More than an editing party:
Why and how you should organize a Wikipedia edit-a-thon

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1. Why Wikipedia?
2. UNC Libraries’ Edit-a-thons
3. Why Edit-a-thons?
4. Planning Your Event
5. Challenges
6. Resources
1. Why Wikipedia?

Five reasons to get involved

1. Embrace the mission alignment
1. Why Wikipedia?

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“If Wikipedia is a virtual (online) door to knowledge, while libraries have been a real door (offline), the two communities should work together to provide new levels of access to information to humanity.”

1. Why Wikipedia?

Five reasons to get involved

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2. Meet patrons where they are
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4. Join another strong community
1. Why Wikipedia?

Librarians Who Wikipedia: Susan Barnum, El Paso Public Library

Monika Sengul-Jones, OCLC Wikipedia-in-Residence / 18 June 2017

Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together is an OCLC project that is building bridges between public libraries and Wikipedia, featuring an online training program for US public library staff hosted by WebJunction in the fall of 2017. Librarians Who Wikipedia is a series of interviews with library staff who engage with Wikipedia.

Susan Barnum, Public Services Librarian at El Paso Public Library, taught herself to edit Wikipedia to improve the quality of information online. She also incorporates editing into her librarianship, editing Wikipedia articles in response to patron requests. Barnum has made more than 24,000 edits and created nearly 300 articles, giving special attention to Wikipedia's coverage of Texas, biographies of women and women's history. We spoke with Barnum about why she edits.

How did you get started editing Wikipedia?

I had stumbled across a biography of a prominent atheist in Texas, Seth Andrews. The article was up for deletion. I didn't know Wikipedia articles could be deleted! I started to research the deletion process and learned that there were not enough verifiable references in the article, despite...
1. Why Wikipedia?

Five reasons to get involved

1. Embrace the mission alignment
2. Meet patrons where they are
3. Adopt opportunities for creative outreach & engagement
4. Join another strong community
5. *Surprise your patrons*
2. UNC Libraries’ Edit-a-Thons
## References

7. "It Is A Prize Winner," Charlotte Observer, 12 January 1934
9. Johnston, Frances Benjamin; Wootten, Bayard Morgan; Preservation North Carolina (Organization); North Carolina State University; Visual Arts Center (1994-01-01). "I won't make a picture unless the moon is right--": early architectural photography of North Carolina by Frances Benjamin Johnston and Bayard Wootten. Raleigh, NC: Preservation/NC.
The "average Wikipedian" [edit]

The common characteristics of average Wikipedians inevitably color the content of Wikipedia. The average Wikipedian on the English Wikipedia is (1) male, (2) technically inclined, (3) formally educated, (4) an English speaker (native or non-native), (5) aged 15–49, (6) from a majority-Christian country, (7) from a developed nation, (8) from the Northern Hemisphere, and (9) likely employed as a white-collar worker or enrolled as a student rather than being employed as a blue-collar worker. [2]
2. UNC Libraries’ Edit-a-Thons

African American history in NC

2013
3. Why Edit-a-Thons?

- Improve quality of entries
- Expand the Wikipedia community
- Teach research skills
- Empower library users
3. Why Edit-a-Thons?

- Supports diversity & inclusion efforts
  - Diversify editing base
  - Fill in the gaps in Wikipedia
  - Edit-a-thons as activism

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**Edit-a-thon encourages intersection between art and feminism**

TIFFANI GIBBS | PUBLISHED 04/21/17 12:22AM

Students created Wikipedia accounts and edited and wrote articles about women artists using resources in the Sloane Art Library Thursday to bring attention to woman artists and how they are overlooked in the general public.

The Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon was co-sponsored by the Art and Museum Library and Information Student Society.

Merisa Tomczak, a graduate student and the president of the Art and Museum Library and Information Student Society, said this edit-a-thon was the last in a series of edit-a-thons that have been occurring on campus over the last few months based on different subjects.

