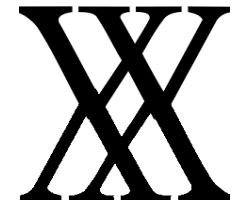




Content gender gap: how to improve the coverage of women on Wikipedia



Roger Bamkin & Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight

Wikimania 2015 | July 15-19, 2015 | Hotel Hilton Mexico City Reforma | Mexico City

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<https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/WikiProjectXX>

Join → WP:WikiProject XX

Tweet → @wikiprojectxx

Introductions

Roger Bamkin

User:Victuallers

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Victuallers>
- Editor since 2006
- Administrator since 2008
- Created >1,000 new articles
- Credited with >500? articles at *DYK?*
- Co-Founder, QRpedia, Monmouthpedia, Gibraltarpedia
- Former chair of Wikimedia UK



Photo credit: Pavel Hrdlička

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight

User:Rosiestep

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Rosiestep>
- Editor since 2007 with >100,000 edits
- Administrator since 2009
- Created >3,000 new articles
- Credited with >1,200 articles at *DYK?*
- Founder, WikiProject Women Writers, 2014
- Sr. Recruiter @ DaVita HealthCare Partners



Photo credit: Phoebe Ayers



Agenda

1. Introductions
 2. Scope
 3. Historical perspective
 4. What has been done to address systemic bias against women?
 5. What more can be done?
 6. Announcement
 7. Challenges
 8. Methodology
 9. Summary
 10. Discussion
 11. Appendix, further reading & acknowledgements
- We've placed some quotes in the sidebar, which are meaningful to us. Perhaps you'll like them, too.
 - Please refer to the Appendix for our references.


Scope

1. The problem we're addressing is the systemic bias against women, i.e. their biographies and their works -- broadly construed -- such as books, paintings, etc., across all languages
2. Off-topic:
 - a. Editor gender gap (*)
 - b. Language properties (article quality, wording)
 - c. Network properties (linking, categorization)

"It has been my philosophy of life that difficulties vanish when faced boldly,"

– Isaac Asimov "Foundation" (a book about an encyclopedia that changed history.)

Historical perspective

1. A quote from Simone de Beauvoir (1949) in: Beauvoir, S. D. (2012) *The Second Sex* 
2. A comparison of Wikipedia's systemic bias with Ramón Armando Rodríguez's "Diccionario biográfico, geográfico e histórico de Venezuela" (1957).

"It is not women's inferiority that has determined their historical insignificance: it is their historical insignificance that has doomed them to inferiority."

– Simone De Beauvoir (1949)

What have Wikipedians been doing to address the content gender gap issue?

1. In the English Wikipedia, we've created several WikiProjects:
 - a. WikiProject Women of psychology (2011)
 - b. WikiProject Womens' sport (2011)
 - c. WikiProject Women's History (2011)
 - d. WikiProject Women scientists (2012)
 - e. WikiProject Women artists (created in 2013)
 - f. WikiProject Women writers (2014)
 - g. etc. ...
2. Wikidata has developed redlists of missing women's biographies for the English language Wikipedia based on articles in other language Wikipedias ("Women in Red")
3. Researchers are studying the issue of content gender gap and reporting on it.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world."

—Margaret Mead

cont.

4. WikiWomen's History Month (March of each year) was launched in 2012 by the WikiWomen's Collaborative.

WikiWomen's History Month	2012	2015
Lists, new		29
Lists, expanded		6
Articles, new	120	646
Articles, expanded	55	161
Articles, FA		8
Articles, Good		8
Articles, DYK?	20	194
Articles, Portal	9	
Images, Featured		29
Images, POD		18
Images, gallery	55	104
Events	9	41

Is a category with five Mexican feminist writers impressive, or embarrassing when compared with the 45 articles on characters in "The Simpsons"?

– Noam Cohen, "New York Times" (2011)

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

– William James

cont.

