

**Association of Centers for the Study of Congress
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Danielle Emerling (DE): At this point in the Conference, we're all brimming with new ideas for reaching out and engaging our various audiences when we get home, but in 2017, I don't think we can talk about connecting and communicating without talking about Wikipedia. Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, is in the top five visited sites on the internet with nearly 5.4 million articles as of May 5th, and it continues to grow by more than 20,000 articles each month. Over the last several years, Wikipedia has been embraced by numerous GLAM institutions – that is, galleries, libraries, archives, and museums – that share content and digital collections and engage in edit-a-thons.

Today, we are joined by three experts who are going to help us think about connecting our mission of studying the U.S. Congress and promoting civic engagement with this popular and influential community. Kelly Doyle is the Wikipedian in Residence for Gender Equity at West Virginia University. There, she works to raise awareness about the editor- and content-based gender gap on Wikipedia, and helps bridge the gap between Wikipedians, academics and students. Kelly has organized and hosted several edit-a-thons and lectures about her work and engagement with Wikipedia. These events include a gender-based violence roundtable about online harassment at the U.S. Department of State, Office of Global Women's Issues, the BBC's annual 100 Women edit-a-thon in Washington, D.C., cohosted with Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight, and with the Women's Media Center.

During her time at WVU, Kelly has successfully piloted a service learning program with sororities on campus that will be replicated in the next academic year at three universities. By advocating for both the use and participation on Wikipedia among women, Kelly is the leader in finding gender-based solutions to Wikipedia's gender gap on college campuses. Kelly also served as a member of the board of directors of Wikimedia, District of Columbia.

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight is the Wikipedia visiting scholar at Northeastern University. In 2016, she was one of five women shortlisted for the **ITU/UN Women's Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology Award** in the category **Applied Technology for Women's Empowerment and Digital Inclusion**. She also was named Wikipedian of the Year. Her work has been covered by *The Huffington Post*, *Live with Robin Morgan*, and the *BBC*. She has been editing Wikipedia since 2007, and she is the founder of WikiProject Women Editors and the cofounder of WikiProject Women in Red and WikiWomen's User Group. She has created more than 4,000 new Wikipedia articles, and has had more articles appear on the English Wikipedia main page than any other woman. She serves as a member of the board of directors of Wikimedia District of Columbia and secretary of the Wikimedia Affiliations Committee.

Andrew Lih is an associate professor of journalism at American University in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *The Wikipedia Revolution: How a Bunch of Nobodies Created the World's Greatest Encyclopedia* and is a noted expert in online

collaboration and digital news innovation. He is the recipient of a 2015 Knight Foundation grant for creating Wikipedia learning spaces for open source content and 2016 U.S. National Archives Citizen Archivist of the Year Award for his work with Wikipedia and heritage institutions. He has been a speaker at South by Southwest, the Online News Association, TEDx, Wikimania, and Wikiism.

Kelly, turn it over to you.

Kelly Doyle (KD): Well, good morning. It's good to see all of you here. We're so excited to be here and to talk about Wikipedia and how we can work together. I wanted to give just a little introduction about Wikipedia before I go into what I do specifically at West Virginia University as the Wikipedian in Residence. Up on the screen, this is a quote from Jimmy Wales, who started Wikipedia. "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." And that really is what all of us volunteers, people who work for the Wikimedia Foundation, what we're all doing, and it's what y'all are doing, too, with your work, bringing information into the light, really, and so this partnership between us seems very natural because of that.

I wanted to go over, again, some basics. Wikipedia is open access, completely free; anyone can edit, anyone can add information, anyone can read. And it's completely created by volunteers, so there's no paid Wikipedia staffers editing Wikipedia. Wikipedia is created by folks who care about information and who care about correct information

and that being accessible. Wikipedia and its various projects – and you can see that on the screen, there's multiple projects within this family – is overseen by the Wikimedia Foundation, who think about how we can keep our movement going forward and how we can push this further into different languages and areas.

