Access, Representation and Engagement: Working with Wikimedia Projects

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What is Wikipedia?

- Wikipedia is a free, web-based, collaborative, multilingual encyclopedia
- Editable by everyone*
- Written collaboratively
- Funded by donations and run by a charity - the Wikimedia Foundation

"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

*with an internet connection

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Wikipedia’s audience

- The largest encyclopedia ever written
- Available in 307 languages (including Irish)
- 21 billion page views every month
- 121 million pages views a month from Ireland
- 43 million edits
- 1.8 edits per second

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Who writes Wikipedia?

- Everyone can edit Wikipedia
- 130,000 regular contributors
- Some languages are very big like English, some languages are small like Irish

"Wikipedia doesn't work in theory,

only in practice“ (Anon/many)

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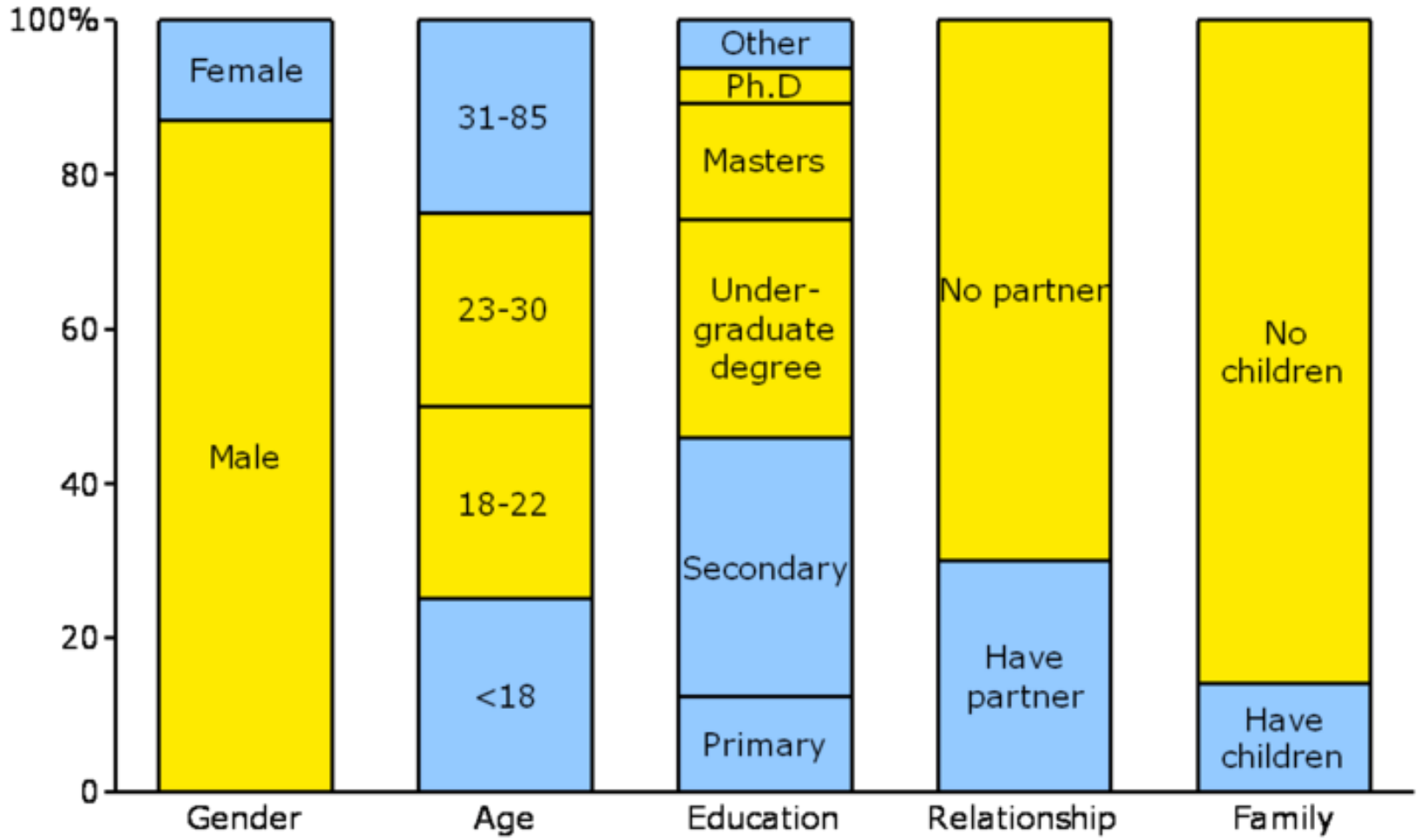
By EneasMx (Own work) CC BY-SA 4.0 from Wikimedia Commons

Self-reported "occasional" or "regular" contributors to Wikipedia (n=43,793)



Note: Data for age category also includes respondents who were not contributors but who did read Wikipedia. Average age for contributors is 26.8 (vs. 25.3 for readers). "Regular" contributors include authors, editors, and administrators. "Occasional" contributors include readers who occasionally contribute as authors or editors.

