
Siân Evans
&
Jacqueline Mabey
Laurel Ptak

Laurel Ptak is a curator and researcher based in New York City. She currently teaches in Parsons’s Art, Media and Technology Department at The New School and serves as an Associate Curator for Tensta Konsthall in Stockholm.

Ptak has held diverse roles at cultural institutions over the last ten years, including work for Aperture Foundation, Artare, Guggenheim Museum, Museo Tamayo (Mexico City) and PFI Contemporary Art Center/MoMA. As an independent curator she has additionally organized projects in NYC and internationally at Art In General, Casco—Office for Art, Design & Theory, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, The Showroom among others. The book, Unbinding Property, which she co-edited with artist Marynia Lewandowska was published by Steidl Press in 2015. Her recent work has been recognized with a nomination for the 2022 Independent Vision Curatorial Award from IC. Ptak attended the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

Since 2006 her curatorial practice has often explored media and technology—especially in relationship to difficult social and political questions that it poses. During her Eyebeam fellowship Ptak will extensively research the history of cyberfeminism—looking in particular at its artistic practices since the early 1990s.
Define Gender Gap? Look Up Wikipedia’s Contributor List

By NOAM COHEN
Published: January 30, 2011

In 10 short years, Wikipedia has accomplished some remarkable goals. More than 3.5 million articles in English? Done. More than 250 languages? Sure.

But another number has proved to be an intractable obstacle for the online encyclopedia: surveys suggest that less than 15 percent of its hundreds of thousands of contributors are women.

About a year ago, the Wikimedia Foundation, the organization that runs Wikipedia, collaborated on a study of Wikipedia’s contributor base and discovered that it was barely 13 percent women; the average age of a contributor was in the mid-20s, according to the study by a joint center of the United Nations University and Maastricht University.

Sue Gardner, the executive director of the foundation, has set a goal to raise the share of female contributors to 25 percent by 2013. But improving women's participation on the site isn't just a matter of numbers. It's about giving women a sense of ownership of the project. The foundation recently launched a new website called Gender Gap Watch, which tracks progress on gender equality in science and technology. It also launched a new global campaign, called Gender Gap Institute, which aims to raise awareness about gender equality issues and encourage more women to participate in the field.

Related

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Wikipedia’s Women Problem
James Gleick
Wikipedia is quietly moving women off their American novelist page. 🚨

The Rumpus @The_Rumpus · 25 Apr 2013

It’s cool how some Wikipedia editors are moving women out of the American Novelist category. (Spoiler: no, it’s not.) bit.ly/11VegYf

Adeline Koh @adelinekoh · 25 Apr 2013

New #DHpoco comic: 'We’re full. Why don’t you try the Wikipedia American Women Novelist Category?' dhpoco.tumblr.com/post/488283102...

Liz Henry @lizhenry · 25 Apr 2013

I debunk recent articles about “Wikimedia removes women novelists from American novelist category”. bookmaniac.org/journalists-do...

Adrienne Wadewitz @wadewitz · 25 Apr 2013

Almost everyone votes to create gender neutral category at American women novelist thread on #wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia... dhpoco.tumblr.com/ZeHaUyfW3qRw

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'American Woman Novelist' - Did you know that Wikipedia has begun bumping women writers from 'American... tmblr.co/ZehaUyfW3qRw

Amber van den Bos @bosamber · 25 Apr 2013

Obviously if women writes a novel, she is not a novelist. bit.ly/12mLwuu

Women need a room of their own, you know. #ahem dhpoco.tumblr.com/post/488283102...

By Adeline Koh dhpoco

View on web
Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon

Event Type: event
Start Date: 1 Feb 2014
Hours: 12PM - 6PM
Cost: Free
Venue: Eyebeam

In conjunction with Eyebeam's 2014 Annual Showcase.

Join us in New York City for an all day communal updating of Wikipedia entries on subjects related to contemporary art and feminism. We will provide tutorials for the beginner Wikipedian, reference materials, and the opportunity to contribute to the largest encyclopedia in the world.
Dorothy Howard
Wikipedian in Residence, Metropolitan New York Library Council

About me
I grew up near Seattle, and got a History degree at Reed College in Portland, where I studied Early Modern Historiography, 20th century war and technology, 20th century German, and the History of photography among other things. I updated Wikipedia articles with an IP address for a while, and began writing articles for GLAMs (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) through the Oregon Jewish Museum and Yail Union Contemporary to Duke University.