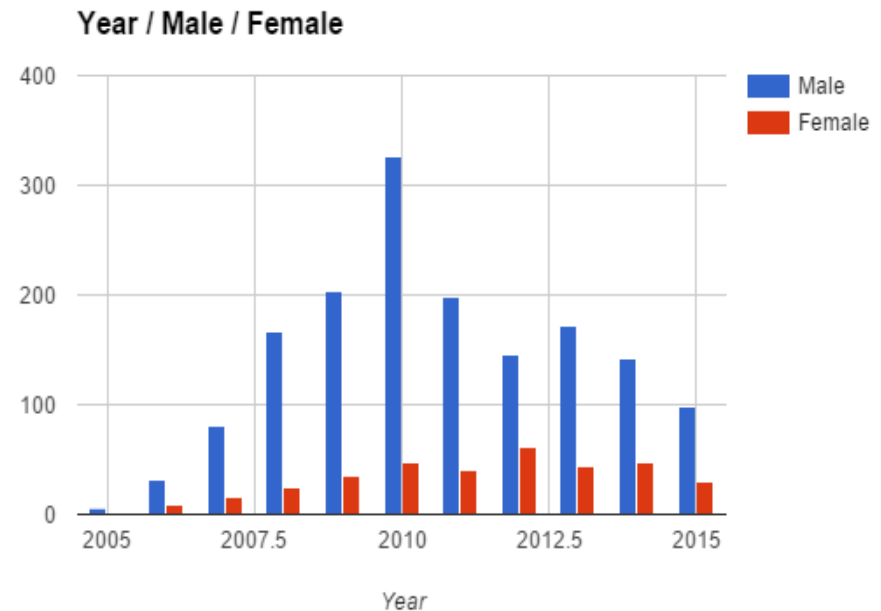
5. On the English Wikipedia, DYK establishes a useful quality check for articles. The following are statistics for the month of June in years 2005 through 2015, comparing the number of men's biographies with the number of women's biographies.

6. Events:

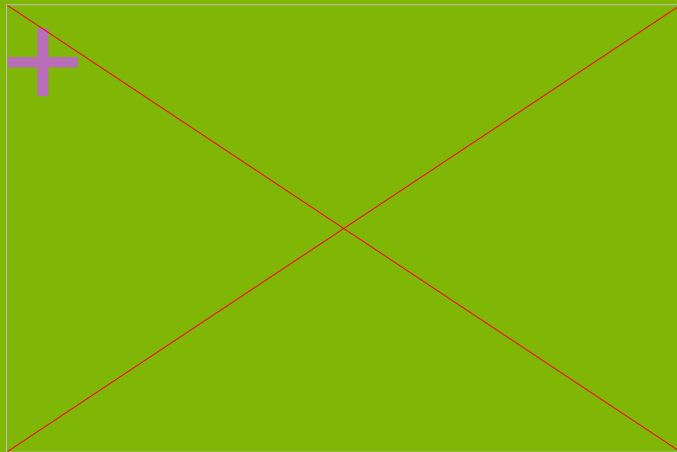
- Edit-a-thons and Salons
- ArtAndFeminism
- Ada Lovelace Day

7. Translation

- WikiProject Intertranswiki



**What more can we do
to improve the coverage
of women's biographies
and women's works
across all languages Wikipedias?**



Announcing:

WikiProject XX

(named after the chromosomes)

WIKIPEDIA

English

The Free Encyclopedia

4 853 000+ articles

Español

La enciclopedia libre

1 172 000+ artículos

Deutsch

Die freie Enzyklopädie

1 806 000+ Artikel

日本語

フリー百科事典

962 000+ 記事

中文

自由的百科全书

814 000+ 條目



Русский

Свободная энциклопедия

1 213 000+ статей

Français

L'encyclopédie libre

1 614 000+ articles

Italiano

L'enciclopedia libera

1 193 000+ voci

Polski

Wolna encyklopedia

1 106 000+ hasel

Português

A enciclopédia livre

871 000+ artigos

WikiProject XX: a container project for all things related to the content gender gap

- WikiProject XX, a **community-led project**, launched this weekend.
- WikiProject XX is a **collaborative space across languages** to track all things related to content gender gap.
- It is the **container project** for other projects in all languages whose scope covers women and their works, such as WikiProject Women Writers.
- **Wikidata** will be used to manage the project because of its size and scope. This work is being done Max Klein and Piotr Konieczny who have created the *Wikipedia Gender Inequality Index: (WIGI)*
- It has tabs with links for conferences, challenges, discussions, editathons, Inspire grantees' projects, newspaper articles, scholarly articles, etc.

