ULA Presentation on Wikipedia and Wikidata for libraries

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- Title: Leveraging the Power of Wikipedia and Wikidata for your Library (HT to Merrilee Proffitt’s book *Leveraging Wikipedia*)
- Session description: Wikipedia is one of the most popular sources of information on the internet. As information professionals, we can change information on Wikipedia to be more accurate and complete. By using Wikidata, librarians can affect information searches at a deep, machine-readable level. This session will discuss some ways that librarians can increase the accessibility of the media and information in their libraries and bring their hidden collections to light.

- Learning objectives:
  o Understand why editing Wikipedia or Wikidata is worthwhile/mission-aligned for librarians.
  o Learn how other libraries have edited Wikipedia/Wikidata.
  o Discover easy ways to start editing at your library.
  o see the supplementary zine and our slides

Wikipedia

How could contributing to Wikipedia help my library?

INTRO: I’m going to try to convince you that working with Wikipedia is good for your library.

1. First I’ll talk up Wikipedia
2. Then I’ll show you an example of the work I do
3. I’ll give you a few tiers of how your library can help with Wikipedia work:
   1. making your online content reuse-friendly
   2. how to get funding for events or a position like mine in your library

Wikipedia is popular!

- #7 most-popular website in the world
  o We are going to where our patrons are (and everyone else's patrons in the English-speaking internet-going world)
  o Wikipedia is often on the first page of search results for a person or topic. But is your contentdm page on the first page of search results?? Hmmm???
- The most popular pages we work on get hundreds of thousands of views in a year. Even the least popular pages receive about 100 views/year.

- **Make information more accessible:** Google Knowledge Graph
  - Example of knowledge graph from before and after creating a page for the Clingers

- **Has a common mission of open knowledge**
  - Books are great. But accurate summaries of information from reliable sources is useful on another level.
  - Creating and editing Wikipedia pages with accurate, cited information gets accurate information to more people!
  - Close knowledge gaps and liberate print information! Breadcrumbs to your books!
  - Make public domain and freely licensed images easier to access by using them on Wikipedia pages
  - Commons is the centralized repository for images used on all the different language Wikipedias and other Wikimedia projects.
    - **ALL** of the images there are in the public domain or freely licensed (CC-BY-SA 4.0)
    - For example, we uploaded an image from the Bakemono no e (monster scroll) and we wanted to use it on Japanese Wikipedia pages as well as English Wikipedia pages. Thanks to Wikimedia Commons, we only had to upload the images once.

- **DIY:** we have makerspaces for 3D printing and sewing and taking video.
  - What about a makerspace for INFORMATION??
  - Libraries can teach others how to edit Wikipedia

**What does this work actually look like?**

- Example of an image from our collections (Mildred Dilling). I went through the photos of Mildred Dilling from our special collections. I found a few photos that were in the public domain and requested that our digitization team scan them.
  - (the image was in the public domain because it was taken by the Air Force when she toured for servicemen during WWII)
- I added the image to the page I wrote for her to her Wikipedia page! A lot of our work is information- (not photo) focused.
  - It gets an average of four views/day.

**How can we encourage Wikipedians to use our stuff?**

- Tell them exactly what stuff they can use and how:
  - Clear copyrights statements
  - Nice-resolution image downloads
  - Full-text search
- Example of this in action:
• Arnold Blackner image on the Wikipedia page I created for him...
  o comes from Utah Digital Newspapers. I was able to zoom in and screengrab a medium-res image there :-)
• Some DPLA collections may be eligible for their DPLA-to-Commons pipeline.
  o If:
    ▪ you are part of the Mountain West Digital Library consortium,
    ▪ your images are harvested to DPLA
    ▪ they have URLs in their rights statements
    ▪ they may be able to upload your images and some of the connected metadata to Wikimedia Commons!
  o From Commons, you or intrepid volunteers could reuse the images on Wikipedia (future ULA workshop ??)
  o see more details about their requirements here.
• Case study I whipped up:
  o I searched on DPLA for images in MWDL that are in the public domain.
  o I chose an image I knew I could use on Wikipedia (that is the magical part an expert can provide).
  o I uploaded it to Commons and added it to the "Teton Range" Wikipedia page on April 25th.
  o Between April 25th and May 14th, the Teton Range Wikipedia page received 3,927 views. Some of these views may have even seen the photo I uploaded (mobile page views sometimes don't look at all the images in each section)!
• full-text search: I was able to create the Sophic and mantic page partially because the the ScholarsArchive search results gave me enough sources to create the page.

Where could we get funding for Wikipedia work?

• WMF does not directly fund editing Wikipedia (to avoid possible conflict of interest).
  o They could fund a position that focuses on outreach and collection reuse though!
  o See their Grants page.
    ▪ a rapid grant could pay for food at an editing event
    ▪ a larger grant could help pay for a Wikipedian-in-Residence
• Kim Gile’s success at the Kansas City Library
  o They received $50,000 in grant money from W.T. Kemper Foundation to hire a Wikipedian-in-Residence (the library paid the remaining amount, ~$7,000).
  o The position focused on Kansas City history and encouraging "contributions to make the Library's digitized content more publicly accessible" (ref: Kim Gile's slides)
  o her presentation has full budget/salary and job description! (here are "my tweets about" the presentation)

Interested in a Wikipedian-in-Residence?

• See Jake’s essay and website for connecting WiRs with institutions
How have other institutions used Wikipedia/Wikimedia Commons?

- filling knowledge gaps:
  - Mary Mark Ockerbloom improved the Ashok Gadgil’s page. He’s a scientist in sustainable technology. Ockerbloom has been working at Annual Reviews to add citations to newly open access resources there (under User:MaryMO (AR)). She has also worked for the Science History Institute.
- Avoid Conflict-of-Interest editing
  - see [my TikTok video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example) (others forthcoming??)

### Wikidata

**What is it: In short…**

- Free knowledge base
- Stores structured, linked open data
- Both human and machine readable and editable
- Interlinked to other open data sets on the web
  - SNAC - [https://snaccooperative.org/](https://snaccooperative.org/)
  - Used by [virtual assistants](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata)
- CC0 license
- Note: Don’t contribute data that isn’t public domain

**What are others doing with it**

- Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Wikidata pilot
  - Tested the use of Wikidata as a platform for identity management
  - Purposes:
    - Compare ease of use and benefits to other registries (LCNAF, ISNI)
    - Assess the productivity and QA tools that exist or should exist
    - Learning about the culture of the Wikidata community
  - If you go to the Participants page, many of the institutions on the list are hyperlinked to pages that describe their projects.
• Use it to indicate whose archives are at which library or which items (films, books, etc.) are in your library collection
• Customized discovery layers can pull information from Wikidata into item or author information
  o Cornell University library example
  o University of Wisconsin-Madison example

Power of SPARQL queries

• Query service: https://query.wikidata.org/
• Query for the SPARQL averse: https://query.wikidata.org/querybuilder/?uselang=en
• Example queries:
  o Musicians who died at age 27
  o Popular eye color among humans
  o Popular first names for people born in Salt Lake City
  o Popular first names for people born in Salt Lake City as a bar chart
  o Map of places of birth of dead economists color-coded by era
• Scholia: https://scholia.toolforge.org/
• Helps identify gaps/missing info - example is the Women in Red project: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_in_Red/Redlist_index
• Wikxhibit: https://wikxhibit.org/
  o There are several examples on the main page

Cool tools to get started

• Tools to inspire editing: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Tools
• Recoin: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Recoin
• Mix’n’match: https://mix-n-match.toolforge.org/#/
• TABernacle: https://tabernacle.toolforge.org/#/