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Digital Humanities Symposium

2015 - Exploring the Digital Medium: Cross
Disciplinary Collaboration in the Digital
Humanities

Practicing Digital Humanities in the Classroom: Tools and Methods

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Description

As an extension of the first workshop, we will focus on integrating digital humanities in the classroom by exploring a variety of digital humanities related resources available at Kansas State University as well as introducing a specific pedagogy intervention, students writing Wikipedia articles for classroom assignments. Often replacing research papers and/or literature reviews, these assignments ask students to practice [disciplinary research and writing skills](#) to fill gaps for a public audience.

This workshop will explore the tools available through the [Wikipedia Education Program](#), common assignment design concerns, example assignments run by faculty at Kansas State University in the departments of [English](#) and [Art](#), examination of how the program's lessons learned can be applied to other digital assignments, and provide time for developing a Wikipedia assignment for your own classroom.

Examples will be focused on humanities topics, but faculty in all disciplines are welcome.

Stinson's presentation, "DH Student Projects Anyone Can Edit: Planning for and learning from Wikipedia in the Classroom," and Hoeve and Pankl's presentation, "Practicing Digital Humanities in the Classroom," are combined as one file available from the download button.

Disciplines

Digital Humanities

Practicing Digital Humanities in the Classroom: Tools and Methods

Lis Pankl

Faculty and Graduate Services Librarian

Casey Hoeve

Content (collection) Development Librarian



Why Librarians are Important to DH

Tech-rich instruction skills

Access to and knowledge of collections

Collaborative nature of librarianship

Technical support and infrastructure

Extensive outreach capabilities

Professional development and recruitment

LibGuide Demonstration

-The LibGuide serves as a resting place with concentrated information to direct students and faculty to appropriate resources in the Digital Humanities. Especially for beginners.




Organizations that are presently engaged in DH Scholarship

- Where to find others digital humanities centers, scholars for collaborative research, advice, conferences/lectures, examples of projects and digital resources produced in-house.
- Websites, social media (Facebook and Twitter) usually provide a good summary of new projects or upcoming lectures.



Where do I begin once I identify a project?

- Hosting sites where students/faculty can experiment with building DH Projects (e.g. Omeka, Scalar, etc.)
 - Many sites have free trials so you can test platforms and determine which meets your needs.
 - For a DH class, a free trial may suffice to provide a space for students to create projects.



Libraries are often in a middle ground preserving, hosting/purchasing, and creating content. Important for the Libraries to highlight the variety of resources available to students, faculty, and the public at-large.



Resources produced specifically by K-State Libraries

[Digital Humanities LibGuide](#)

[K-State Libraries Digital Collections](#)

[New Prairie Press](#)

[Subscription Databases](#)

Resources produced by Chapman Center Initiatives and Student Projects for DH Course.

[American Poetry of the First World War](#)

[Things That Speak](#) (Textile Museum Exhibit)

[Gordon Parks Website](#)


[Lost Kansas Communities](#)

- *Think creatively how unique collections and scholars can collaborate to produce a digital collection.
- *Think about institutions who may have similar collections with contributing pieces that could collaborate to build a digital resource (digital humanities is about collaboration and access, not competition).



Resources purchased by K-State Libraries

- Just about all of these resources are professionally curated, and have developed interfaces and search algorithms to find items in their database.
- We can look to these products to identify key features we would like to have in our own in-house collections, or serve as consultants to point out flaws to make products better.
 - especially for those who have visual, hearing, and motor impairments (advocacy).
- In general, scholars should be aware of the types of digital resources available to aid in research.



Anyone can play a part in contributing to the digital humanities, but it is important that they receive the technical training to become proficient in applying technological access to research.

DH Student Projects Anyone Can Edit: Planning for and learning from, Wikipedia in the Classroom



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia
Education
Program

United
States

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<http://goo.gl/QtcsHN>



Outline

1. What is Wikipedia?
2. Wikipedia as a Pedagogy Tool
3. Wikipedia as a DH Tool
4. Applying Wiki. Ed. Prog. to DH Pedagogy
5. Practicing design of Wikipedia Assignment, as case study