Source: "Wikipedia Survey – First Results," UNU-MERIT, April 2009

Minding the gaps

- A number of gaps documented on large language Wikipedias:
  - Gender
  - People of colour
  - LGBTQA+
  - Verbal/oral histories or cultures
  - Less dominant cultures within languages (Irish culture on EN, Belgian culture on FR, DE, NL)

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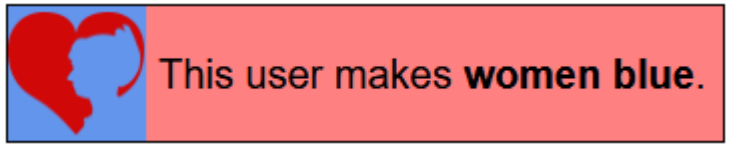
Women in Red

- Founded in 2015
- In 2015, 15.53% of biographies on EN where about women
- In 2019, this had risen to 18.1%
- Write about both historic and contemporary women
- Active Twitter account
- Advocates for open licence imagery



Art+Feminism

- Also works with Whose Knowledge? and Women in Red
- Looks to represent women in both text, image, video and sound
- Focuses on empowering those who traditionally will not edit Wikipedia to do so through:
  - Hosting events
  - Providing source materials
  - In accessible venues
  - With food and refreshments
  - Providing funding for childcare

ART + FEMINISM

Vicipéid

- Founded in 2004
- 50,000+ articles
- 1.9 million page views in October 2019
- 41 active editors
- Favour writing articles from Irish and Irish language sources
- Most readers from the US

Irish context

- Who is telling the story?
- Where are the images coming from?
- What sources are being used?
- What is fore-grounded?

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Nomenclature [edit | edit source]

Travellers refer to themselves as *Minkiers*[8] or *Pavees*, or in Irish as *an Lucht Siúil* ("the walking people").

"Pikey" or "pikie" is a slang term, which is pejorative and is a derogatory term aimed towards Travellers along with the term "Tinker". It is used in the US, UK and Ireland[9][10] to refer to Travellers. In a pejorative sense it means "a lower-class person", perhaps 'coarse' or 'disreputable'. It is not well received among Irish Travellers or Romani, as it is an ethnic slur. [11]

A **halting site** (or **caravan site**) is a facility constructed for the accommodation of Irish Travellers and other nomadic groups.

They are common in Ireland, mainly on the periphery of towns, where they are maintained by local authorities, and include spaces to park caravans and vehicles, electricity and sanitary services, and space to graze horses.

Halting sites are often controversial due to opposition from local residents and a belief that such settlements harbour anti-social activity such as inter-clan violence, illegal dumping and other crime.[1][2][3][4]

Travellers Decorated Caravan via National Library of Ireland on The Commons

JP / Halting Site on Cappagh Road, Finglas CC BY-SA 2.0

Pages in category "LGBT history in Ireland"

The following 11 pages are in this category, out of 11 total. This list may not reflect recent changes (learn more).

- LGBT history in Ireland

C

- Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform

M

- Marriage Act 2015
- Mayo Echo

N

- National LGBT Federation
- David Norris (politician)

R

- 2014 Rose of Tralee

T

- Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution of Ireland

V

- Leo Varadkar

W

- Maria Walsh (Irish politician)

Z

- Katherine Zappone

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LGBT+

User Group

Wake (ceremony)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The examples and perspective in this article **may not represent a worldwide view of the subject**. You may improve this article, discuss the issue on the talk page, or create a new article, as appropriate. *(May 2014) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

It used to be the custom in most Celtic countries in Europe for mourners to keep watch or vigil over their dead until they were buried — this was called a "wake". This is still common in Ireland and North-western Scotland.

List of Irish dishes

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is a **list of dishes found in Irish cuisine**. Irish cuisine is a style of cooking originating from Ireland or developed by Irish people. It evolved from centuries of social and political change. The cuisine takes its influence from the crops grown and animals farmed in its temperate climate. The introduction of the potato in the second half of the 16th century heavily influenced Ireland's cuisine thereafter and, as a result, is often closely associated with Ireland. Representative Irish dishes include Irish stew, bacon and cabbage, boxty, coddle, and colcannon.

Irish dishes [edit | edit source]

English Name	Irish Name	Image	Description
Bacon and cabbage	Bágún agus cabáiste		Unsliced back bacon boiled together with cabbage and potatoes.[1]
Barmbrack	Bairín breac		A leavened bread with sultanas and raisins.
Batter burger			A fast food consisting of a beef patty cooked in batter, similar to a battered sausage. A **Wurly burger** (spellings vary) is a batter burger served with a hamburger bun and toppings.
Black pudding	Putóg dhubh		Sausage made from cooked pig's blood, pork fat, pork rind, pork shoulder, pork liver, oats, onion, rusk (wheat starch, salt), water, salt, pimento and seasoning (rusk, spices). Picture shows slices of black pudding (dark) and white pudding (light).

