Wikipedia's Content Gender Gap
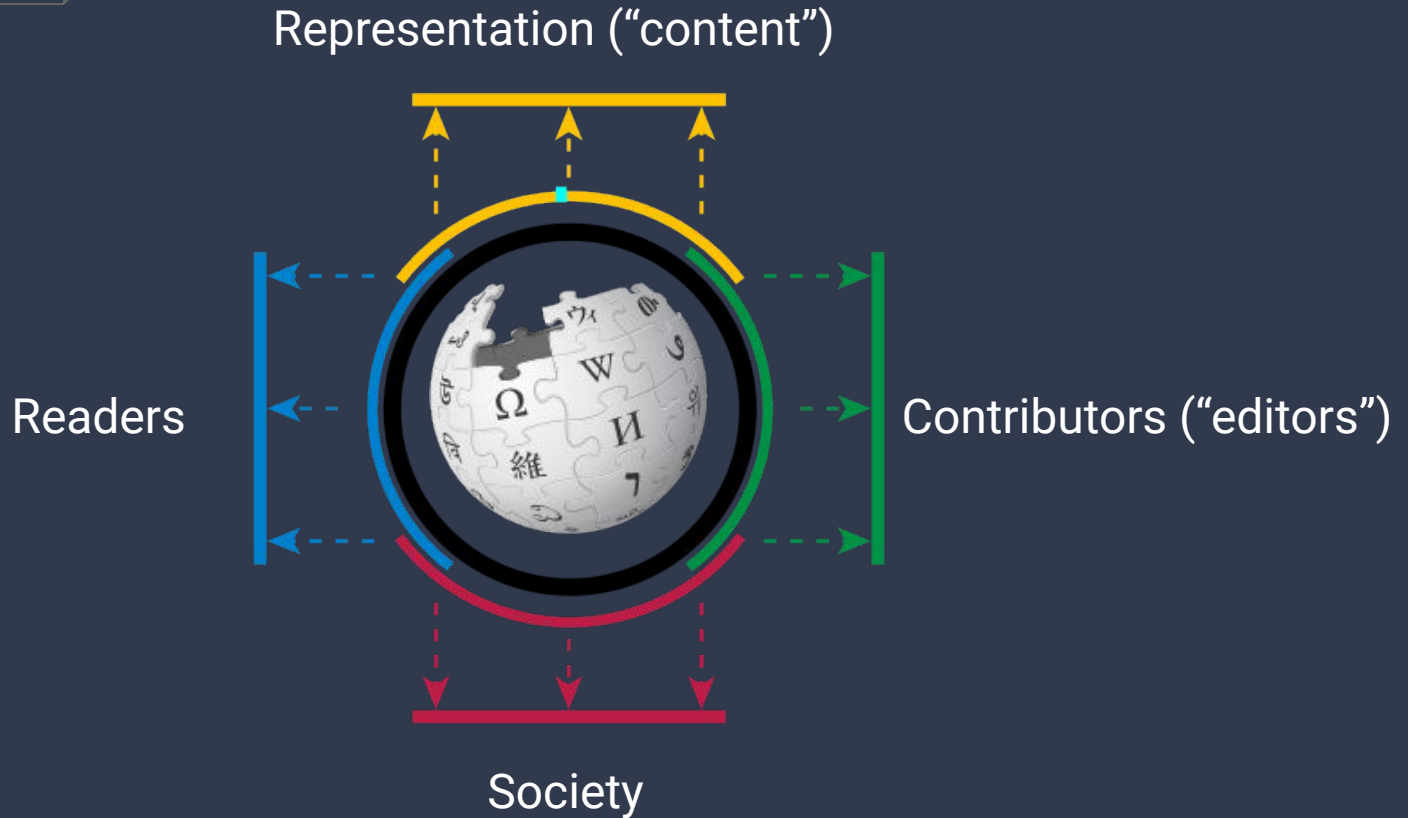
Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight | @Rosiestep
Visiting Scholar, Northeastern University
April 14, 2020 | CC BY-SA 4.0

Representation ("content")

Readers

Contributors ("editors")

Society

Readers

Reader survey

- March 2019, English Wikipedia, small-scale pilot of the WMF survey
- Survey respondents skewed heavily young and male.
  - 70% of respondents were under the age of 30.
  - 76% identified as male.