Another interesting piece is that all edits that have ever been made on Wikipedia are kept, recorded. You can go back and see them, how the page looked five years ago, how the page looked sixteen years ago. Over 5 million articles, as Danielle said, 270 language Wikipedias, almost 80,000 active users a month. The size and the scope of this is really, really huge, and the ability for us to keep adding more information and increasing those numbers and increasing that level of engagement is really ripe for the picking. So there are some guidelines to Wikipedia. One is neutrality, putting information forward in a way that is neutral. We have a couple of policies about articles and people who are featured in the articles as being notable, and most of the work that y'all are doing, those figures are notable, and that information can be easily added.

So, the next one, conflict of interest: Since I work for West Virginia University, I'm not going to add, maybe, about the president of West Virginia University, but I can add about women, maybe, that were influential that relate to the university. Disclose your affiliations, so since I work for West Virginia University, I make it known on Wikipedia that I work for West Virginia University and I won't make any edits that are disparaging or that conflict with the mission of Wikipedia or my institution or as my role.

Another thing, create an account on Wikipedia. Wikipedia will track all the edits that you've made. You'll be able to go back and really be a member of this community. And then also, editing has been made a lot easier through the visual editor. You don't have to know code or shortcuts. You can really just hit edit and it looks like Microsoft Word, and type what you need and save, so that it's made it really, really user-friendly to engage with Wikipedia, not just as a reader, but as a contributor.

I am the Wikipedian in residence for gender equity at West Virginia University, as Danielle said, and I'm not the only one. There's many different kinds of Wikipedians in residence, and I'm going to go into that a little bit because it can be a little confusing. I know I was confused at first. My position is an advocacy role. It's about getting other people to engage with Wikipedia, getting students to understand how this thing that they're all using is built and aggregated, getting professors to understand how students are using Wikipedia and how to maybe put that into their workflow, how a professor's engagement with Wikipedia can help students use Wikipedia for what it is and move away from it. We want students to be doing scholarly work and research at a high level, but ignoring Wikipedia completely as the starting point might not be the best tact, because then students don't understand how to use it correctly and they're misusing it.

And so, within that role, I work specifically with the gender gap, getting women to engage with Wikipedia, getting female students to not only contribute, but to be editors, to put their voice forth on Wikipedia. And the gaps are pretty large in terms of this gender gap, and I'll go into that a little bit more. So that's what I'm going on college

campuses, but there's a lot more engagement about these gaps in other areas outside of academia.

Then there are content Wikipedians in residence, folks who aren't as forward-facing, and they're adding content from holdings. So for example, the National Archives has a Wikipedian in residence, and while he does facilitate events and speaking engagements, he also facilitates thousands upon thousands upon thousands of images and primary documents being put onto Wikimedia commons, which is where images live, free of licensing. Those images are then embedded into Wikipedia articles, and that's just increasing the engagement that the public has with archives, with museums, with libraries, and being able to follow the bread crumbs, so to speak, of where does this image live, where does more information about this specific topic reside. And again, on the other side of that, my advocacy helps. We work in concert together with that.

And then in terms of how Wikipedians in residence benefit institutions, your information and your content is getting out there. You're going to have a wider audience than ever imaginable. By putting something on Wikipedia, it can easily get 3 million views in just a few months, and getting engagement of that kind is really priceless. And you have a global audience, and you have a community who's engaged with this.

This is an event, The Great Society Congress, an example of this engagement from a Wikipedian in residence embedded in an institution. Danielle and I hosted a Great Society Congress edit-a-thon, and an edit-a-thon is an event where people come together

around a shared topic and edit together and learn from each other and put information onto Wikipedia. This is the list, you can see, of all the articles that we edited during this event. There were maybe eight people at the event. It was very small, but we were a mighty group, and as you can see from this slide here, there were eight editors. We made 43 edits, we added 3,500 words, and to date, there has been 3.41 million views that can be attributed to those changes, and that was eight people at a three-hour event. And we added information, again, that relate to congressional papers, that relate to this topic, and this is something that we can easily do that we can host at your libraries and at your centers. We even added images during that event, as well.