Difficulties

- Lack of sources – often harder to access, pay-walled, or not digital
- Lack of imagery – few digitised, open licenced images
  - Contemporary or historical
- Identifying the gaps – perception of completeness
- Places more onus on minorities to “correct” others and creates more work

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What can you do?

- Access material to open licence
- Host events with Wikimedians and other open knowledge groups
- Can you make new materials available under an open licence or digitised?
- How can you mobilise communities to own their own narratives?
- Track impact using tools like GLAMorgan

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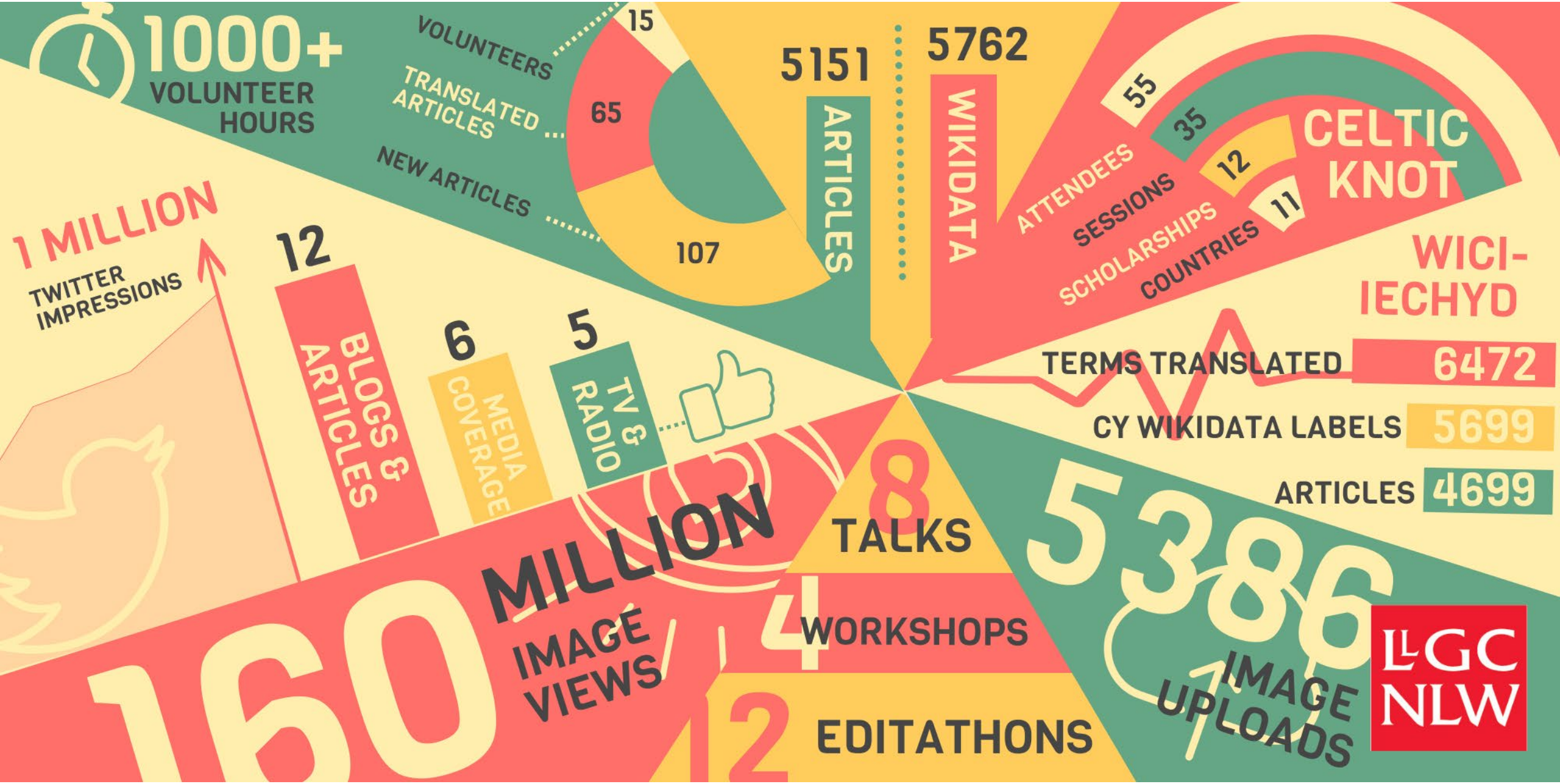

Info Graphic highlighting outcomes of projects managed by the National Wikimedian at the National Library of Wales during 2017-18 by Jason.nlw CC0, from Wikimedia Commons

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