Contributors ("editors")

- *"... 77 percent of Wikipedia articles are written by just one percent of Wikipedia editors..."* (Daniel Oberhaus, "Motherboard, Tech by Vice", 7 Nov 2017)

- *"Just 3,541 Wikipedia editors are considered 'very active', and very few of them are female."* ("New Statesman", 8 Jan 2019)

Only **1** out of **10** Wikipedia editors is female!

Year	Survey	% of women	Comments
2010	United Nations University study	12.6%	
2011	Wikipedia Editor Survey	8.5%	The Wikimedia Foundation set a goal of 25% women editors by 2015
2015			No survey conducted
2018	Wikimedia Community Engagement Insights survey https://w.wiki/GUp	9%	

Women contributors

Content

<mark>Women's biographies</mark>
- 1957, *"Diccionario biográfico, geografico e histórico de Venezuela"*, Ramón Armando Rodriguez: <mark>3.6%</mark>
- October 2014, English Wikipedia: <mark>15.53%</mark>

"First Women, Second Sex", by Graells-Garrido, Lalmas, and Menczer in 2015 (https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/2700171.2791036):

> Differences in meta-data are similar to results noted in previous work, where women biographies contain more marriage-related events than men's. Sex-related content is more frequent in women biographies than men's, while cognition-related content is more frequent in men biographies than women's. A strong bias in the linking patterns results in a network structure in which articles about men are disproportionately more central than articles about women.

Metadata

	Selection	Extent	Framing
Internal comparison	There are more biographies of men than women on English Wikipedia (Klein et al. 2016)	Biographies of women scientists are lower quality, on average, than Wikipedia articles as a whole (Halfaker 2017)	The lead sections of biographies of women use terms like "divorce", "family" and "spouse" more than biographies of men (Wagner et al. 2016)
External comparison	Women scholars with high h-index are less likely to have Wikipedia articles compared to men scholars with comparable h-index (Schellekens et al. 2019)	Wikipedia biographies of notable men and women are both longer and more equal in length, on average, than biographies of those same people in *Encyclopedia Britannica*. (Reagle and Rhou 2011)*	Articles about professions on German Wikipedia are substantially more likely to include pictures of men than women, regardless of the relative proportion of men and women in that profession according to labor statistics. (Zagovora et al. 2017)
Reader needs	*Hypothetical: Wikipedia articles are less likely to show up in the first page of results of Google searches by women vs. searches by men.*	Top hits from Wikipedia's internal search for topic keywords related to women's interest (sourced from a magazine corpus) were more likely to be redirects than keywords sourced from mens' magazines (Menking et al. 2017)	*Hypothetical: Women seeking health information on Wikipedia are less satisfied with the way medical information is presented than are men seeking health information on Wikipedia.*

Research findings (https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Content_gaps_on_Wikipedia/Matrix)

Works
- Paintings
- Sculptures
- Books
- Magazines
- Schools
- Organizations
- Conferences
- etc.

Issues
- Health
- Suffrage
- etc.

Women's works and women's issues

Images
(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_supported_by_WikiProject_Women_in_Red)

Society

"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)

Women scientists articles by quality and importance

Quality	Importance					
	Top	High	Mid	Low	???	Total
GA					1	1
B	1				2	3
C		1	3	3	6	13
Start		4	5	10	19	38
Stub	1		2	5	18	26
List	2	1				3
Assessed	4	6	10	18	46	84
Unassessed					22	22
Total	4	6	10	18	68	106

Women scientists articles by quality and importance

Quality	Importance						
	Top	High	Mid	Low	NA	???	Total
FA	3	1	2	2			8
FL			1				1
GA	6	8	22	28			64
B	9	33	71	101		19	233
C	8	124	494	1,113		481	2,220
Start		86	615	3,572	1	1,891	6,165
Stub			57	1,238		746	2,041
List	4	7	26	10			47
Category					602		602
Disambig						2	2
File					17		17
Project					11		11
Template					4		4
NA					31		31
Other				2	17		19
Assessed	30	259	1,288	6,066	685	3,137	11,465
Unassessed						1	1
Total	30	259	1,288	6,066	685	3,138	11,466

