LIBRARIES & WIKIPEDIA
Global perspectives and opportunities

WIKIMANIA 2017
MONTRÉAL · QUÉBEC · CANADA
AUGUST 9 - 13 · 9 AU 13 AOÛT

Panelists
(in order of appearance)

[Merrilee Proffitt](#) user:Merrilee

[Monika Sengul-Jones](#) user:Monikasj

[Tamás Mészöly](#) user:Samat

[Mohsen](#) user:Mardetanha

[Alex Stinton](#) user:Sadads

[Jake Orlowitz](#) user:Ocaasi

Libraries and Wikipedia: Learning from outreach with US public libraries

Merrilee Proffitt

user:Merrilee

Senior Program Officer

OCLC Research

@MerrileeIam

Monika Sengul-Jones

WIR user:Monikasj / user:Shameran81

OCLC Wikipedian-in-Residence
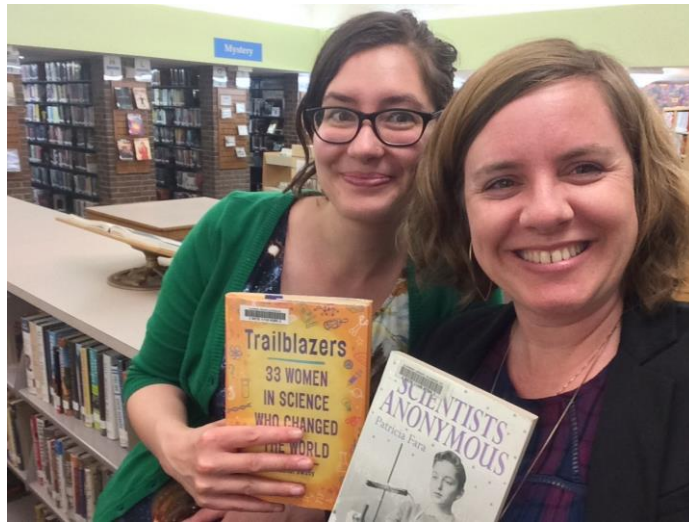
PhC / Communication/ UCSD

@monikajones
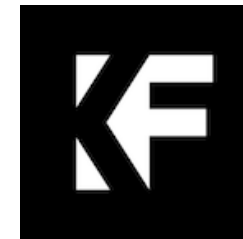
Why US public libraries?

Credit: User: Jan Tik. "Seattle Public Library seating" CC BY-SA 2.0

Wikipedia + Libraries:
Better Together

**Strengthening ties between
US public libraries and Wikipedia**

Courtesy: Allison Frick

KNIGHT FOUNDATION

WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

WebJunction®

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Project phases

1   - Research U.S public library connections to Wikipedia; Build awareness of Wikipedia/training program among US public library staff

2   - Discover the opportunities through a free 9-week online training program for up to 500 U.S. public library staff, Sept. 13 – Nov. 15, 2017

3   - Share training program materials
- Collect and publish case studies and resources
- Evaluate learnings

Project timeline: Dec. 2016 – May 2018

Two principles to share with you

Meet people where they are

Show don't tell

OCLC

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How did you hear about this webinar?

Wikipedia/Wikimedia pages	2
W+L project email	10
Social media	11
Other	23
Colleague	28
Your state library	31
WebJunction.org	46
Listserv	46
	52
OCLC email	57
Your library director or supervisor	61