*"Try not.
Do or do not.
There is no try."*

--Yoda

cont.

- **Help Wanted:** Data Coordinator Promotions/Events
Coordinator Lead Coordinators for each language.
- We are using the **expertise of WikiProject X**, to create an appealing work space.
- Create a **Wikimedia User Group**
- Work with the **Chapters**

“Every academic year more than 500 articles on Estonian Wikipedia are created as part of local cooperation with universities.”

Challenges

1. **July 2015**, WikiProject Biography has ~ **400,000** Start-Class (or better) biography articles.
2. **60,000 (15%) of these can be presumed to be women** (See appendix). So we increase women articles by 1 in 10.
3. WikiProject XX proposes to document and encourage the creation of **6,000** Start-Class articles on the English language Wikipedia. Other language Wikipedias are encouraged to come up with their own goals.
4. Multilingual GLAM projects have created ~ **1,000** start articles. so 6,000 is challenging but do-able (e.g. Derby Museum = 1250 articles)
5. We need **at least 100 editors** who agree with this idea, to become project members, and get to work.

In attempting to fix the problem of incomplete coverage on the encyclopedia, Wikipedians should not reinforce gender stereotypes or undervalued labor.

–Adrienne Wadewitz (2013)

Methodology

Wikitown GLAM projects and the new articles created by each projects in < 1 year:

- Derby - 1,250
- Monmouth - 550
- Gibraltar - 1,020
- Bremen - 400?