Women scientists, new biographies
- Nov 1, 2012: 106
- Nov 1, 2013: 1,655
- Nov 1, 2014: 2,790
- Nov 1, 2015: 4,511
- Nov 1, 2016: 5,837
- Nov 1, 2017: 6,557
- Nov 1, 2018: 7,919
- Nov 1, 2019: 9,602
- Today: 11,488

WikiProject Women Scientists
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_scientists)

Women artists pages by quality	
Quality	Total pages
⊕ GA	1
B	2
C	6
Start	14
Stub	10
List	2
NA	2
Assessed	37
Total	37

Women artists pages by quality	
Quality	Total
★ FA	12
⊕ GA	52
B	277
C	1,505
Start	6,555
Stub	3,991
List	122
Category	459
File	18
Project	139
Template	14
NA	31
Assessed	13,175
Unassessed	57
Total	13,232

Women artists - new articles created
- Nov 27, 2013: 1,655
- Nov 27, 2014: 4,849
- Nov 27, 2015: 6,427
- Nov 27, 2016: 8,104
- Nov 27, 2017: 9,452
- Nov 27, 2018: 10,812
- Nov 27, 2019: 12,422
- As of today: 13,247

Number of women artist biographies
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_artists)

Women writers articles by quality and importance

Quality	Top	High	Mid	Low	NA	???	Total
⭐ FA	1						1
⊕ GA		1					1
B	7	1					8
C	3	6	3	2			14
Start	1		7	1			9
Stub			3	4		1	8
List	1					1	2
Category					1		1
Project					1		1
Assessed	13	8	13	7	2	2	45
Total	13	8	13	7	2	2	45

Women writers articles by quality and importance

Quality	Top	High	Mid	Low	NA	???	Total
⭐ FA	4	14	37	36			91
⭐ FL		1	4	4		1	10
Ⓐ A			2				2
⊕ GA	4	13	48	125		16	206
B	33	82	197	382	1	333	1,028
C	17	151	1,567	2,362	3	1,348	5,448
Start	1	86	2,158	5,894	20	7,093	15,252
Stub		3	956	3,777	69	5,931	10,736
List	2	3	37	66	1	70	179
Category					1,224		1,224
Disambig					2		2
File					44		44
Project					17		17
Template	1			1	187		189
NA		1		2	173		176
Other			1	1	29		31
Assessed	62	354	5,007	12,650	1,770	14,792	34,635
Unassessed			1	20		1,726	1,747
Total	62	354	5,008	12,670	1,770	16,518	36,382

Women writers and their written works - new articles created
- Sept 2, 2014: 45
- Sept 2, 2015: 22,978
- Sept 2, 2016: 25,776
- Sept 2, 2017: 27,603
- Sept 2, 2018: 30,606
- Sept 2, 2019: 34,641
- As of today: 36,397

WikiProject Women Writers (biographies & written works)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_writers)

Wikipedia:WikiProject Women in Red [edit]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Community focused on overcoming systemic gender bias (Edit)

WikiProject Women in Red (talk) (photos)

🔔 Article alerts | 📅 Events | 💡 Ideas | ✅ Metrics | 📧 Outreach/List | 📰 Press | ✴ Redlist index | 📖 Resources | 🏅 Showcase

Welcome to Women in Red (WiR)! We are a group of editors of all genders living around the world focused on improving content systemic bias in the wiki movement. We recognized a need for this work as, in October 2014, only 15.53% of English Wikipedia's biographies were about women.[1] Founded in July 2015, WiR strives to increase the percentage, which has reached **18.34%** as of 8 April 2020. But that means, according to WHGI, only 311,862 of our 1,700,506 biographies are about women. Not impressed? "Content gender gap" is a form of systemic bias, and WiR addresses it in a positive way through shared values.

1. ^ Eduardo Graells-Garrido, Mounia Lalmas, Filippo Menczer, "First Women, Second Sex: Gender Bias in Wikipedia" 📄, arXiv, 9 February 2015, p. 3.

