#1Lib1Ref: How Library Staff Can Help Make Wikipedia Even Better

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"Imagine a world where every librarian added one more reference to Wikipedia."

--#1Lib1Ref campaign slogan

Q: What is #1Lib1Ref?

A: Wikipedia's annual campaign to encourage librarians to improve Wikipedia by adding citations to reputable sources in Wikipedia articles.

Q: When is the next #1Lib1Ref?

A: Jan. 15 – Feb. 3, 2019. #1Lib1Ref was established in 2016 to mark the 15th anniversary of Wikipedia's founding on Jan. 15, 2001.

Wikipedia facts

- 302 different language versions (292 active, 10 inactive)
- Wikipedia.org is the 5th most popular website (after Google, YouTube, Facebook, and Baidu)
- English Wikipedia:

    5.7+ million articles (12% of all Wikipedia articles are in English)

    ~700 new pages created each day

    34.8+ million registered Wikipedia editors

    but… only 134,000+ are considered active (have edited in the last 30 days)

    and… only 8.5 – 16% are female (based on surveys and research)

How participating can benefit librarians

- Share expertise with a worldwide audience
- Promote the role of scholarly information
- Develop a deeper understanding of the inner workings of a resource widely used on college campuses
- Gain practical, hands-on experience editing Wikipedia articles
- Offer teaching librarians a new approach for placing Wikipedia in context for their professional practice, especially around issues related to digital literacy
- Provide a launch pad for further Wikipedia programming, activities, and information literacy initiatives such as edit-a-thons, course assignments, and instruction
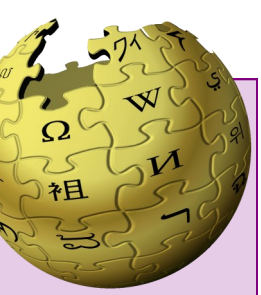
How participating can benefit libraries

- Build community among library staff members
- Elevate and showcase the role of libraries as information literacy leaders on campus
- Develop in-house expertise and knowledge about Wikipedia
- Strengthen information in Wikipedia about local and institutional resources

How #1Lib1Ref benefits Wikipedia and its users

- Increases the rigor and quality of articles
- Closes gaps in documentation and evidence
- Provides readers with more entry points to explore the research behind an article
- Helps address the gender imbalance among Wikipedia editors and content

Tips for coordinating your library's involvement

- Provide hands-on training and support along with adequate documentation
- Organize group training and editing sessions to encourage camaraderie and knowledge sharing
- Ask participants to create their accounts beforehand
- Encourage use of the Visual Editor (WYSIWYG interface)
- Use the Citation Hunt tool to locate articles that need citations and/or provide other strategies to identify articles that need citations
- Add the project hashtag #1Lib1Ref in the Wikipedia Edit Summary
- Track your team's contributions through a Programs & Events Dashboard
- Consider partnering with public and school librarians
- Never edited a Wikipedia page? Not a problem! Consult materials listed on the handout and ask for an experienced colleague to collaborate with you

Library staff at Oberlin during the 2018 #1Lib1Ref campaign

Now what?

This is the perfect time to begin planning your library's participation in January 2019! Take a copy of the handout of useful resources for getting started.