Librarians as Wikipedians

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Hands up

Who uses Wikipedia?
Hands up

Who has told their patrons/students not to use Wikipedia?
Don’t use Wikipedia because ...

- it is not to be trusted
- anyone can edit and add content
- vandals deliberately change entries

*Readers don’t understand how Wikipedia is created and how to use it within a research process and other critical thinking and digital research skills*
Outline of the presentation

Libraries and Wikimedia

Role of Wikipedia and Decolonisation and Africanisation

Going in Under the Bonnet of Wikipedia

Projects to consider joining
Wikimedia Foundation

- Global movement whose mission is to bring free educational content to the world
- This is supported by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation through various projects and 37 chapters across the world including South Africa
- Wikipedia is the best-known of the Wikimedia projects. But not all Wikis are Wikimedia.
Libraries and Wikimedia

- Libraries are fundamental allies to the mission of Wikimedia: collecting and disseminating the sum of all knowledge.
- Both aim to bring knowledge to a wider audience
- To create spaces where learning can happen
- And people can find the resources they need
- Wikimedia projects form a central point within the semantic web - our information highway
Wikimedia Projects
Wikipedia

- Is one of the most heavily used websites in the world
- Exists in over 300 languages
- More than 50 million encyclopaedic articles curated by around 200 000 regular editors and viewed on about 1,4 billion devices monthly
For librarians to use and understand Wikipedia we need to be familiar with this resource.

We need to know how Wikipedia formats, collects and disseminates information.
Africanisation AND Decolonization

● Acknowledge:
  ○ that there is a western bias,
  ○ that there is a gender gap;
  ○ that not all knowledges are represented

● Opportunity:
  ○ For Innovation, reinvention etc.
  ○ Using Wikipedia as a tool for knowledge diffusion and the decolonisation of the internet
Africanisation AND Decolonization

● Africanisation
  ○ Adding content about Africa and Africans, written by Africans, in the languages of Africans

● For SA Librarians
  ○ add local (South African and African) content;
  ○ to add content in our official languages (not just English) either by writing in the languages or translating
  ○ Adding local content to the sister projects
# South African Languages on Wikipedia

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<thead>
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Joshua Pulumo Mohapeloa

Joshua Pulumo Mohapeloa (1908–1982) was a prominent choral music composer in Sesotho, the native language of the BaSotho people of Southern Africa.[1][2]

### Early life
[edit | edit source]
Joshua Mohapeloa, a member of the Batsang clan, was born in Mokhotlong in Lesotho, Southern Africa.[1] Joshua Mohapeloa's family converted to Christianity in the 19th century. Both his grandfather Joel Mohapeloa and his father Joel Mohapeloa were reverends, and it is evident from his works that Christianity influenced Joshua Mohapeloa. After completing his elementary schooling, Joshua Mohapeloa enrolled at the PEMS (Parish Evangelical Missionary Society) mission institution Monja Training College from 1923 to 1927.[5] It was at Monja Training College that he studied music and music education, completing his Junior Certificate in 1927.[5][6]

### Education
[edit | edit source]
In 1929 Joshua Mohapeloa enrolled at Fort Hare College, and in 1929 completed his teacher training.[3][6] Joshua Mohapeloa also enrolled at the University of the Witwatersrand and became a student of Percival Kirby.[6]

### Musical Influence
[edit | edit source]
From the early 1930s to 1937, Joshua Mohapeloa was active as the choirmaster of the then Monja Choirists. A number of Mohapeloa's own works began to be performed by the Choirists during this
The AfroCine Project

Vision

“To bridge the huge content gap and improve on the systemic bias, in-respect of the African continent, by getting real African stories and viewpoints into the mainstream. This will be achieved by making: articles, citations, images, videos, and data, about the historical and contemporary African cinema, theatre and arts, to be readily available and easily accessible, both online and offline, and in different languages.”

Overview
Welcome to Women in Red (WIR), a WikiProject whose objective is to turn "redlinks" into blue ones. That's why we are called "Women in Red". We recognized a need for this work as in October 2014 only 15.53% of the English Wikipedia's biographies were about women. Founded in July 2015, WIR strives to improve the figure, which has reached 18.04% as of 23 September 2019. But that means, according to WHGpdp, only 299,330 of our 1,659,498 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.