Wikipedia

Our Wikipedia WikiProject focuses on creating content regarding women's biographies, women's works, and women's issues. Our editors create articles in many different language Wikipedias. The objective is to turn "redlinks" into blue ones. That's why we are called "Women in Red".

We take an inclusive view towards subject matter, editors, and language communities:

- Editors: We do not focus on the gender of the editor. Anyone/everyone is welcome to be a member, participant, enthusiast of Women in Red. If you participate in WiR, you can join up officially using the box in the top right-hand corner of this page. You are also welcome to

Short URL: https://w.wiki/347
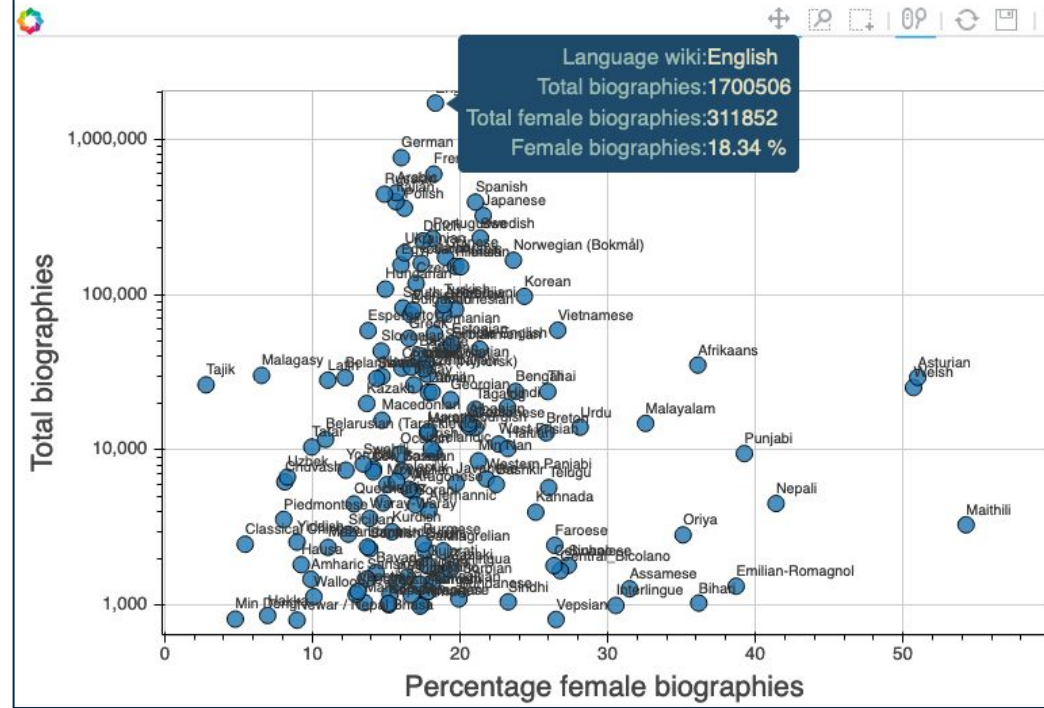
Meet our members!

Jump4130

Victuallers

97198

View Full List

- New articles created:
  Jul 18, 2015 - Mar 31, 2020:
  127,685
- Percentage of biographies about women on English Wikipedia:
  - Oct 2014: 15.53%
  - Apr 2020: 18.34%

All time, as of 08 Apr '20

Language wiki: English
Total biographies: 1700506
Total female biographies: 311852
Female biographies: 18.34 %

April 2020, Volume 6, Issue 4, Numbers 150, 151, 159, 160, 161, 162

April offerings at Women in Red.

Online events:

- New: Gender studies / Dance / Geofocus: Caucasus
- Photo and image campaign: #VisibleWikiWomen
- Continuing initiatives: #1day1woman / Sports!

Editor feedback:

- Schedule planning at the Virtual Ideas Cafe
- Join the conversations on our talkpage

Social media: Facebook / Instagram / Pinterest / Twitter

Stay in touch: Join WikiProject Women in Red / Opt-out of notifications

Monthly "newsletter" delivered to your Wikipedia talkpage

---

wikiwomeninred
25.5K Tweets

Princess Viktoria of Prussia
(Friederik...

