



# Wikipedia Library Interns

## What are Wikipedia Library Interns?

Wikipedia Library Interns are student interns at Libraries, Special Collections and Archives who edit Wikipedia to expand the visibility of materials and information of interest to those collections. These interns are hired by libraries as part of their student intern programs. Once hired, interns focus their energy on expanding Wikipedia content related to the knowledge already available within their library's collections.

## Why should you hire a Wikipedia Library Intern?

Wikipedia Library Internships can create a number of benefits for organizations. They:

- Demonstrate an organization's commitment to public knowledge access by editing the most used public reference work in the world, Wikipedia.
- Increase visibility and traffic towards digital resources through direct links to your library's collection. Published case studies show traffic increases, and increased visibility of resources.
- Create student learning outcomes focused around research skills, writing, and responsible use of information.
- Offer a lightweight way to introduce students to participatory digital librarianship and digital humanities.

## Who has had an intern before?

Many libraries have been working with Wikipedia interns, including:

- Corning Museum of Glass Library
- Pittsburg State University Libraries
- Oklahoma State Libraries
- Oregon State University Archives and Special Collections
- The Texas Collection at Baylor University

The Wikimedia community also has had extensive partnerships with full-time in-house "Wikipedians in Residence" at the National Archive, Smithsonian Archive of America Art, and the Metropolitan New York Library Council among many other Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAMs).

## Precedents and Case Studies

The Wikipedia community has been partnering extensively with educators and GLAMs for many years. But professional library publications also profile successful library internships in action, including:

- Belden (2008). "Harnessing social networks to connect with audiences: If you build it, will they come 2.0?" *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* **13** (1): 99– 111. doi:10.1300/J136v13n01\_06.
- Combs, M (2011). "Wikipedia as an access point for manuscript collections". In K. Theimer. *A Different kind of web: New connections between archives and our users*. Society of American Archivists. pp. 139–147.
- Cloutier, Camille (2008). "The Calisphere Wikipedia Project: Lessons Learned". *CSLA Journal* **32** (1): 27–29.
- Galloway, Ed; DellaCorte, Cassandra (2014). "Increasing the Discoverability of Digital Collections Using Wikipedia: The Pitt Experience". *Pennsylvania Libraries: Practice and research* **2** (1). doi:10.5195/palrap.2014.60.
- Lally, A. M.; Dunford, C. E. (2007). "Using Wikipedia to extend digital collections". *D-Lib Magazine* **13** (5/6). doi:10.1045/may2007-lally.
- Lally, A. (2009, May 18). *The Interactive archivist: Case studies in utilizing web 2.0 to improve the archival experience*.
- Pressley, L; McCallum, C. J. (2008). "Putting the library in Wikipedia". *Info Today* **32** (5).
- Szajewski, M. (2013). "Using Wikipedia to enhance the visibility of digitized archival assets". *D-Lib Magazine* **19** (3/4). doi:10.1045/march2013-szajewski.

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