**What is
Wikipedia?**

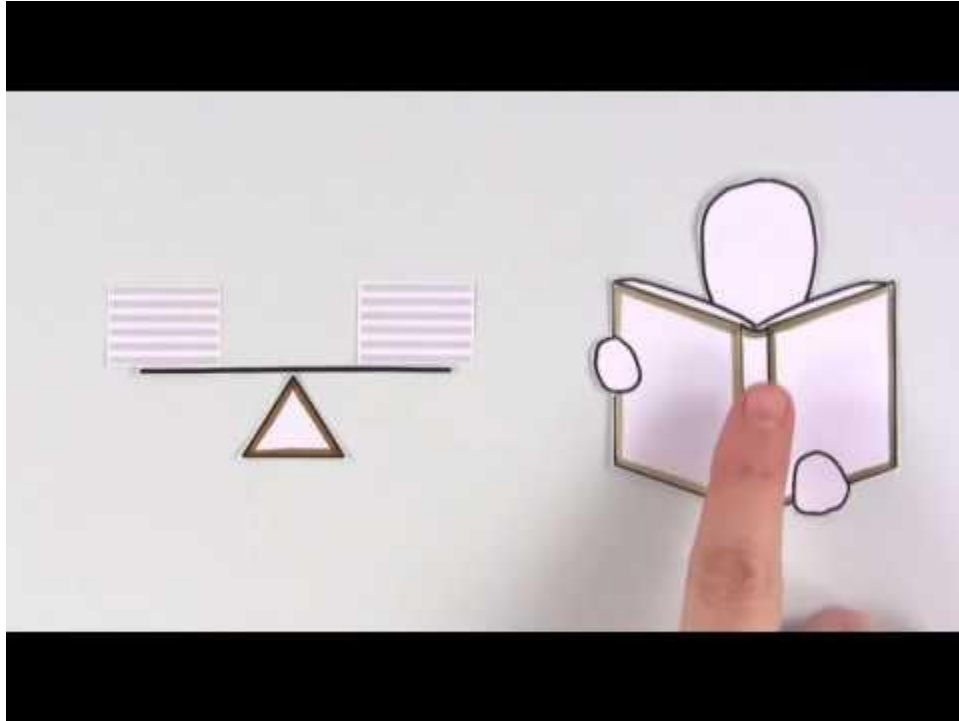
What is Wikipedia?

"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



- An Encyclopedia - not directory
- 285 languages (4.7 Mill. articles in English, ~34 Mill articles in total (Dec))
- All projects are built by thousands of volunteers (~80-90,000 active contributors per month) but supported by 200 staff plus ~80 staff in affiliate orgs.
 - Many, many, many roles
 - Copy editors, to programmers, to content writers, etc.

What does Writing Wikipedia mean?



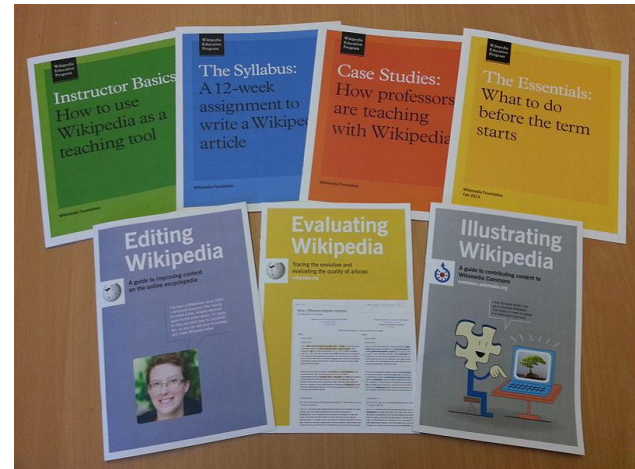
Why its a useful case study for DH?

- Platform and Tool model
 - Knowledge
 - Social
- Established Community of Practice
 - Editorial practices
 - Knowledge priorities
- Established Educational Framework
- Established Audience

Wikipedia Assignments?

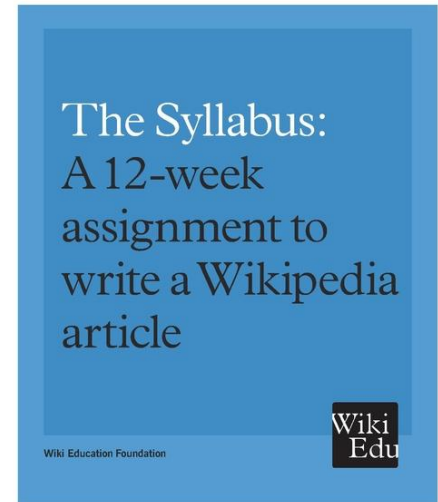
Wikipedia: How Does It Work

- Students edit Wikipedia, instead of a paper thrown away at the end of the semester
- Typically it involves contributing to an article
- Other case studies:
 - Copyediting
 - Illustrating Article
 - Translating articles
 - Making Videos



What it looks like?

