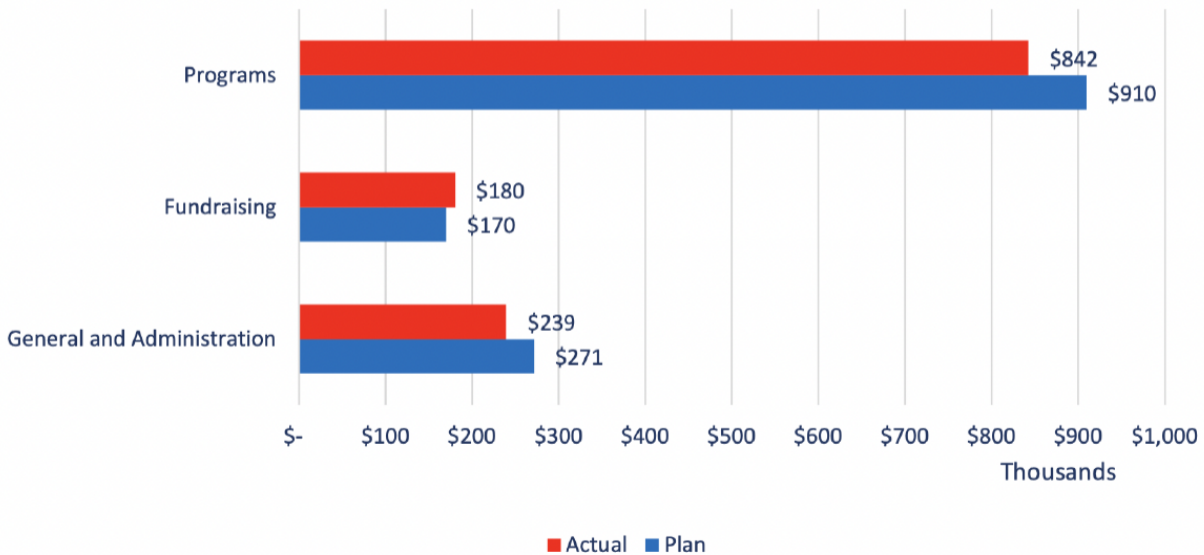
The total expenditures for the month of March were \$126K, which were under (\$11K) of the budget of \$137K. Fundraising was over +\$3K their budget +\$2K in Payroll and +\$1K in estimated Consulting Fees. General & Administrative were under (\$1K) due to being over +\$1K Payroll and under (\$2K) in Accounting Fees. Programs were under by (\$13K) due being under (\$8K) in Payroll, (\$1K) in Consulting Service, (\$5K) in Travel, (\$2K) in Communications while over and +\$3K in Indirect and Direct Expenses.

Expenses March 2022 Actual vs. Plan



The Year-to-date expenses were \$1,262K, (\$90K) under the budget of \$1,352K. Fundraising was over +\$10K due to being over +\$6K in Equipment, over +\$2K in Travel and +\$2K in Indirect Expenses. General & Administrative were under (\$32K) with a combination of being under (\$10K) in Professional Services, (\$16K) in Staff and Board Meeting Expenses, (\$5K) in Equipment and (\$2K) in Travel Expenses, (\$1K) in Communications and (\$13K) in Indirect Expenses, while over +\$7K in Occupancy Expenses and +\$8K in Payroll. Programs were under (\$68K), a result of being under (\$46K) in Consulting Services, (\$19K) in Travel, (\$14K) in Communications, (\$5K) in Payroll, while over +\$1K in Equipment +\$4K in Direct Expenses +\$11K in Indirect Expenses.

Year to Date Expenses March 2022 Actual vs. Plan



Office of the ED

Current priorities

- Supporting the Advancement Team
- Exploration of strategic options for Wiki Education's Future

In March, Frank continued to support the Advancement team. He started working through a list of 1,500 foundations in order to identify potential institutional prospects. He also wrote and submitted a letter of intent to New Media Ventures, aimed at capacity-building that will help us significantly increase the number of biographies of people from historically marginalized communities on Wikipedia. Furthermore, he had a meeting with our grants officer at the Hewlett Foundation, resulting in a verbal commitment to support Wiki Education with \$700K over a period of 18 months beginning early next fiscal year.

Based on the board's request to investigate the strategic options "Global Education Hub" and "University Consortium", Frank attended a Wikimedia Global Conversation event on Regional and Thematic Hubs, aimed at getting a clearer picture of the hub model. He also attended the Education User Group Open Meeting to present the idea of forming a Global Education Hub. As a first in a series of interviews with global leaders in the "Wikipedia in Education" space, Frank had a conversation with Filip Maljković, Викимедија Србије (Wikimedia Serbia). The goals of these interviews are to get a better understanding of the current status of the education-related efforts of Wikimedia

affiliates, to get a sense for the level of excitement about the education hub idea, and to provide interviewees from different parts of the world with an opportunity to provide input on the possible next steps. – Also, as part of this strategy work, Frank gathered input on the consortium idea from select board members, and created a preliminary slide deck for interviews with instructors in our Student Program. These instructor interviews, starting in April 2022, will aim at gathering input on the consortium idea and at identifying potential champions for the next step in this process. – And finally, also as part of this strategy work, Frank gathered feedback from staff on the two options for the future and provided answers to questions staff members asked.

Also in March, Frank attended two virtual events: a presentation organized by BC Campus in Canada "The 6R's of Indigenous OER: Re-imagining OER to Honour Indigenous Knowledge and Sovereignty", and an event organized by MIT "Open Education, Cultural Collection, and Curation: Focus on HBCUs".

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