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

- Subject matter: If the subject of the article self-identifies as a woman -binary and/or non-binary and/or other- that person is included within the scope of Women in Red. Click on our Redlinks index to see our lists of missing articles by focus area, occupation and nationality. Like everything else on Wikipedia, this is incomplete, so feel free to add others which are pertinent to our scope (women's biographies, women's works, women's issues).

- 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 encouraged to sign your contributions to articles with your user name, if you have one; this helps with page histories and also allows others to find your contributions if they are looking for something you may have added.
his media is available in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, cataloged under the National Archives Identifier (NAID) 557858.
● We need to understand the components of a Wikipedia article - the notable topic, neutral point of view, no original research, references to solid, reliable, secondary sources and links to other Wikipedia articles
Climate change

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For current warming of the Earth's climate system due to human activities, see Global warming. For the study of past climate change, see Palaeoclimatology. For temperatures on the longest time scales, see Geologic temperature record. For a list of most climate-related pages, see Index of climate change articles.

Climate change occurs when changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that remain in place for an extended period of time. This length of time can be as short as a few decades to as long as millions of years. The climate system comprises five interacting parts, the atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), cryosphere (ice and permafrost), biosphere (living things), and lithosphere (earth's crust and upper mantle). The climate system receives nearly all of its energy from the sun, with a relatively tiny amount from earth's interior. The climate system also gives off energy to outer space. The balance of incoming and outgoing energy, and the passage of the energy through the climate system, determines Earth's energy budget. When the incoming energy is greater than the outgoing energy, earth's energy budget is positive and the climate system is warming. If more energy goes out, the energy budget is negative and earth experiences cooling.

The energy moving through Earth's climate system finds expression in weather, varying on geographic scales and time. Long-term averages of weather in a region constitute the region's climate. Climate change is a long-term, self-sustaining trend in climate. Such changes can be the result of "internal variability," when natural processes inherent to the various parts of the climate system alter Earth's energy budget. Examples include cyclical ocean patterns such as the well-known El Niño Southern Oscillation and less familiar Pacific decadal oscillation and Atlantic multidecadal oscillation. Climate change can also result from "external forcing," when events outside of the climate system's components nonetheless produce changes within the systems, including changes in solar output and volcanism.

Human activities can also change climate, and are presently driving climate change through global warming.¹ There is no general agreement in scientific, media, or policy documents as to the precise term to be used to refer to anthropogenic forced change; either "global warming" or "climate change" may be used.² The first describes the average effect on a global scale, whilst the second...
separating current climate change from the general phenomena

The current article, even though correct is misleading. We the media talk about climate change it doesn’t talk about the repeated phenomena but about current climate change that is cause due to the emission of green house gases. I think we better have two article or to make it more clear. — Proceeding unsigned comment added by [User ](talk) [Special:Contributions/] (User talk: [Edit conflict] Hello IP, I think you’re completely right. The article about current climate change is found under *global warming*, which is not the place most people expect it to be. We’re working on getting consensus to have both climate change and global warming point to the same page, as these two terms are very similar. General information about climate change will then probably be found under different articles, such as the *climate system*. Alternatively, we can change this article’s name to something like: *climate change in the past and future*. Bear with us, this consensus seeking might take a while.

@NEAG: more evidence people don’t always read the top note, yet another reason for our ideas to go forward. Femke Nijssen (talk) 12:34, 5 August 2019 (UTC)

How about *climate change cycles* for the cycle of the climate changes: sun 11 year cycle, milankovitch cycle etc etc. And keep the climate change article for the current climate change (that is mostly due to emission of green house gases). 31.154.23.74 (talk) 13:00, 5 August 2019 (UTC)

or maybe *natural climate change* to separate it from human induced climate change: 31.154.23.74 (talk) 13:03, 5 August 2019 (UTC)