- 12 week sample syllabus
 - Recommend never less than 3-4 weeks
 - **Gates:**
 - Article Selection and Learning Wikipedia
 - Initial Bibliography
 - Writing the article
 - Peer review
- Works differently all levels: Lower Division Undergraduate, Upper Division Undergraduate, and Graduate
- Online Training for Students and Faculty
- Student tracking tool online, to follow their contributions



[Sample Syllabi](#)

Why it works?

Has high pay off for both students and instructors:



- Highly public resources at the end of the day
- Students are there anyway: 7/8 students use Wikipedia...but many don't understand it
- Fits a range of learning outcomes
- Public audience encourages greater quality

Wikipedia as Digital Humanities

Is Wikipedia all popular humanities?

19th century Biographies (Dec 2013)

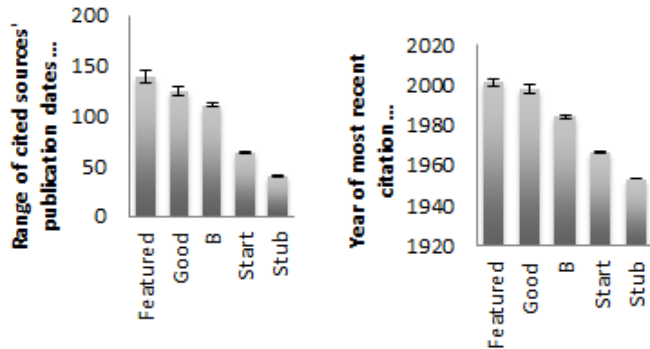
Stub: 50,088 (2.09%)

Start: 34,483 (3.23%)

B: 2,948 (3.21%)

Good Article: 510 (2.53%)

Featured Article: 232 (4.87%)



Article class (Sample size)	% of articles with ≥ 1 terms (n)	% of articles with ≥ 2 terms (n)	% of articles with ≥ 3 terms (n)	% of articles with ≥ 4 terms (n)	% of articles with ≥ 5 terms (n)
Featured (232)	89.2% (207)	70.6% (164)	46.5% (108)	22.8% (53)	7.8% (18)
Good (510)	63% (324)	35.9% (183)	16.7% (86)	7.6% (39)	2.2% (11)
B (2948)	50.9% (1500)	25.3% (745)	11% (325)	4% (118)	1% (31)
Start (34483)	21.8% (7508)	5% (1731)	1% (345)	<0.1% (61)	<0.1% (9)
Stub (50088)	8.8% (4397)	0.9% (466)	0.1% (54)	<0.1% (6)	<0.1% (1)

Humanities in the Public



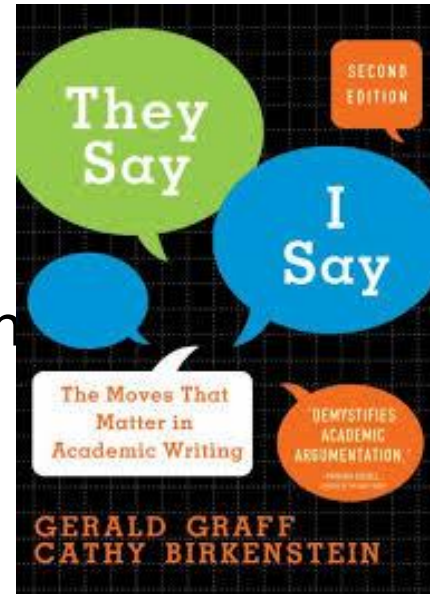
- Community of practice w/ tools for good humanities content
- “Understood” concepts in Humanities and Social Sciences, misrepresented publically, or....
- Missing - Literary texts, historical surveys, cultural theory, etc.
- Meet public where they are at - Humanities in pop. decline
- Humanities and Social Sciences, where women are at:
 - Wikipedia Demographic: 70-80k contributors, 11-19% Women [1]
 - Wiki Ed Assignments: 68% Women, largely Social Sciences and Humanities [2]

