# Collaborative archival practice: Rethinking outreach, access, and reconciliation using Wikipedia

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- Our assumptions and editing ethic(s) as Wikipedia Editors
- Outreach and access through integration of archival holdings and use of archivist skill sets
- Editing as an act of reconciliation



Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School in Lebret,
District of Assiniboia, ca. 1885
(Public Domain via Library and Archives Canada PA-182246)

## Motivating assumptions as editors

- 1. "Anyone" being able to can edit Wikipedia isn't a compelling reason for dismissal.
- 2. There is value in disrupting the Western, cis, white male, gaze of Wikipedia content.
- 3. Archivists (and librarians) are subject experts well positioned to improve, correct and contribute available information.

# Contributing to Wikipedia



- 1. There isn't one right way to contribute use your strengths.
- 2. Having an edit reverted doesn't mean you should stop editing.
- 3. Workplace contributions

# Moving beyond self-promotion

- Information about:
  - Namesake and founding
  - Collection development
  - Areas of expertise
- Reliance on secondary sources rather than website

#### William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections



Country Canada

Type Academic

Location Mills Memorial Library, Hamilton,

Ontario

**Branch** McMaster University Library

of

Website http://library.mcmaster.ca

/archives/ ₺

## Template: Cite archive

#### Usage [edit]

{{cite archive | first= | last= | item = | item-url = | type = | item-id = | date = | page= | pages= | fonds = | series = | file = | box= | collection = | collection-url = | repository = | institution = | location = | oclc= | accession= | ref=}}

She wrote two childre Yarker (1977).<sup>[1]:19[4]</sup>

Engel's most famous and a bear. [8] Her edit coupled with its extrem

McClelland, Jack. "Letter from Jack McClelland (McClelland & Stewart) to Marian Engel, 12 January 1976, re Bear" (12 January 1976) [textual record]. Marian Engel fonds, Fonds: Marian Engel fonds, Box: 2, File: 51. Hamilton, ON: William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, McMaster University Library. First accrual.

1974) and My name is not Odessa

le of erotic love between a librarian noting that: "Its relative brevity erable obstacle in present

circumstances." It was eventually published by McClelland & Stewart after being championed by Robertson Davies. [5][9][10] It won the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction in 1976. [11]

#### More than a mistress

#### October 2015 lead:

The Lady Constance Malleson (24 October 1895 – 5 October 1975) was a British writer and <u>actress</u> (appearing as Colette O'Niel), the wife of actor <u>Miles Malleson</u> and lover of <u>Bertrand</u> Russell.

# Lady Constance Malleson

Lady Constance Malleson in 1922

Born Constance Mary Annesley

24 October 1895

Castlewellan Castle

**Died** 5 October 1975 (aged 79)

**Bury St Edmunds** 

Nationality English

Other names Colette O'Niel

Occupation writer and actress

#### Today's lead:

Lady Constance Malleson (24 October 1895 – 5 October 1975) was a British writer and actress (appearing as Colette O'Niel). The daughter of Hugh Annesley, 5th Earl Annesley, Malleson studied at the Royal Academy of Drama Art and was a popular theater performer.

During her twenty year acting career she appeared in numerous productions across the United Kingdom including several productions at prominent theaters in London's West End and in Maurice Elvey's 1918 silent film Hindle Wakes. Before retiring from acting Malleson wrote and produced *The Way* a three act starring Una O'Connor, Charles Carson, and Moyna Macgill.

Active in pacifist and social reform efforts, Malleson spent the remainder of her career traveling and writing. She released several novels and autobiographical accounts, including *In the north:* autobiographical fragments in Norway, Sweden, Finland, 1936-1946 about her experiences in Scandinavia administering relief efforts in response to the Russo-Finnish War. Among her most notable releases is the 1933 novel *The Coming Back*. Though she denied the suggestion, it is understood as a roman à clef regarding Malleson's relationship with philosopher and political activist Bertrand Russell, with whom she shared an interest in pacifism. Friends until Russell's death, the pair were romantically involved from 1916 to 1920, during Mallerson's mutually open marriage to actor Miles Malleson.

# Doing the Work

- Marginalized communities should not be expected to teach the basics of colonialism, racism, and settler relations to the general population.
- Reconciliation is about accountability, action and awareness - as archivists,
   Canadians and/or settlers we have a role to play in reconciliation

## Archives and Indigenous History

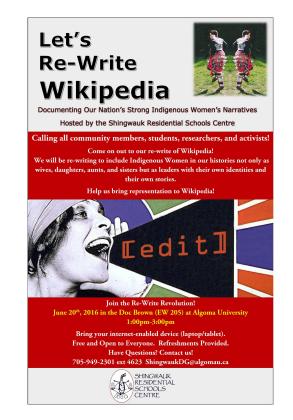
- TRC Calls to Action
- Many archives contain records that were created about or by Indigenous communities.
- Providing information in an accessible format and helping breakdown structural colonial barriers.



Shingwauk Residential School, 1969.

#### **Community Outreach**

- Engaging with local activists
- Raising awareness about community based initiatives, Indigenous community leaders, and grassroots organizations
- Information literacy skills



#### Canadian Indian residential school system



Heavy request: Does anyone want to work with me to improve the Canadian Indian residential school system wiki page? en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Canadian ...



# Work progression

- Contributions by multiple archivists and librarians
- Solicitation of input from staff
   School, ca. 1932
   at the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation
- Announcement about improvement work to WikiProject Indigenous peoples of North America
- Anonymous contributions flagging phrasing and grammatical issues.



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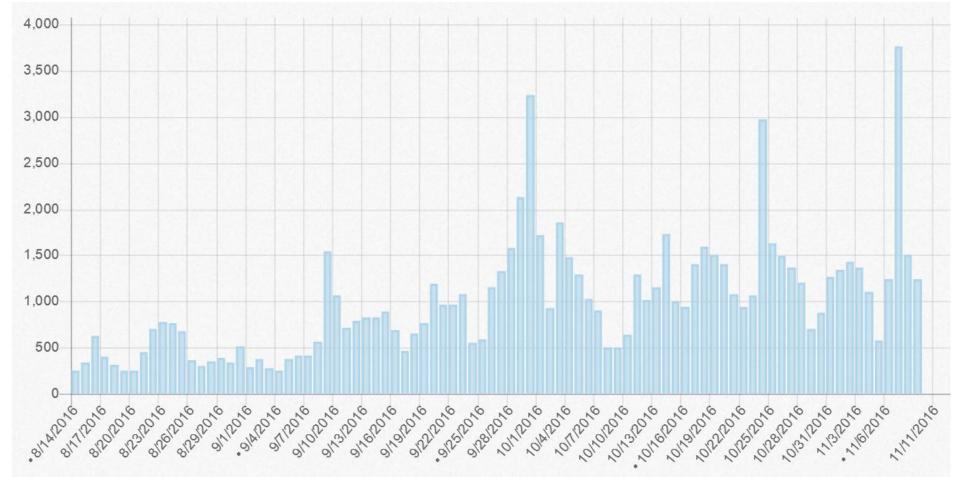
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#### CIRSS & Secret Path announcements



#### Resources

- Wikipedia:The Wikipedia Library/Cultural Professionals
- AAO:Toward Truth and Reconciliation
- Active History: Ten Books to Contextualize Reconciliation in Archives, Museums, and Public History