N = 367

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US public library staff: 77% have never edited
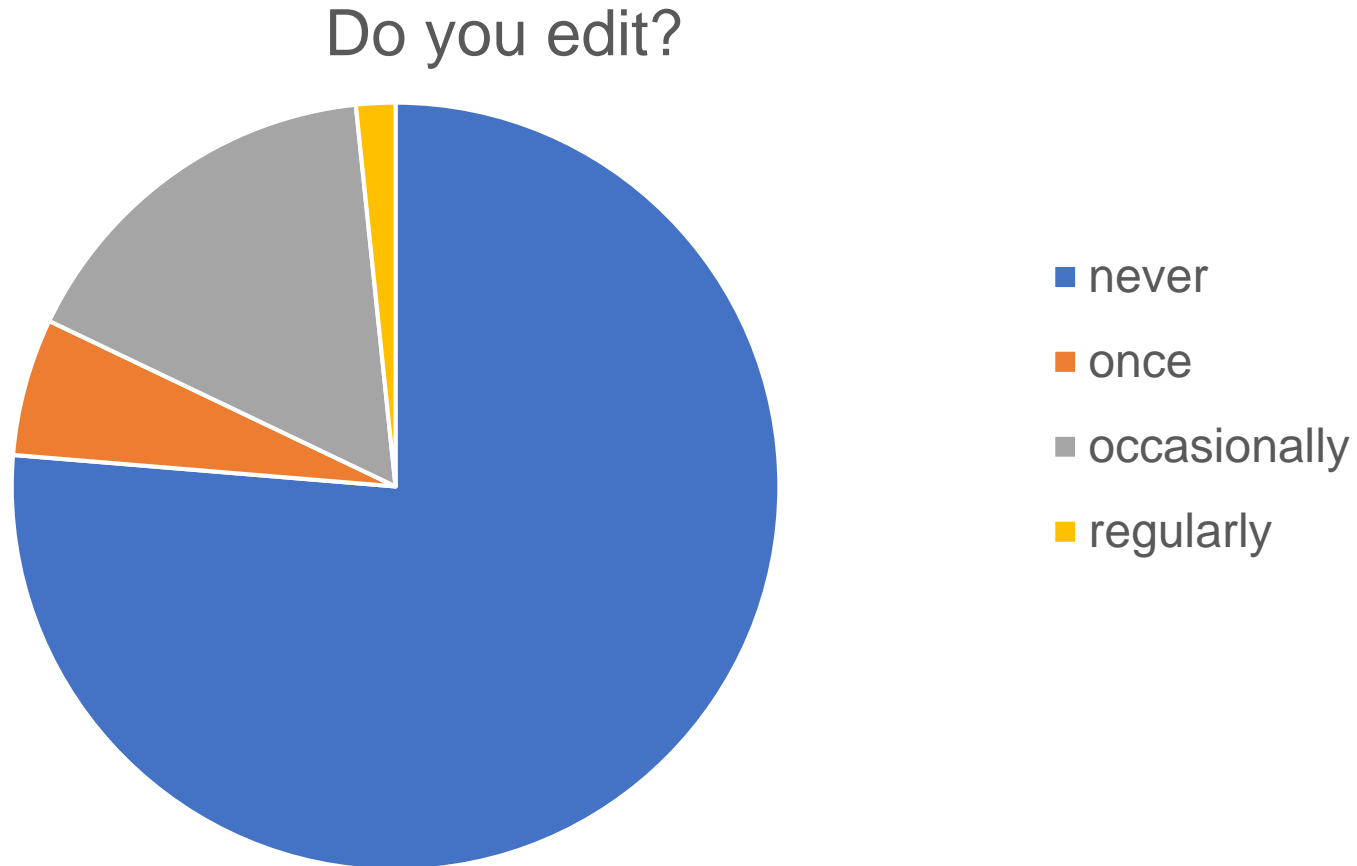
Do you edit?

- never
- once
- occasionally
- regularly

# Two principles to share with you

Meet people where they are

Show don't tell

OCLC

Librarians Who Wikipedia: Susan Barnum, El Paso Public Library

Monika Sengul-Jones, OCLC Wikipedian-in-Residence / 16 June 2017

Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together is an OCLC project that is building bridges between public libraries and Wikipedia; featuring an online training program for US public library staff hosted by WebJunction in the fall of 2017. Librarians Who Wikipedia is a series of interviews with library staff who engage with Wikipedia.

Susan Barnum, Public Services Librarian at El Paso Public Library, taught herself to edit Wikipedia to improve the quality of information online. She also incorporates editing into her librarianship, editing Wikipedia articles in response to patron requests. Barnum has made more than 24,000 edits and created nearly 300 articles, giving special attention to Wikipedia's coverage of Texas, biographies of women and women's history. We spoke with Barnum about why she edits.
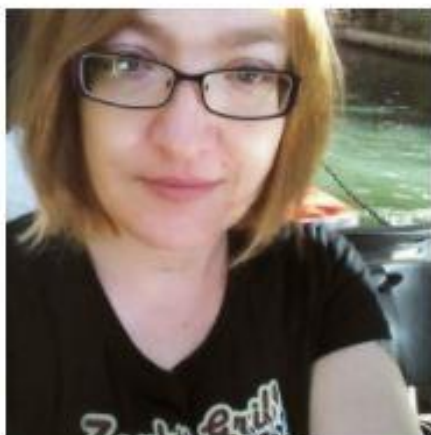
Susan Barnum is a librarian and Wikipedian. Credit: Susan Barnum

How did you get started editing Wikipedia?

I had stumbled across a biography of a prominent atheist in Texas, Seth

Librarians Who Wikipedia: Allison Frick, Glenside Free Library

Monika Sengul-Jones, OCLC Wikipedian-in-Residence / 13 July 2017

Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together is an OCLC project that is building bridges between public libraries and Wikipedia; featuring an online training program for US public library staff hosted by WebJunction in the fall of 2017. Librarians Who Wikipedia is a series of interviews with library staff who engage with Wikipedia.