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_bias_on_Wikipedia

[2] <http://wikiedu.org/blog/2015/02/12/monthly-report-for-january-2015/>

Why students are the best intervenors

- Avoids invested opinions in the debates
- Avoids hidden knowledge ([[WP:V]])
- Per Graff's "Disliking Books at an Early Age":
 - Humanities students rarely practice lit reviews
 - Weighing opinions, forces students to deal with complexities of study, in turn creating a more compelling entry into the conversation
- Multiplies your expertise
- Doesn't have to be "perfect"



Case Studies on Campus

- Mark Crosby - Undergraduates - William Blake Poems
- Elizabeth Seaton - Beach Museum
[Artwork of John Steuart Curry](#)
- Greg Eiselein - Grad Stud.
- [The Cultural Politics of Emotion](#)
[Subculture: The Meaning of Style](#)



Applying Wikipedia assign. learnings to DH Pedagogy

Lesson 1: Plan Student Topics.

- Asking students to “decide” what they want leads to time consuming discovery
- Preselecting options allows:
 - Earlier research support
 - Greater scholarly “activism”
 - Focusing the scope, pre-curating the work
- Always have room for student to select options, and not be cornered



Lesson 2: Create a System of Distributed Support

It takes a whole village to raise a child.

- *Igbo and Yoruba (Nigeria) Proverb*

- Librarians
- Wikipedians
- Wiki Edu. Foundation
- Student peer review
- GTAs



Ellen Urton

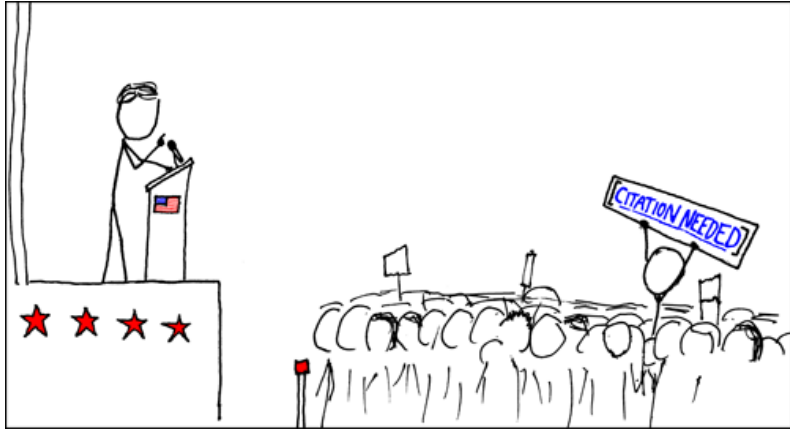


Casey Hoeve



Wiki Education
Foundation

Lesson 3: Write into a community of practice (CoP) w/ a community focused platform or tool



- Platform/tool is crucial, it dictates content:
 - Structure
 - Interpretation
 - Meaning
 - Learning outcomes
- Students don't usually recognize CoP:
 - Rhetorical conventions and code switching
 - What qualifies as appropriate "research"
 - Fluidity of ownership in publishing

Lesson 5: Prepare for imperfect work

- Wikipedia thinks of itself as a Work In Progress
- Does the student work need to be
 - Interpretively AND Factually accurate?
 - Copy edited?
 - Copyright reviewed?
- Minimize student error through design
- Minimize unintentional oversight through methods training: research, framing scholar positions, etc.



Designing an assignment for your classroom

Defining Student work: What to look for in articles for students?

● Look for:

- Short articles
- Limited Scope
- Articles missing

● Avoid:

- Lots of references
- Publicly controversial topics (i.e. Abortion, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Gamergate)
- Essay-like topics, requiring argumentation

The Pilot: A Tale of the Sea [edit source | edit +]

A stub-class article from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Pilot: A Tale of the Sea is a historical novel by James Fenimore Cooper, first published in January 1824 (the earliest edition is actually dated 1823). Its subject is the life of a naval pilot during the American Revolution.

Contents <small>[hide]</small>
1 Background
2 Plot
3 Notes
4 References
5 External links

Background [edit source | edit +]

The Pilot was Cooper's fourth novel and his first sea tale. A sailor by profession, Cooper had undertaken to surpass Walter Scott's *Pirate* (1821) in seamanship.