Christina of Holstein-Gottorp [edit]

Christina of Holstein-Gottorp (13 April 1573 in Kiel – 8
December 1625 at Gripsholm Castle) was a Queen
consort ... consort of king Charles IX of
Sw... Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden,
S... She served as regent in 1605,
an... spouse, and in 1611, during the

Christina of Holstein-Gottor

Edit profile

wikiwomeninred
@WikiWomenInRed

DYK that 18.26% of English #Wikipedia's biogs are about women? Not
impressed? Help us fix the #gendergap; We turn redlinks blue.

⊙ Worldwide   ⌁ womeninred.org   ▦ Joined July 2015

5,955 Following   **8,664** Followers

Tweets   Tweets & replies   Media   Likes

Follow us on Twitter

Occupations [edit]

Title or field [edit]

A [edit]
- Academics (CS) (WD) **(L)**
- Activists (CS) (WD)
- Actresses (WD) **(L)**
  - Actresses by country (WD)
- Animators (WD)
- Announcers (WD) **(L)**
- Anthropologists (CS) (WD)
- Archaeologists (CS) (WD)
- Architects (CS) (WD)
- Archivists (WD)
- Art critics (WD)
- Art historians (WD)
- Artists (CS) (WD)
- Astronomers (WD)
- Authors (WD) **(L)**
- Aviators (CS) (WD)

B [edit]
- Biologists (CS) (WD)
- Book artists (CS)
- Botanists (CS) (WD)
- Businesspeople (CS) (WD)

- Crafters (CS)
- Critics (WD)
- Curators (WD)

D [edit]
- Dancers (CS) (WD)
- Development thinking (CS)
- Diplomats (CS) (WD)
- DJs (WD)

E [edit]
- Earth scientists (CS) (WD)
- Ecologists (CS) (WD)
- Economists (WD)
- Editors (WD)
- Educators (CS) (WD)
- Egyptologists (WD)
- Embroiderers (WD)
- Engineers (CS) (WD)
  - Civil engineers (WD)
- Entertainers (CS) (WD) **(L)**
- Entomologists (WD)
- Environmentalists (WD)
- Esperantists (WD)
- Essayists (WD)

- Illustrators (WD)
- Indologists (WD)
- Installation artists & printmakers (WD)
- Inventors (CS) (WD)

J [edit]
- Journalists (CS) (WD)

L [edit]
- Labor activists (CS)
- Law (CS) (WD)
- Leaders (CS)
- Librarians (CS) (WD)
- Linguists (WD)

M [edit]
- Mathematicians (CS) (WD)
- Mayors (WD)
- Medicine (CS)
- Military women (CS) (WD)
- Milliners (WD)
- Missionaries (WD)
- Models (WD) **(L)**
- Museum people (CS)

- Physicians (WD)
  - African-American women physicians (WD)
  - *see also Medicine*
- Physicists (CS) (WD)
- Physiologists (WD)
- Pianists (WD)
- Playwrights (CS) (WD)
- Poets (CS) (WD 1) (WD 2) **(L)**
- Polar women (CS)
- Political scientists (WD)
- Politicians (CS) (WD) **(L)**
  - Politicians by country (WD)
- Prisoners (CS) (WD)
- Psychologists (CS) (WD)
- Publishers (WD)

R [edit]
- Radio personalities (WD)
- Religion (CS) (WD)
  - Missionaries (WD)
  - Theologian (WD)
  - 1000 Women (CS & WD)
- Researchers (WD)

- Socia
- Socia
- Socio
- Songw (WD)
- Sound
- Space
- Spies
- Spous leade
- Statis
- STEM
- Suffra

T [edit]
- Techn
- Techn
- TED s
- Theat
- Trade
- Trans
- Trave

U [edit]
- Unive

"Redlists" - lists with redlinked names

Wikipedia:WikiProject Women in Red/Missing articles by occupation/Activists

< Wikipedia:WikiProject Women in Red | Missing articles by occupation
Listeria redlist concerned with activists (Wikidata · Import · Edit and import)

| Index | Activists (CS) | Activists (WD) | Feminists (CS) | Feminists (WD) | Suffragists (CS & WD) |

WiR redlist index: *Activists*

Welcome to WikiProject Women in Red (WiR). Our objective is to turn **red links** into **blue ones**. Our scope is women's biographies, women's works, and women's issues, broadly construed.