One other thing I wanted to cover was these content gaps that I alluded to a little bit earlier, the first one being gender. The gender gap is pretty stark. Around 16 to 17 percent of the biographies on Wikipedia are about women, so there's a lot of work left for us to do. A lot of notable women are missing. They're not being recorded. I'm sure you guys are a lot like me in that information vacuum gives me a lot of stress and anxiety, and this is something we can easily accomplish together if we're dedicated to it.

There's also diversity gaps. For example, the continent of Africa has very little coverage on Wikipedia. So it's about getting people who are knowledgeable and just interested in these topics to add information, to maybe go to archives and put that information up, or for archivists to release some of this information to create momentum and excitement about engaging with Wikipedia.

I am going to give way to Andrew Lih, who's going to talk about Wikidata. Thank you.

Andrew Lih (AL): Thank you, Kelly. Let me see, here we are, Wikidata. Thanks so much for being here on the last day of the conference. I know it's always the toughest day, but I promise you, you will get a treat by learning about Wikidata. Not even a lot of people who are diehard Wikipedia people know a lot about Wikidata, so you're going to be ahead of the curve, and hopefully it will show you some real interesting possibilities as researchers that you can take advantage of this really exciting initiative that we now have, of taking what is in Wikipedia in readable form for humans, and putting it into a machine form that you can do all kinds of neat things to.

We like to describe Wikidata as the evolution of Wikipedia into the ultimate free linked open database. So depending on whether your background is from libraries or from academics, you might have heard of this whole linked open data initiative that's happening all around the world, because once we get all the databases linked together, great things can happen, and Wikidata is at the center of that hub.

As we talked about before, with our more than 5,000,000 English language articles in Wikipedia, it's in the top ten or five, depending on how you measure it, in terms of popularity, and it has now a reputation among cultural partners, especially here in D.C. If you haven't heard of the acronym GLAM before, or sometimes just LAM, Libraries Archives Museums, we work a lot with the organizations here in D.C., as Wikimedia

D.C. , the chapter of Wikipedia editors here, and you can see Rosie there at one of our meetings.

Library of Congress, we work with Library of Congress on edit-a-thons, or article improvement drives, and now we're working with them on trying to model Congress and all the committees and serving members in Wikidata. The National Archives, we've had a longstanding relationship with them. They actually have a full-time federal employee who is the Wikipedian in residence with NARA. They actually have a full-time Wikipedia exhibit there in the researcher side, so the posters that you see on this side introducing Wikipedia and the Wikipedia collaboration, there are five slides like that, or five panels, in the National Archives full time right now on the researcher side. So if you ever have any time to go to the National Archives, you'll see those there. And then Smithsonian, we do a lot with Smithsonian on linked open data now, especially with the American Art Museum, and we have folks from the Smithsonian side working with us constantly on this.

But one of the reasons why Wikidata has become so interesting is because Wikipedia, although it's great, it has a lot of problems, not just in terms of accuracy and whether we trust it, but we now have 30 million articles. We thought that Wikipedia English was big at 5 million, but across the 200-plus languages, there's 30 million articles. So although we think 5 million is a lot, there's a lot of information we don't get to read in English because they're scattered among the other languages out there.

There's lots of inconsistencies and gaps in replication of content. So if you had someone like James Comey, and what's the status of James Comey now, you need to go to every single edition of Wikipedia across all the different languages and change the start and end date of his employment, and that's not a very efficient way of doing things.

So how do you centralize the noble facts that we have in Wikipedia, and that's what Wikidata is all about?

It's the project to convert the encyclopedic text content that we have in Wikipedia into structured statements. Turn human-readable and prose into something that's machine-readable, and a lot of interesting things can happen. So, for example, this is the article in Wikipedia on the United States Congress, and you'll recognize things that we all know very well. The United States Congress is a bicameral legislature. It's part of the federal government. It meets in the Capitol. These are all statements of fact that we kind of know are true. In addition to this, instead of just the readable prose, we have things like the coordinates. In the upper right-hand corner, we have the longitude and latitude of the Capitol Building. We actually have, in the info box on the right-hand side, if you've ever used Wikipedia, you know that this is kind of a rundown of the facts that we know about a person or an issue.