Plot [edit source | edit +]

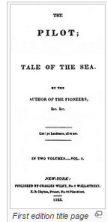
The hero of the book is John Paul Jones, who appears as always brooding upon a dark past and a darker fate. Yet he is not so morbid but that he can occasionally rouse himself to terrific activities in his raids along the English coast. Another character is Long Tom Coffin, of Nantucket, comparable to Harvey Birch and Natty Bumppo from Cooper's other novels.

Notes [edit source | edit +]

? This article includes a list of references, related reading or external links, but its sources remain unclear because it lacks inline citations. Please improve this article by introducing more precise citations. (July 2013)

References [edit source | edit +]

- The "keen-eyed critic of the ocean". James Fenimore Cooper's Invention of the Sea Novel. by Luis Iglesias at the Cooper Panel of the 2006 Conference of the American Literature Association in San Francisco.
- Carl Van Doren (1920) "Pilot, The". In Rines, George Edwin. *Encyclopedia Americana*.

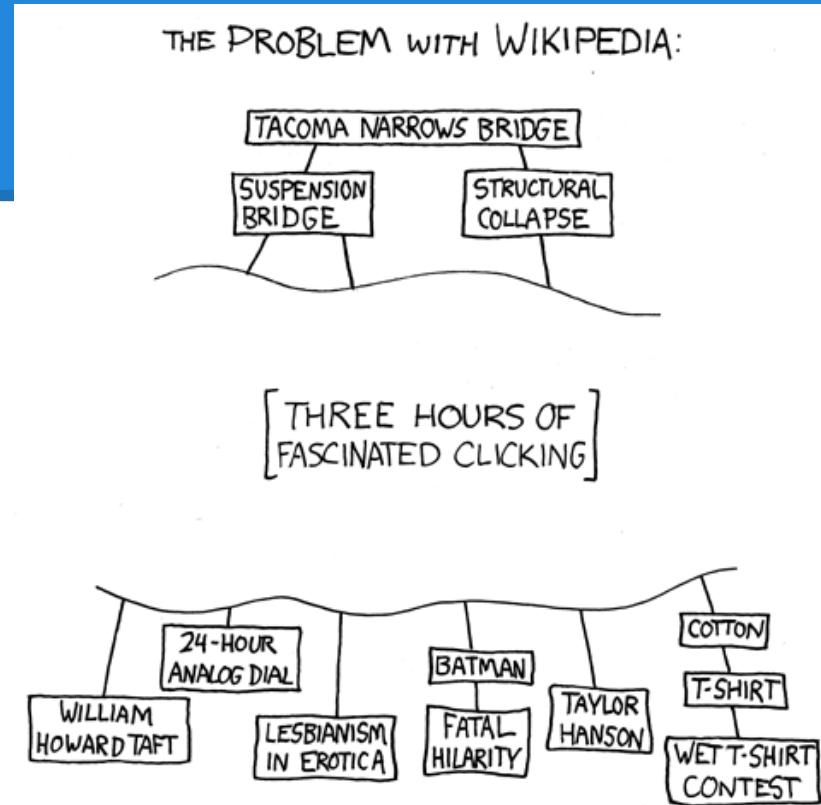


First edition title page

Defining Student work: How to find articles?

- Search
- Links
- Categories
- Templates
- Compare w/ Proff.
 . Ref. Works

Example: James Fenimore Cooper



Activity

Get into groups of 3-4:

- 5 minutes - Each share which class you think you might include such an assignment
- 15 minutes to work with team to discover topics that would fit the scope of the class
- Select a group member to present some of the article choices, and why you think it will be a good choice.

Next steps

- Do the instructor training
- Making sure learning objectives are aligned and complementary to learning outcomes
- Scoping a timeline with Gated Goals
 - Don't rush the assignment
 - Be prepared for time, energy and mistakes learning the platform and assignment syllabus
 - Create your course page On-Wiki
 - Wiki. Ed. Des. Wizard <http://wizard.wikiedu.org/>
 - [Example](#) James Joyce Class

Resources

- Educator Resources- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Education_program/Educators
- Wiki Education Foundation - <http://wikiedu.org/>
- Resources - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Training/For_educators/Resources

Want to do a Class this Semester?

For full support:

Ryan McGrady: <ryan@wikiedu.org>

Classroom Program Manager, Wiki Edu.

For design consultation, Wikipedia Questions:

Alex Stinson: <stinsoad@ksu.edu>

DH Specialist, K-State



<http://goo.gl/QtcsHN>



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