My work
I have been the Wikipedian in Residence at the Metropolitan New York Library Council since August 2013.[1] My professional interest is promoting GLAM-Wiki partnerships by archivists, and other institutional partners. I incorporate Wikipedia editing into their WIR. I focus on teaching METRO mentees work on articles about museum and libraries, and history. I'm also a lighthouse enthusiast, and have just moved to New York City.

User:Pharos
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

- **Wikipedia Harlem History Edit-a-Thon on Saturday March 1, 2014**

  Pharos, am a Wikipedian who has been active since September 2004. The the de plume refers to the Pharos of Alexandria, as well as to a local lighthouse and some old library.

  My first article was U Thant Island, and I've tried to be helpful since then.

  *EVita is the coolest!*

  **Maintenance tasks**

  I was approved as an administrator in March 2005, and in that capacity have mostly been involved in Main Page maintenance.

  I have a habit of keeping track of all the edits on this page, but it's hard to keep them up-to-date with my current activities here, so if you're curious you'll just have to browse the archives.

  **Wikimedia New York City**

  In recent months, I have been heavily involved in the formation of a meta.Wikipedia New York City local chapter. See Wikipedia:Meetup/NYC for the meetings.
“VIRAL refers to the ways in which new ideas and innovations on the Internet can proliferate with astonishing speed and tumble into other people’s consciousness in unexpected ways.”

-DB

The origins of the edit-a-thon at Portland State University
Intergenerational support at Wikipedia Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon, at Eyebeam in New York City
Editing away at Eyebeam Art and Technology Center, NYC
We beat cats! OMG LOL
The satellite sprint at Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women and the Arts, Washington, DC
Reference materials at the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, CCA, San Francisco
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Platform of Social Media</th>
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<td>Wikipedia</td>
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<td>Social Networking Sites (e.g., Facebook)</td>
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<td>Blogs</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Microblogs (e.g., Twitter)</td>
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Different parts of the Ocean contained different sorts of stories, and as all the stories that had ever been told and many that were still in the process of being invented could be found here, the Ocean of the Streams of Story was in fact the biggest library in the universe. And because the stories were held here in fluid form, they retained the ability to change, to become new versions of themselves, to join up with other stories and so become yet other stories; so that unlike a library of books the Ocean of Streams of Story was much more than a storeroom of yarns. It was not dead but alive.

-Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

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Shut not your doors to me, proud librarians,
The American Library Association’s Core Values of Librarianship

Education and Lifelong Learning

ALA promotes the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of a learning society, encouraging its members to work with educators, government officials, and organizations in coalitions to initiate and support comprehensive efforts to ensure that school, public, academic, and special libraries in every community cooperate to provide lifelong learning services to all. ALA Policy Manual 1.1 (Mission, Priority Areas, Goals)

Intellectual Freedom

We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources. ALA Policy Manual, B.9.16 (Old Number 54.16) (ALA Code of Ethics, Article II)

The Public Good

ALA reaffirms the following fundamental values of libraries in the context of discussing outsourcing and privatization of library services. These values include that libraries are an essential public good and are fundamental institutions in democratic societies. 1998-99 CD#24.1, Motion #1
Why Women Aren’t Welcome on the Internet


Citron has planted the seed of an emerging debate over the possibility of applying civil rights laws to ensure equal opportunities for women on the Internet. “There’s no silver bullet for addressing this problem,” Citron says. But existing legislation has laid the groundwork for potential future reforms. Federal civil rights law can punish “force or threat[s] of force” that interfere with a person’s employment on the basis of race, religion, or national origin. That protection, though, doesn’t currently extend to threats targeted at a person’s gender. However, other parts of the Civil Rights Act frame workplace sexual harassment as discriminatory, and requires employers to implement policies to both prevent and remedy discrimination in the office. And Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 puts the onus on educational institutions to take action against discrimination toward women. Because Internet harassment affects the employment and educational opportunities of women, laws could conceivably be amended to allow women to bring claims against individuals.
book swap . . . at the Brooklyn Museum (spring 2010)
Marc Ngui, A Thousand Plateaus: Drawings, athousandplateaus-drawings.tumblr.com
Pilot Press... is a DIY feminist publishing house that provides a non-hierarchical, unedited, and uncensored look at the self-identified feminist community. Publish your feminist essays, concrete poems, artist's books, screenplays, speculative fictions, erotic fiction, historical fiction, anything that YOU made, that YOU think is feminist.