This list of red links is intended to serve as a basis for creating new articles on the English Wikipedia. All new articles must satisfy Wikipedia's notability criteria; red links on this list may or may not qualify. Lists that are not updated by ListeriaBot (talk) need to be updated manually.

This table of missing women biographies was generated using Wikidata for Wikipedia:WikiProject Women/Women in Red. See Template:Women in Red for other lists by focus area or by country. The list will be refreshed roughly daily to remove blue-links - no manual editing is required.

The table can be sorted by clicking on column headers. The 'sitelinks' column indicates the number of links to information about the women on other wikipedias (including commons, source and quote) and is often an indicator of a biography article on another language wikipedia. Sitelinks can be accessed via the wikidata link in the 'item' column. Updates of this Wikidata based list and all other lists have been disabled by blocking the bot. See Wikipedia:Bots/Noticeboard#Re-examination of ListeriaBot for more information.

name	image	description	country of citizenship	date of birth	date of death	place of birth	place of death	wikidata item	site links	# of library holdings
Geneviève Jacques		French activist	France	1944				Q16638819	1	12009
Minerva Mirabal		Dominican lawyer and political activist	Dominican Republic	1926-03-12	1960-11-25	Salcedo, Dominican Republic		Q6017004	3	9248
Mildred Loving		US-American human rights activist (1939–2008)	United States of America	1939-07-22	2008-05-02		Central Point, Virginia	Q433806	3	9209
Patria Mirabal		Dominican Republic mecanógrafo and political activist (1924–1960) ♀	Dominican Republic	1924-02-27	1960-11-25	Salcedo, Dominican Republic		Q6066408	4	9046
Anne Ubersfeld		French teacher of Romance languages	France	1918-06-04	2010-10-28	Besançon	Paris	Q2851303	2	8649

A redlist of women activists who don't have an article in English Wikipedia.

Gender Gap by occupation

Occupation ▲	Total ▾	Total with gender ▾	Females ▾	% Fem. ▾	Gap	Males ▾	% Mal. ▾	Others ▾	% Oth. ▾
agent	3,311,455	3,209,217	573,452	17.869 %		2,634,587	82.094 %	1,178	0.037 %
worker	1,642,656	1,577,779	215,334	13.648 %		1,361,943	86.320 %	502	0.032 %
creator	1,568,603	1,520,948	365,985	24.063 %		1,154,148	75.883 %	815	0.054 %
professional	1,119,574	1,073,605	150,530	14.021 %		922,753	85.949 %	322	0.030 %
sports figure	807,432	798,712	117,139	14.666 %		681,493	85.324 %	80	0.010 %
artist	795,516	776,856	219,995	28.319 %		556,321	71.612 %	540	0.070 %
athlete	784,450	776,549	115,705	14.900 %		660,766	85.090 %	78	0.010 %
author	612,323	595,067	120,367	20.227 %		474,390	79.720 %	310	0.052 %
competitive player	536,164	530,903	52,640	9.915 %		478,234	90.079 %	29	0.005 %
position	515,678	500,024	76,387	15.277 %		423,523	84.701 %	114	0.023 %
politician	513,578	483,366	56,182	11.623 %		427,072	88.354 %	112	0.023 %
erudite	507,992	491,360	78,387	15.953 %		412,860	84.024 %	113	0.023 %
writer	447,502	434,403	93,448	21.512 %		340,702	78.430 %	253	0.058 %
researcher	444,189	429,036	65,341	15.230 %		363,604	84.749 %	91	0.021 %
scientist	294,872	283,041	41,699	14.732 %		241,280	85.246 %	62	0.022 %
musician	256,387	250,804	61,144	24.379 %		189,496	75.555 %	164	0.065 %
association football player	251,162	249,117	11,388	4.571 %		237,725	95.427 %	4	0.002 %
actor	245,492	241,279	108,133	44.817 %		132,879	55.073 %	267	0.111 %

Women's biographies by occupation (https://www.denelezh.org/)

Thank you