Visibility and Wikipedia

Ursula Whitcher uaw@umich.edu

Mathematical Reviews (AMS)

October 2018

A Case Study

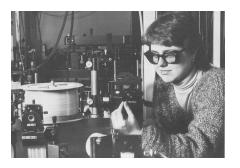


Figure: Donna Strickland

▶ Donna Strickland won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018.

A Case Study

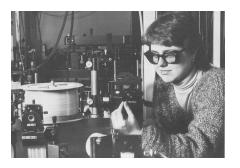


Figure: Donna Strickland

- Donna Strickland won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018.
- When she received the award, she did not have a Wikipedia page.

A Case Study

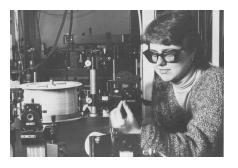


Figure: Donna Strickland

- ▶ Donna Strickland won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018.
- When she received the award, she did not have a Wikipedia page.
- ➤ A draft page for her, created earlier in 2018, had not been approved.

What is Wikipedia Doing?



The goal of a Wikipedia article is to present a neutrally written summary of existing mainstream knowledge in a fair and accurate manner with a straightforward, "just-the-facts" style.

What is Wikipedia Doing?



The goal of a Wikipedia article is to present a neutrally written summary of existing mainstream knowledge in a fair and accurate manner with a straightforward, "just-the-facts" style.

Wikipedia both reflects and establishes mainstream beliefs about what is important or notable.

How many of you have used Wikipedia?

- ► How many of you have used Wikipedia?
- ▶ How many of you have edited Wikipedia?

- ► How many of you have used Wikipedia?
- ▶ How many of you have edited Wikipedia?
- How many of you have made an account on Wikipedia?

- ► How many of you have used Wikipedia?
- How many of you have edited Wikipedia?
- How many of you have made an account on Wikipedia?
- How many of you have typed an equation?

- ▶ How many of you have used Wikipedia?
- ▶ How many of you have edited Wikipedia?
- How many of you have made an account on Wikipedia?
- How many of you have typed an equation?

http://www.wikipedia.org/

Gender Bias and Wikipedia

Across All of Wikipedia

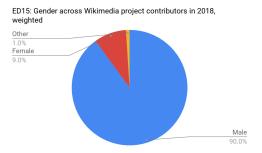


Figure: Gender of Wikipedia editors, Community engagement survey, 2018

Gender Bias and Wikipedia

By Wikipedia Language

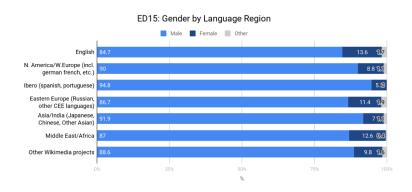


Figure: Gender of Wikipedia editors, Community engagement survey, 2018

Some Other Wikipedia Bias Facts

- ▶ 17.67% of English-language Wikipedia biographies are of women.
- ▶ The median age category for Wikipedia editors is 35-44 years.
- ▶ 81% of Wikipedia contributors are from "the Global North".

You Can Make Somebody's Day

Part 1





Mary Anning's Wikipedia page is quite clear on how her significant contributions were overlooked during her lifetime: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Anni... The Wikipedia page for the history of fossils, of course, also leaves her out. en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Fossil

4:18 PM - 21 Aug 2018

You Can Make Somebody's Day

Part 2



Following

Replying to @superyarn

This is absolutely marvelous and I cannot thank you enough. I am a little choked up right now about this. Thank you, thank you!

5:06 PM - 21 Aug 2018

Are You For Real, or Are You Just Mayo?

Navigating Wikipedia Culture



In 2016, Bloomberg News reported that contractors for Just Mayo were buying the product from store shelves, making it look more popular than it really was.

Are You For Real, or Are You Just Mayo?

Navigating Wikipedia Culture



In 2016, Bloomberg News reported that contractors for Just Mayo were buying the product from store shelves, making it look more popular than it really was.

Wikipedia doesn't want to host Astroturf/ fake grassroots campaigns.

Are You For Real, or Are You Just Mayo?

Navigating Wikipedia Culture



In 2016, Bloomberg News reported that contractors for Just Mayo were buying the product from store shelves, making it look more popular than it really was.

- Wikipedia doesn't want to host Astroturf/ fake grassroots campaigns.
- Wikipedia doesn't want people with conflicts of interest writing pages.

Make a Wikipedia account, and use it

- ▶ Make a Wikipedia account, and use it
- Create cross-links

- ▶ Make a Wikipedia account, and use it
- Create cross-links
- Explain why people or topics are notable (awards, honors, just say "notable")

- Make a Wikipedia account, and use it
- Create cross-links
- Explain why people or topics are notable (awards, honors, just say "notable")
- Wikipedia is for cool facts, not long-held passions (save those for articles and blog posts!)

How Can You Get Involved?



Figure: Keisha Cook at the 2017 AWM Symposium editathon

- Make a Wikipedia account
- Edit or create articles
- Participate in an editathon (AWM Research Symposia)
- Run an editathon (Wikimedia Rapid Grant?)
- Become a Wikipedia Fellow (fellows.wikiedu.org)