Pilot Press... is a serialized publication, complete with ISSN number, and will be catalogued accordingly. Print and bind as many copies as you like. In exchange for this free publication service, you are required to leave a single bound copy of your publication in the Pilot Press... library.

Pilot Press will be installed through the month of May as part of F is for Fake: the construction of femininity by the US media, an exhibition curated by Amanda Parmer. Reading groups dedicated to discussing texts selected from the Pilot Press... library are scheduled for Sunday May 8th and May 22nd, from 5 to 6:00pm. The May 25th reading group, hosted by Court Square in conjunction with its current exhibition, In Visible Ink, addresses Hélène Cixous's concept of écriture féminine and its modern day manifestations. For more information on Pilot Press... including details on how to publish your work and more information about the reading groups, see www.contemporaryfeminism.com.
No doubt, some will find the idea of engineering online platforms to promote diversity unsettling and — a word with some irony embedded in it — paternalistic, but such criticism ignores the ways online spaces are already contrived with specific outcomes in mind. They are, as a start, designed to serve Silicon Valley venture capitalists, who want a return on investment, as well as advertisers, who want to sell us things. The term “platform,” which implies a smooth surface, misleads us, obscuring the ways technology companies shape our online lives, prioritizing certain purposes over others, certain creators over others, and certain audiences over others.

If equity is something we value, we have to build it into the system, developing structures that encourage fairness, serendipity, deliberation, and diversity through a process of trial and error. The question of how we encourage, or even enforce, diversity in so-called open networks is not easy to answer, and there is no obvious and uncomplicated solution to the problem of online harassment. As a philosophy, openness can easily rationalize its own failure, chalking people’s inability to participate up to choice, and keeping with the myth of the meritocracy, blaming any disparities in audience on a lack of talent or will.

PICS OR IT DIDN’T HAPPEN!
"Thoughts on Wikipedia Editing and Digital Labor" by Dorothy Howard
April, 2014.

Most Wikipedia editors self-describe themselves as volunteers and that's a fact. Editors generally believe in Wikipedia's mission of a free and democratized web along its other impacts such as providing free and open information about medicine, media, current events, government, and so much more to skimmers and scholars.

But recently I've been thinking about what it means for someone to be considered a volunteer when the work they do voluntarily turns into a fulltime job and generates all sorts of other bonuses to the 'movement' if you like to call it that, like donations to non-profit Wikimedia Foundation, and fiscal benefits to other SEO engines like Google using Wikipedia's open Data.

Another question I have related to labor and Wikipedia: What if, in all our good-hearted encouragement to build an editor pool, we have created a small class of obsessive editors that forsakes other types of paid work to make Wikipedia editing their main priority? I raise this question because I feel strongly about digital labor and labor ethics and think Wikipedia should consider what it means to have such a large base of volunteers just as another non-profit might consider whether to take on unpaid interns.

Many editors have taken their work on Wikipedia to the extreme side of an obsession. In 2012, Justin Knapp became the first Wikipedia editor reaching over a million edits. An interview at The Daily Dot reports[1]:

...so what does he do for a living? 'I do all kinds of odd jobs for money, but my most recent forty hours a week was pizza delivery,' he told me in an email. He added parenthetically: "which I lost two weeks ago due to a downturn in sales."

The hardest working editor on the sixth most popular website in the world is an under-employed former pizza delivery man.

Justin is still the top editor on Wikipedia but is now joined by two other editors who have reached the million edits mark as well as several hundred other editors that have reached six-digits for edits. For these devoted editors, Wikipedia is more than a hobby it is a lifestyle and perhaps also full-time volunteer position.
Thank you!

It asks endless questions of those with whom it's supposed to be working so that nothing is getting done.

There's a demon in the Internet.