Wikipedia And The Library: Righting The Imbalance Of Creators And Content Through Community Edit-a-thons

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Outline

• Introduction
• Lit Review
• History of Art+Feminism Movement
• Why are libraries getting involved?
• Planning and running an edit-a-thon
• Survey results
• Discussion
Introduction
Lit Review

“If women make up half the users of [Wikipedia] but only represent a tiny fraction of its contributors, women are allowing themselves to be written out of history, all topics, knowledge itself.”

Jennifer C. Edwards

“Wiki Women: Bringing Women Into Wikipedia through Activism and Pedagogy”

The History Teacher, v. 48, no. 3. May 2015.
History of the Art+Feminism Movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/ArtAndFeminism
Art+Feminism edit-a-thons worldwide

http://art.plusfeminism.org/edit-a-thons/
## Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon Global Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>New Articles</th>
<th>Improved Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why are libraries getting involved?

- Students use Wikipedia for research
- Librarians support open access
- Libraries provide access to research materials
Planning and running an edit-a-thon

- Welcome Art + Feminism
- Wiki-Edit-a-Thon
- Suzanne Kalterer
- Nicole Lavenjak
- Kelly Zimba

- Create an account
- Sign into our meetup page
- Attend our meetup/events: https://artofconstruction.fandom.com
- Record your work to Articles Created and/or Articles Improved on the meetup page
- You can upload photos of the event (with permission by subjects) to the Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Art_of_Feminism_2015
- Use #artofconstruction + @artofconstruction on social media and documentation. It will be added to the artofconstruction.org website. You can see the beginning of it here: http://artofconstruction.org/social/
- Have fun!
What we did

Saskatoon Public Library

Banff Centre Library
What we did

**Saskatoon**
- Day-long event at the Saskatoon Public Library
- 12 participants
- 13 articles newly created
- 1 article updated
- 1 draft article written

**Banff**
- Day-long event at the Banff Centre Library
- 5 participants
- 3 articles improved
- 2 articles newly created
Survey design

- Basic data collected in wikipedia meetup pages
- Designed a more detailed survey to capture:
  - Profile of participants
  - Impact of the edit-a-thon on comfort and likelihood that the individual might continue editing after the event
  - Feedback on the logistical elements of the day
Survey results

- Paper and electronic versions of the survey distributed following the event
- Response rate: 88.24% (15 / 17)
How much experience did you have with Wikipedia editing before this event?

- 1 - no experience
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - A lot of experience
How much did your confidence with editing in Wikipedia improve as a result of this event?
How likely are you to continue editing in Wikipedia after this event?
Discussion

• Managing expectations
• How to ensure articles stick
• Avoiding flags for deletion
“I can add all kinds of things to male YA authors’ pages with minimal cites and no one says a word. Whereas, every time I try to add a female YA author, or contribute to their pages, I invariably end up with some obnoxious gatekeeper complaining that my cites from Publisher’s Weekly and School Library Journal aren’t NEARLY enough, and besides, this author isn’t SIGNIFICANT enough to have an entry, who cares if she published three books? They’re not NOTEWORTHY. Meanwhile, 1-Book Nobody Dude’s Wikipedia page is 14 printable pages long.”

From a discussion at Metafilter titled Wikipedia, Snips & Snails, Sugar & Spice?
Where do we go from here?

"I didn't solve it. We didn't solve it. The Wikimedia Foundation didn't solve it. The solution won't come from the Wikimedia Foundation."

- Sue Gardner, Executive Director of the Wikimedia Foundation
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