Additionally, if we go over here to look at the bottom of the article, you'll often see this at the bottom of Wikipedia articles. This what we call a navigation box. How do you navigate to like articles in this space? So you might be interested in the caucuses or the committees of Congress, and this just almost like an index to all the content that's there.

But this is all hand-edited right now. It's great that we have 70,000, 80,000 volunteers per month that do this, but is there a way to make this more consistent and more regular in how we do this? So there is, and the nice thing about it is that we have Wikidata as a way to structure these things. Wikidata takes all that information and tries to structure each of those noble facts as what we call a statement with three parts. There is an item, the property, and then the value of that property. For example, if we want to capture in Wikidata the fact that Congress is a bicameral legislature, we would see that this is the item, United States Congress, this is the property, which it's an instance of, and then bicameral legislature is the value. So Congress is an instance of a bicameral legislature. Pretty good. It's just basically breaking down what we read in prose as three different parts.

But the beauty of this is that once we have this, we can actually assign identifiers to each of these. So what's the benefit of giving these statements identifiers instead of just using the lexical description? Well, the great thing about this is that it's just graphs, and it's just math at this point. So once you understand relationships, you can do great things, like you can start to map out ontologies, if you're into that, if you like to map out how these things are related. So these are basically triples, or three-part statements, that Wikidata tracks all the time, and the cool thing about this is that you can search it really fast, once you have things structured.

There are now 26 million items in Wikidata, so not quite the 30 million in terms of pages and articles in Wikipedia, and there's not a perfect mapping of that. But the great thing

about this is you can do a simple search across all the items in less than a second, so 26 million items in less than a second. And complex queries can be supported if you know some type of database language, and it supports lots of them, but Sparkle and XML. Sparkle's a very popular thing that's being supported out there right now. An example of this might be trying to figure out what you do with IDs or items around people. So what's the beauty of using identifiers? Well, it's agnostic about language and writing systems. So you could Muammar Gaddafi here, and we all know that there's lots of ways to spell Muammar Gaddafi. Notoriously bad for journalists; we almost never get it right. But there's fifty-three variations right now of the spelling of his name. The great thing about Wikidata, there's only one item; we don't have to care about how it's spelled. This is the representation of Gaddafi there. We also are guarded against name changes, so maiden names versus married names, phonetization, or using Taiwan or China in terms of phoneticizing things. This removes the ambiguity around these things, and the great thing about this is you can do really interesting queries.

So if we say to Wikidata, well, show us not just Congress as the instance of the bicameral legislature, we can actually ask it, show us all bicameral legislatures in Wikidata. And right now, it's incomplete, but if you do that query you get seventy-four results. It might be state level in the United States; it might be in India, Kenya, Canada. We certainly know there's more than seventy-four out there. Wikidata is still only a few years old. It's still building up its database, but the great thing is that it comes back in one-third of a second, and that's pretty amazing to think about how many records it's going through.

This is an example of the identifiers that are also associated with, let's say, a biography. So anyone who uses things like VIA, the Virtual International Authority files, or even here, Library of Congress **off** IDs, these are all usually put at the bottom of a Wikidata entry, so they're linking out to other databases. So, for example, Barack Obama has eighty-three identifiers attached to his item in Wikidata, linking out to all the different library and online databases that have a record related to him.

So what are some other examples of identifiers? Some of these you might recognize, some that you won't. And this just shows you how much Wikidata has become a hub, not just for familiar authority control files out there, but also for a lot of these libraries and academic institutions you might have never seen before. So how do we get this information into Wikidata? Well, right now, there is a massive effort, and a volunteer effort, to try to link what does the Wikidata item correspond to in, let's say, the Getty Thesaurus, or to other types of databases out there. There actually is an interface for volunteers to help match what is in Wikidata to someone else's database, and it's actually turned into a game interface where you can actually go to the site Mix'n'match as you play a game to try to match these things together, and in the process of trying to figure these things out, you're actually producing useable work for Wikidata to match up these different databases.