Natural climate change is an option for me if we decide on a separate article about this (instead of the current discussion at *climate system*). Climate change cycles implies that all current climate changes in cycles: back and forth. That is not entirely true: climate change induced by plate tectonics works in one direction for instance. The same goes for the climate change that was a consequence of living creatures ‘inventing’ photosynthesis: the “sudden” drop in CO2 caused quite a lot of cooling. Femke Nijssen (talk) 13:33, 5 August 2019 (UTC)

I agree we need to resolve this perennial issue with a consensus to change to something else, but I also think we have our hands full getting the project up and going, and doing the housekeeping that we would do anyway whether we tackle this or not. As we previously discussed, Femke, all that housekeeping will need to happen regardless and its state of being *not done* has been cited as a reason to make no change in the past. So.... its tedious and time consuming, but .... on with the job, as far as I’m concerned. NewsAndEventsGuy (talk) 14:27, 5 August 2019 (UTC)

Is there going to be any progress regarding this issue? — Proceeding unsigned comment added by 31.154.23.73 (talk) 12:20, 27 August 2019 (UTC)

Depends if everyone keeps asking other people that question instead of asking themselves “What can I do to help resolve this issue and will I actually do it?” NewsAndEventsGuy (talk) 12:25, 27 August 2019 (UTC)
Authoritative

• All article content has to be VERIFIABLE.
  • A RELIABLE source must be able to support the material
  • All quotations must include an inline citation to a source that directly supports the material
  • Must be a RELIABLE, PUBLISHED secondary source (or to a lesser extent tertiary or primary sources)
• Articles must NOT CONTAIN ORIGINAL RESEARCH.
  • “original research” (facts, allegations, and ideas) for which no reliable published sources exist.
  • Wikipedia does not publish original thought. All material in Wikipedia must be attributable to a reliable, published source.
  • Additionally, quotations and any material challenged or likely to be challenged must be supported by inline citations.
• All articles must be written from a NEUTRAL POINT OF VIEW.
  • Means representing fairly, proportionately and as far as possible without editorial bias, all the significant views published by reliable sources on a topic
  • Bottom Line: Articles must not take sides, but should explain the sides, fairly and without editorial bias. This applies to both what you say and how you say it.
  • Articles must also comply with copyright.
● Wikipedia articles cover *notable topics*—those that have gained sufficiently significant attention by the world at large and over a period of time.

● The notability guideline does not determine the content of articles, but only whether the topic should have its own article.

● Bottom Line: If no reliable independent sources can be found on a topic, Wikipedia should not have an article on it.
What else makes a good article?

- Well-written - clear, concise and understandable to a broad audience
- Contains a list of all references i.e. all sources of information used
- No copyright violations nor plagiarism
- Stable (meaning doesn't change from day to day because of an ongoing edit or content dispute)
- Illustrated by relevant and appropriate media (images, video, audio) with correct copyright
What makes a good source

- Published: in a source with a reputation for editorial quality, and peer-reviewed if possible.
- Reliable: it's a source you'd point a patron to if they wanted to know more.
- Supports the text: the source should back up what is stated. If it doesn't, but is a good general resource for the topic, consider adding the source to a "further reading" section.
Though Wikipedia favours open-access or publicly available sources, this is not a requirement: using appropriate offline, rare, or hard to access sources might be the best option.

Most reliable sources (in general)

- Peer Review journals; Books published by university presses; University level textbooks
- Magazines, journals and books published by respected publishing houses; Mainstream newspapers
Combating vandalism

- In many cases, the vandalism is automatically detected and reverted by a bot. The vandal is always warned with no human intervention.
- Wikipedia has a special page that lists all the most recent changes. Some editors will monitor these changes for possible vandalism.
- Any registered user can watch a page that they have created or edited or that they otherwise have an interest in. This functionality also enables users to monitor a page for vandalism.
- Any reader who comes across vandalism by chance can revert it.
Project to get involved in during Open Access Week
#1lib1ref project

By adding a footnote to a reliable source in any Wikipedia article, you help Wikipedia readers worldwide.
Want to join the Wikibrarians? Especially #1Lib1Ref!

Let’s get together tomorrow (Friday)

10.30 am (Tea time)

Exhibition Hall