

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2015: 43rd Annual Conference
Fort Worth, Texas | March 19–23, 2015

Wikipedia Edit-a-thon Meeting

March 22, 2015

Submitted by Samuel Duncan

Coordinator: Samuel Duncan

Attending:

Sarah Osborne Bender, American University/The Phillips Collection; Samuel Duncan, Amon Carter Museum of American Art; Alex Provo, Pratt Institute; Walter Schlect, Leo Baeck Institute; Rick Sieber, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Heather Slania, National Museum of Women in the Arts

James Hare, a DC-area Wikipedian, was called out as someone who knows a way to automatically collect all pages that were editing at an edit-a-thon, so they can easily be listed and monitored.

We all agreed that getting edit-a-thon attendees to make a commitment to continued editing is a challenge. In other words, the group questioned how to keep people invested and active as editors following an edit-a-thon event.

Google spreadsheets are a good tool for capturing sign-up info, including participant names, edited articles, etc.

Should not expect editors to be experts.

Should be prepared to help people select images.

We learned about an interesting case at The Phillips Collection regarding *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. Three-fourths of the article was about a controversial conservation treatment done in the 1950s. Used the "talk" page to lay out how they wanted to improve the article and got guidance on how to edit from Wiki community. To date, edits still stand. Story was a lesson in providing transparency.

Specially formatted info boxes are key pieces of a Wikipedia article and worth focusing on. These are the formatted boxes that get incorporated into Google search results.

Dorothy Howard was called out as an experienced NY METRO Wikipedian [and open data specialist]. dhoward@metro.org

Group chatted about “train the editor” sessions sponsored by ARLIS/NA, which might cover how to run an edit-a-thon, how to use it as outreach tool, and how educators are using Wikipedia. It could possibly be a session for next year’s ARLIS/NA conference in Seattle or even a CAA conference.

Minneapolis is working specifically on art history pages.

We learned that the PMA is planning an edit-a-thon on African American art, but the staff organizers did not think to include the library.

Group agreed that a “how to” document would be useful. It should cover all the nuts and bolts that one might not consider, like providing surge protectors, what to do about food, and all the other details.

Group thought it was a good idea for marketing and outreach to hold edit-a-thons in a prominent public space.

Group discussed tremendous outreach possibilities of these events to teaching community.

A caveat: you usually don’t get to edit when you’re running the edit-a-thon.

It is best when someone involved in an edit-a-thon event has account creator ability to circumvent issues of Wikipedia curtailing new accounts associated with an IP range.