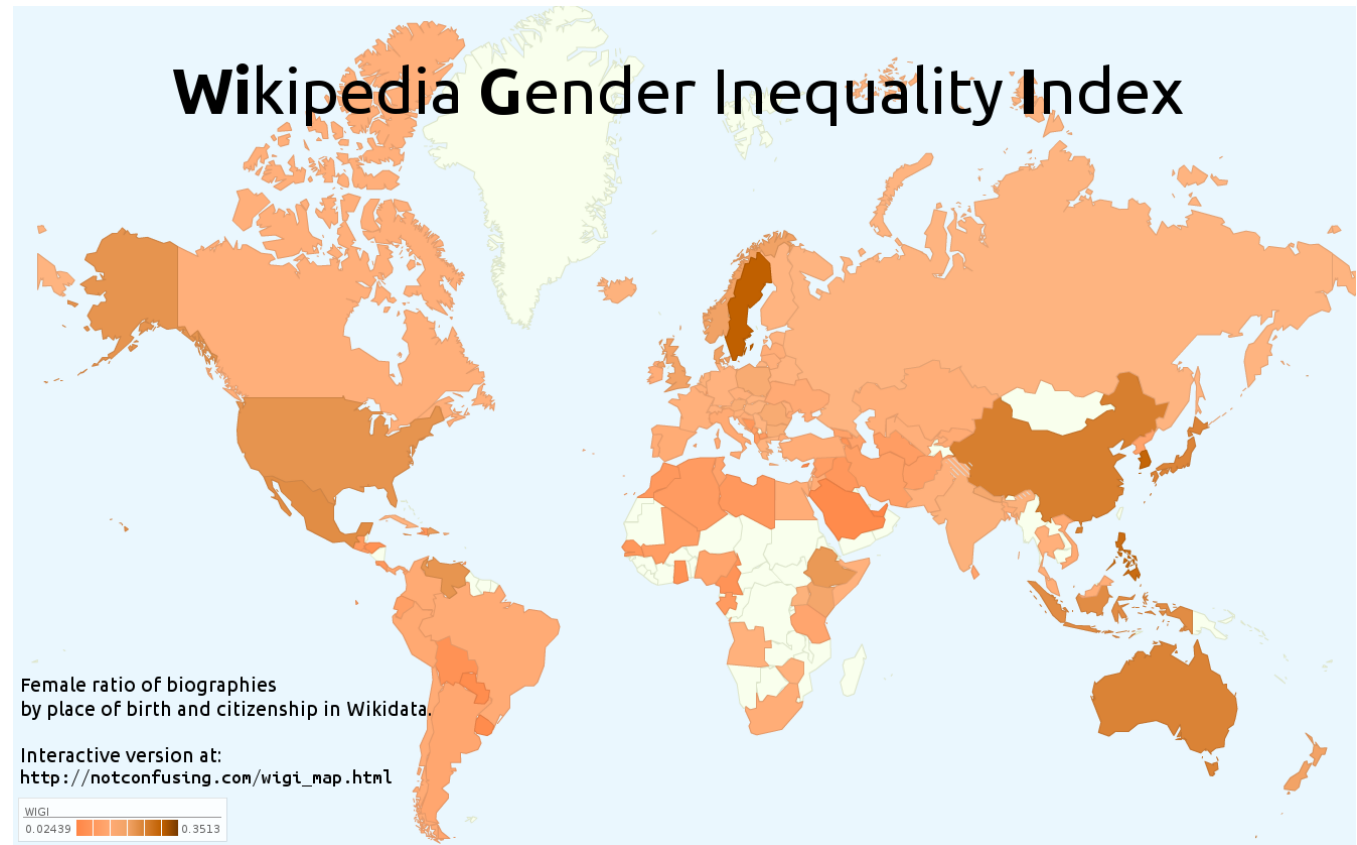


A new project, targeting 6,000 new articles across Wikipedias, is achievable using “**Wikitown**” methodology.

Methodology cont.

WIGI

documents the problem, but it also shows that we now have the tools to make XX possible.



Summary of key points

1. The global community can move the needle regarding **gender content bias**.
2. The Wikimedia Foundation realises the gender gap issue.
3. The issue is well documented by scholars and the press.
4. WikiProject XX is a container project across all languages so we can see the improvement one article at a time.
5. We needed metrics and the tools are emerging (e.g. Max and Piotr)
6. We hope to speak again at Wikimania 2016 to review our successes and pose new challenges.

“History will look back at Wikipedia to see who we thought was notable enough to have an article... there’s no room for bias in history books or encyclopedias...”

“Content gender gap? Wikipedians have solved other problems. We can solve this one, too. Let’s resolve, starting right now, to end the gender bias implicit in the world’s favourite encyclopedia.”

*–R.G. Stephenson-
Goodknight & R. Bamkin*

Open Discussion

Join → [WP:WikiProject XX](#)

Tweet → [@wikiprojectxx](#)

Etherpad → <https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/WikiProjectXX>



Thank You

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Appendix, Further Reading, Acknowledgements

WIKIPEDIA POLICIES

Wikipedia:Systemic bias

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Systemic_bias

Wikipedia:Notability (people)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability_%28people%29

Wikipedia:Identifying reliable sources https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Identifying_reliable_sources

Wikipedia:Verifiability

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability>

Wikipedia:Neutral point of view

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Neutral_point_of_view

WIKIPROJECTS

WikiProject Biography

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Biography

WikiProject Countering systemic bias/Gender gap task force/Media and research [https://en.wikipedia.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:)
[org/wiki/Wikipedia:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:)

[WikiProject_Countering_systemic_bias/Gender_gap_task_force/Media_and_research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Countering_systemic_bias/Gender_gap_task_force/Media_and_research)

WikiProject Women artists

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_artists

WikiProject Women scientists

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_scientists

WikiProject Women writers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_writers

WikiProject Women's History

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women%27s_History

WikiProject X

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_X

WikiProject XX

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_XX

WikiWomen's History Month

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiWomen%27s_History_Month

WIKIMEDIA

Thematic organizations

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_thematic_organizations#Thematic_organizations_in_discussion

Address the gender gap/FAQ

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Address_the_gender_gap/FAQ

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NEWS

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<http://www.newstatesman.com/lifestyle/2015/05/wikipedia-has-colossal-problem-women-dont-edit-it>

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<http://www.hastac.org/blogs/wadewitz/2013/07/26/wikipedias-gender-gap-and-complicated-reality-systemic-gender-bias>

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<https://lib.wvu.edu/about/news/2015/03/19/where-are-all-the-women-wikipedias-gender-gap/>

Possibilities for university cooperation: Estonian example

https://wikimania2015.wikimedia.org/wiki/Submissions/Possibilities_for_university_cooperation:_Estonian_example

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