

# Wikipedia & Equity

Kelly Doyle

Wikipedian in Residence for Gender Equity |  
WVU Libraries

Vanderbilt University | #OAWeek | October 26, 2017



# Wikipedia: the 21st century encyclopedia



*“Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing.”*

*-Jimmy Wales*

# Wikipedia facts and figures

- Freely accessible and editable
- 5th most visited website globally
- 280+ language Wikipedias
- Over 15 million page views per month → nearly ½ of all page views come from mobile devices
- 32 million media files on Wikimedia Commons
- All edits and versions recorded forever (revision history)
- 75k active users / month, 11k very active users/month



# Wikipedian in Residence for Gender Equity

The project and the WiR model

Route to Wikipedia and WiR

- Edit count on Wikipedia

First ever gender equity WiR

Why have a gender equity WiR?





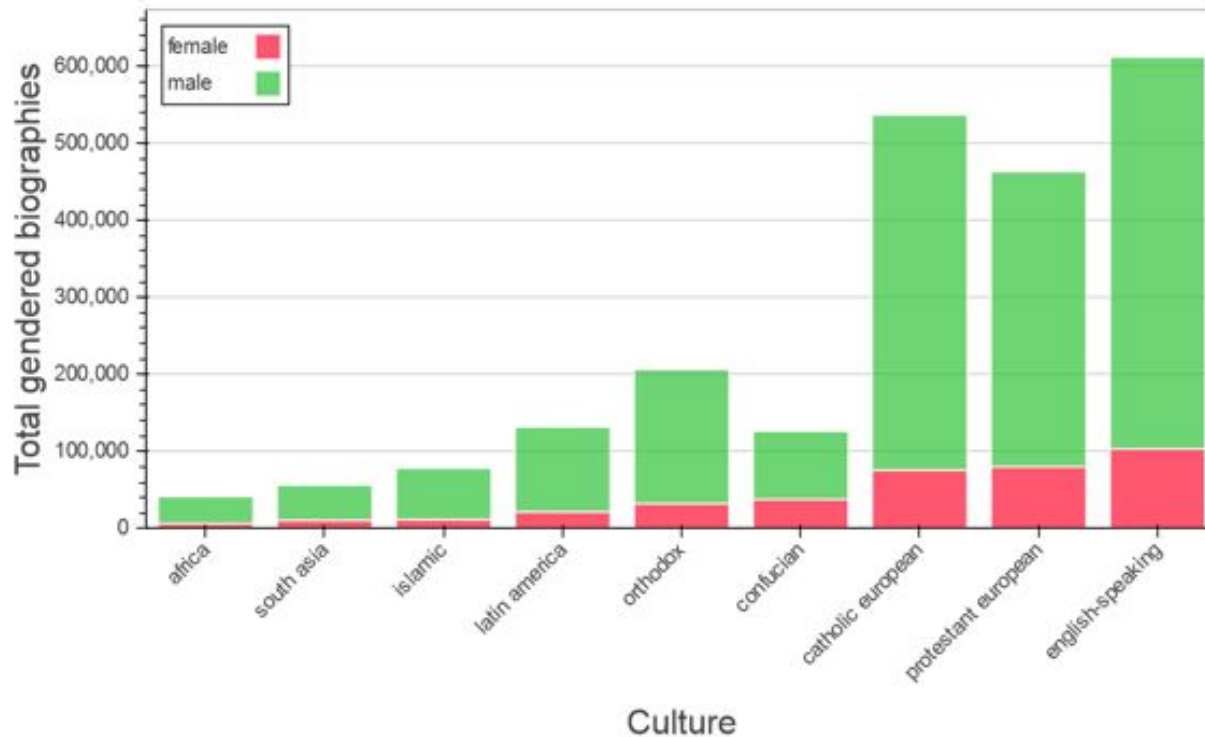
# Content gender gap? Make the invisible visible

## Percentage of women's biographies

November 2014	October 2017
15%	17.12%
English language Wikipedia	English language Wikipedia

**Only 255,667 of  
Wikipedia's 1,492,988  
biographies are about  
women** (OCT figure)

# Gender by culture as of February 2017, Wikidata Human Gender Indicators (WHGI)





# We're seeing some progress in writing women's history ...

Spanish Wikipedia - 23% of biographies are about women

English Wikipedia - 17.12%

Indonesian Wikipedia - 10%

**The problem: How  
could I design a  
scalable project in  
12 months?**

April 9, 2016

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/10/fashion/sorority-ivy-league-feminists.html>

# Some Stats

Over 750,000 undergraduate members,  
in 12,000 chapters, on 800 campuses in  
the US and Canada

Over 9 million alumni Greek members

Over 85% of the student leaders on  
campuses are also Greek members

GPA: 2.5 - 3.0

Connected networks of students  
and alumni

Philanthropy /Raising funds

Millions of hours served per year

# Wikipedian in Residence for Gender Equity

Service Learning to scale gender gap

→ sororities

→ graduate students

Women's and Gender Studies  
Department/s

Wikimedia Foundation grant  
2018-2019



# How can this scale?



**But, Wikipedia has  
other gaps too ...**

**... racial, geographic,  
traditional forms of  
knowledge ...**



Why does an OA platform have  
diversity & representation  
issues?



**On Wikipedia, 20% of the world  
writes about 80% of the world.**

...

**Most of what is written about the  
global South is written by the global  
North.**

# Language Wikipedias

You might speak Mandarin, Bengali or Arabic, all of which are in the top 10 most spoken languages.

But there are only 52,000 articles in the Bengali Wikipedia (a language spoken by 237 million people), while the Dutch Wikipedia has nearly 2 million articles for a country whose language is spoken by 28 million people.

# Systemic Bias



- Marginalized communities
- Barriers to entry
- Policies → everybody and nobody is in charge of Wikipedia

**The internet is not  
(yet) for and from us  
all**

**What is the Wikimedia  
Foundation doing to solve  
these problems?**

# Open Access Bot

Imagine a bot that adds free to read links next to paywalled references on Wikipedia, with icons to identify them. We built it:

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





# Wikipedia Zero Campaign

- Since August 2012
- 52 countries
- 68 mobile operators
- It's estimated that more than 309 million more people can now access Wikipedia free of data charges

[https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Wikipedia\\_Zero](https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Wikipedia_Zero)



**WIKIPEDIA**

**zero**

What can we do about it?

# Changing the Face of Human Knowledge



**WIKIMUJERES**  
Grupo de Usuarías



Whose Knowledge?



**WIKIPEDIA15**  
#1Lib1Ref



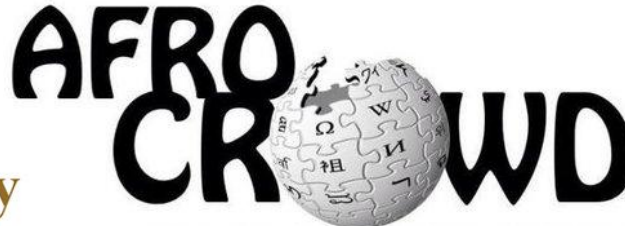
**ART + FEMINISM**



**WikiProject  
Women in Red**



**The Wikipedia Library**



AFRO FREE CULTURE CROWDSOURCING WIKIMEDIA

**Wikipedia is not  
complete**

Open in order to  
*equalize*

# Questions?

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