“We are focusing on improving two things: We are focusing on improving the content of Wikipedia and also the contributors to Wikipedia, because so few are women,” Tomczak said.
3. Why Edit-a-Thons?

- Raise visibility
  - Attract media attention
  - Reach new patrons
  - Connect to specific groups or college course
  - Improve visibility of library/collections
  - Expand ideas about what librarians do
We are busy getting ready for tomorrow night's African Diaspora Women Artists edit-a-thon. See you there! https://t.co/0kPGARF5Fk #wikiNC

Meetup/UNC/African Diaspora Women Artists - Meta

WGST 350: Spitting in the Wind: "American" Women, Art and Activism

Learn about TOSH artists

(selected list of artists/authors)

Collins, Marla (author)
Nanhu, Mihina (author)
Pollard, Verna (author)
Santos-Fabres, Mayra (author)

Literature Resource Center
Offers a wealth of critical and biographical information about more than 120,000 authors from the Classical period to the present. It provides several hundred thousand full-text journal articles and other critical essays, thousands of plot summaries and links to authoritative Web sites, over 100,000 author biographies, several thousand author portraits, and the Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature.
4. PLANNING AN EDIT-A-THON

- PEOPLE
- THINGS
- TECHNOLOGY
- EVENT
4. Planning - TIPS & ADVICE

PEOPLE

- Identify your audience for targeted outreach
- Invest time in training for staff to learn to edit
- Contact local Wikipedia experts
4. Planning - TIPS & ADVICE

**THINGS**
- Showcase what you have: art archives, collection strengths
- Supplies: extension cords, power strips, scrap paper, pens
- Incentives: free swag, raffles, food
4. Planning - TIPS & ADVICE

TECHNOLOGY

- Editing system (Meetup page, post-its, in/outbox, Dashboard, PiratePad)
- Wireless access
- Pre-registering participants (IP address limit)
ART + FEMINISM

Thursday, April 20
5:30pm-8pm
Sloane Art Library (Hanes Art Center)

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Visit our Wikipedia Meetup page for more info!
tinyurl.com/mj7mej8

Sponsored by AMLISS

Find our event on Facebook: @AMLISSUNC

The Art and Museum Library and Information Student Society (AMLISS) of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will host its first edit-a-thon on April 7, 2015. Join AMLISS, Sloane Art Library staff, and the UNC community at UNC's Sloane Art Library (inside the Hanes Art Center) for an evening of social Wikipedia editing.

Sloane Art Library entrance at Hanes Art Center, UNC - Chapel Hill
At the edit-a-thon, which is open to the public, we will create and improve Wikipedia articles on feminist topics. Pizza will be provided!
4. Planning - During the edit-a-thon

- Name tags (Expert?)
- Organize areas in stations
- Work together
- Use the Dashboard to track
- Play music
- Post to social media
  #wikiNC
4. Planning - After the edit-a-thon

- Thank the participants
- Update Meetup page
- Check Dashboard
- Team debrief
- Report to library administration
5. CHALLENGES

- Overcoming perceptions about Wikipedia
- Getting institutional buy-in
- Requesting parental consent
- Ensuring turnout
5. **CHALLENGES**

- Overcoming perceptions about Wikipedia
- Getting institutional buy-in
- Requesting parental consent
- Ensuring turnout

We're here to edit!
6. Resources
6. Resources

General Wikipedia resources:


GLAM-Wiki Initiative

WebJunction “Librarians who Wikipedia”

Georgia Piedmont Wikipedians
http://bit.ly/2g02oZy

Edit-a-thon resources:

Wikimedia Foundation edit-a-thon training

Wikimedia Programs & Events Dashboard
https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/

Art + Feminism (includes organizer’s kit)
http://www.artandfeminism.org/

Society of NC Archivists Edit-a-thon Toolkit
http://bit.ly/2kv4jGZ

Slide decks used at edit-a-thons
http://bit.ly/2g0IFZL

Wikimedia rapid grants
http://bit.ly/2y6jh1N
Questions?