Allison Frick, Youth Services Librarian at Glenside Free Library, a branch of the Cheltenham Township Library System (Glenside, PA), recently began to use Wikipedia as a tool to teach information literacy skills at her library. She finds that engaging with Wikipedia can help computer users of all levels critically evaluate and improve their online experiences.

How do you use Wikipedia with your community members?

Wikipedia is great for teaching information literacy—use it as a jumping off point! At our recent event, the barriers to entry were low. We provided laptops, snacks (the gummy worms were a big draw!) and coffee. Participants started by learning how to turn the computer on and find the browser; we started at that level to make sure that people were not nervous. We went to Wikipedia, looked at a couple of articles and talked about how editing works. Then we made user accounts and discussed privacy online—this is all information literacy.

We also demonstrated how an internet search that goes to Wikipedia can guide you to library resources. Now ISBN citations take you to WorldCat, to library catalogs, then you can check out books for free! Wikipedia provides ways to direct more people to free and helpful resources and to teach important things to know about the internet. It was all a big intro, but by the end our one-hour event we had, as a group, successfully added one citation to one page.

How do you approach the reliability of Wikipedia?

When someone says they shouldn't use Wikipedia because it's unreliable or because their teacher said not to, I respond: well, yes you can! I recommend using Wikipedia articles as a jumping off point, and then checking their bibliographies for other articles that could help your investigation. This will help get your brain ready to do more research. Even in good articles, there are going to be biases—based on what kinds of topics have or haven't gotten coverage or how something is organized. But these kinds of gaps are not a good reason not to use

Allison Frick, youth services librarian, uses Wikipedia to teach information literacy at her library. Credit: Courtesy Allison Frick

http://oc.lc/LibrariansWhoWikipedia

Two principles to share with you

Meet people where they are (refrain)

Show don't tell

OCLC

Perceptions:

98% say Wikipedia is "fun"

82% say Wikipedia is "accurate"

76% say Wikipedia is "neutral"

60% say Wikipedia is "incomplete"

95% say Wikipedia is relevant to my job
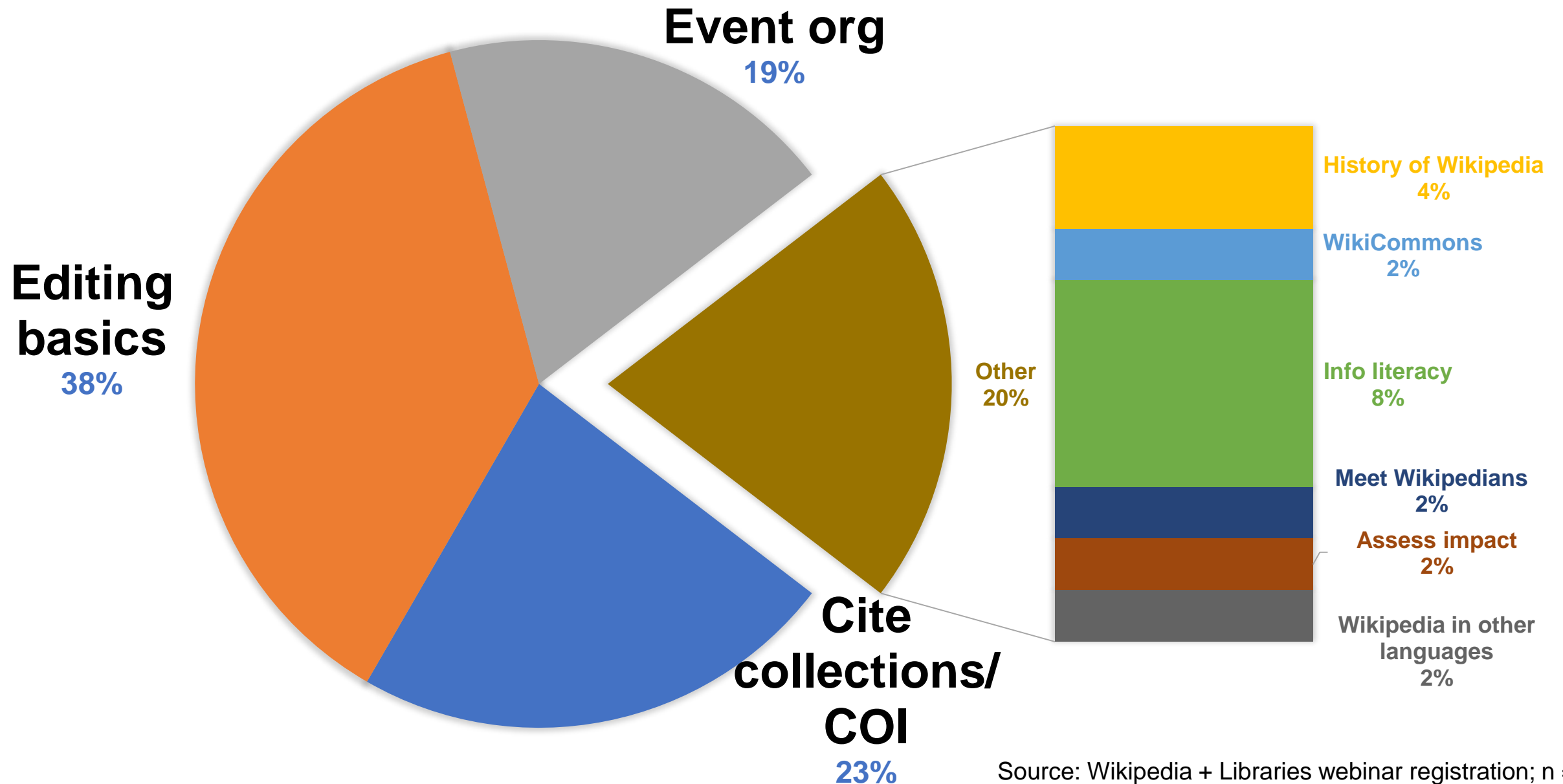
Perceptions:

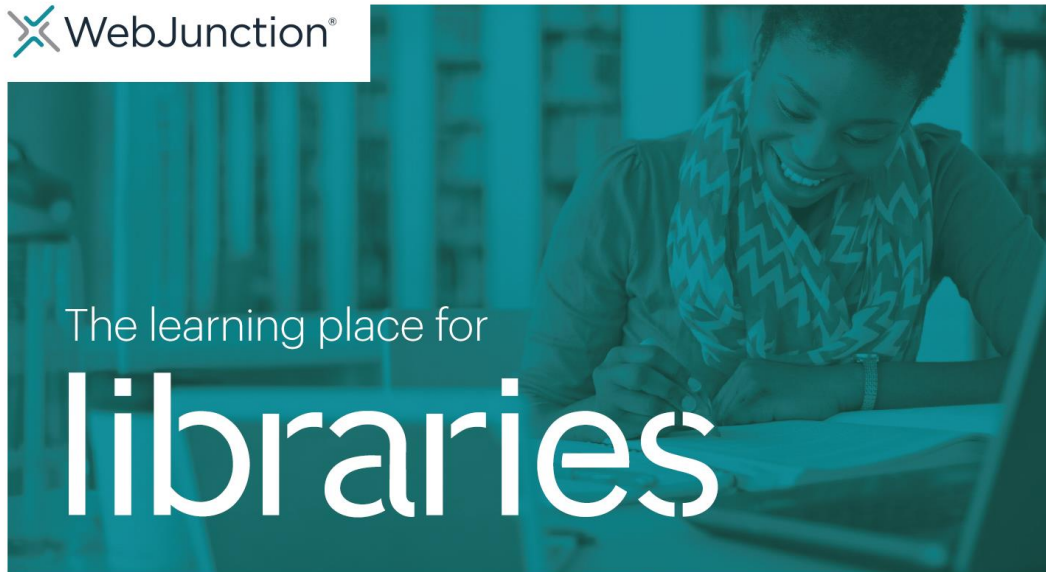**98% say Wikipedia is "fun"**

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What library staff want

Event org
19%

Editing basics
38%

Cite collections/ COI
23%

Other
20%

History of Wikipedia
4%

WikiCommons
2%

Info literacy
8%

Meet Wikipedians
2%

Assess impact
2%

Wikipedia in other languages
2%

Source: Wikipedia + Libraries webinar registration; n = 44

WebJunction®

The learning place for
libraries

Wikipedia + Libraries online training program

**Sept.13 – Nov. 15
6 live online sessions cohort learning**

Module 1–   Intro / history

Module 2 –   Editing 101

Module 3 –   Wikipedia and information literacy / events

Module 4 –   Developing a plan of action

Flickr user: brian.abeling "high five" CC BY-NC-2.0

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Credit: "high five" Lucas Dino Nolte, The Noun Project CC BY-2.0

Credit: Pax Ahimsa Gethen, CC BY-4.0

oc.lc/wikiguide

Enroll in the Wikipedia + Libraries online training program as a guide!

Remember …

Remember …

- Meet people where they are
- Show don't tell

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Better Together!

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Oc.lc/wikilib
#oclcwikilib
Facebook @ WebJunction

- Sign up for the Wikipedia + Libraries newsletter at oc.lc/wikilib

- Oc.lc/wikiguides

- Get a [*Citation needed*] sticker!

Credit: "high five" Lucas Dino Nolte, The Noun Project CC BY-2.0