That's just a minor thing. The most important thing for you as researchers is that you have this query box, and there are great things that can happen when you use this query to do interesting stories on top of the data. One of my favorite examples here is just asking

the question, where have most of the members of Congress been educated over the last 200-plus years? You could probably make some intuitive guesses, but the data actually show some really interesting results. If you want to go in there and say, where have people gone to school who served in Congress, this is what a record looks like, or a statement looks like for someone like, I think this is – is it Tom Foley? I can't remember who this is. But this basically says this person was educated at Gonzaga University. This person's also been educated at University of Washington. So it's certainly not unusual, and probably very regular, that people who serve in Congress have undergrad and a law degree, so you have multiple organizations here.

So you can actually craft a query that asks this question. You can say show me all humans, which is what the Q5 looks like there, and show me only those who have a Congress bio ID that you can find on the Library of Congress site, and then show me where they're educated at. And then what I want you to do is to grab all those schools, count how many occurrences there are of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, whatever there is. I want you to order them from most to least, and I want to just see the top fifteen. So not too unusual for your researcher to do this as a database query, but the interesting thing is, once you do that, you have some interesting results that come back here.

So let's take a look at what happens when we do that query. This is what comes back. It takes about fifteen seconds, but you're basically doing three runs through the database and correlating all this information. It would probably take weeks for you to do this by hand, and you probably wouldn't get the right answer at the end. So fifteen seconds, and

the great thing about this is in one click, not only can you get the table, you can plot it on a map. This is more than fifteen here. I think this is the top twenty institutions in the U.S. and where they're located, with red dots on the map here. As you can see, very much a Northeast U.S. bias here. But the cool thing is that once you start digging up those data, there's some interesting things that pop out.

First of all, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, yeah, yeah, yeah, expected that. But Michigan being so high was really a surprise to me. I didn't expect Michigan to be so high, far outpacing any other public university in the United States, and it kind of makes sense that that was the school, once you left the East Coast, for many, many, many years that you wanted to go to if you were in the heart of the United States away from the coasts. But here's an interesting one: Union College. How many people know much about Union College? Some of you do, a little bit? You folks are probably the right ones to know about Union College, because the interesting thing that I didn't know about Union College was in 1800, it was seen as one of the big-four schools in the United States. You're like, what, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Union? How is that the case?

Well, their fortunes have changed over the years. They lost a lot of ground amid a financial scandal in the 1880s and the Civil War hitting their student base quite a bit. But the cool thing is that you can actually do a query in Wikidata to show you this visually. So you can actually say show me all members of Congress who went to Union College, with a query like that – I know it looks cryptic, but trust me, that's what it does – and what happens is it comes back with a list with dates of who went there and when they

were born. And if you plot this, you can hit one button and then say put it on a timeline for me, and, boom, there it is. Hit one button, and it does this for you. So what you see is that there's a huge cluster before 1850, but then afterwards, you can see it was not a main producer of members of Congress. Interestingly, if you look at Columbia University, clearly one of the top Ivy League universities, they actually did not send a lot of people to Congress in the early days, but ever since the Civil War they have. So really interesting to see this visually with Wikidata and the query that took fifteen seconds, you hit one button, and you get graphs to show you this information, so really neat to see what you can do with Wikidata. And there's tons of these stories hiding in the data, and as researchers, I think that should get us really excited.

So what is the impact of Wikidata? Well, if there's any other proof that you need, it's Google shut down their own competitor to Wikidata, because they said Wikidata is doing it better, faster than we could ever do, and they basically shut down their own project called Freebase and put funding into Wikidata and is using Wikidata today on their site. Pretty amazing. So if you ever do a Google search and you get this box on the right-hand side there, they're actually using not only Wikipedia content, but Wikidata as well to populate that box on the right, and if you look at it, it looks very similar to what you'd see in Wikidata. But sometimes, you just don't want to see all these statements there as a database, so we do have interfaces to turn Wikidata into more readable prose. This is a project called Reasonator that tries to take all these statements that are not really human friendly, but turn it into prose. Now, I'm not saying that Wikipedia articles can be written by a machine in the future, but they can do a lot of heavy lifting for standard content

about biographies, and you can see how that might be the case when you look at the information on Tip O'Neill, for example.

So how can we get your help in this? And I think this should be really interesting to you folks. One of the things that is a property, especially for members of Congress, is where are the papers of certain Congressmen stored? And you probably know that because you're the experts in it, or you know the organization or the person who knows this information. So there is a property in Wikidata called P485, where is the archive at, and we could certainly use this help in Wikidata. Right now if you go to Tip O'Neill, you can see that the archives are at Boston College, and the URL is here, and that we actually have what we call a qualifier saying, is that the actual archive, or is it a finding aid, or is it a PDF? So what is it that we're looking at here? Wikidata can absorb all this information in this format.

So here is the raw numbers that might be interesting to you. Wikidata now has 12,691 items for which there is a U.S. Congress bio ID that you would find at the Library of Congress site. Only 44 of those 12,000-some have that archives **at set**, so there's a lot of work to do here in terms of filling in those records. Nine of those are U.S. Presidents, so they simply just point to the presidential library. Twenty-three of those are just pointing to the Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives department, so in fact, there's only like twenty-some folks who have unique entries in here. So Wikipedia may or may not have this info already in the Wikipedia articles, but we could certainly use your help and your colleagues' help to do this.

So one really interesting simple example is a page that you're probably used to seeing is this biographical directory of the United States Congress, and this is an example for a former senator from Maryland, Phillips Lee Goldsborough. You can see that we have the U.S. Congress bio ID in Wikidata, and we visit the LC Biographical Directory item. Then, if you wanted to add that, you basically go ahead and find that entry on Wikidata, you hit the add button right there, and this is what you can do right away. You can do it right now sitting at your seat if you want, if you know where it is. You can type in "archives at," and it will fill in that field for you, and then you can go ahead and just paste in either the location or the institution. At the very least, if you put the institution, that's already a big help. If you just know that the papers are somewhere at Stanford or at Johns Hopkins, even that is a good thing. You don't have to put in all the information right now. So, a lot to do there. This is the example for Phillips Lee Goldsborough after I filled it in myself with Johns Hopkins, Maryland Historical Society, and University of Maryland. So eventually, the Wikidata archives at will be automatically reflected in Wikipedia. That's the long-term goal, that these types of things can be imported from Wikidata not just to English Wikipedia, but to every Wikipedia edition automatically, and that's the impact of you making that one edit in Wikidata. It's reflected automatically in all Wikipedia editions.

So, I like to describe Wikidata as internet duct tape, but in the most pleasant way that that can be taken, not that it's a hack, but it is what will be binding everything together on the internet. It's a great research tool; it's a great academic hub for centralizing a lot of the

academic resources online, and you will be joining top cultural and commercial institutions that are working with Wikidata already – as I mentioned Google, the Smithsonian, National Archives.

There are some great tools out there. We can't go over all of them, but just to show you some things that you can do once you have things in Wikidata, the graph that you see there is an ontology of all firearms that are in Wikidata. You can see all the complex relationships you can see in graph format. The graph that you see here is related to what Rosie's working on in tracking the gender gap in Wikipedia. So you can see that only 11 percent of all biographies of people born between 1900 and 1909 are about women, but that's gotten better and better over the years, but there's still a lot of ways to go there.

So what we want you to do is to ask questions. Oh, I think we skipped that. Ask questions. We want to get to the Q&A as quickly as possible so we can answer any questions that you might have specific to Wikipedia or Wikidata and how that might work with your research agenda. All right, thank you.

Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight (RG): Hello, everyone. I am Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight, and I want to talk about civic engagement; how can we work together? I know that Andrew went over the data part of this, but some of you are thinking oh, what I really want to hear is how can I edit Wikipedia, because that's what I really want to be doing. There are a few things you can do in that regard, and one of them is create the content. Before you start creating content, before you start creating an article, you need

to sort out what's missing, and I can tell you there are lots of articles still missing regarding legislation and elections and such. And once you sort out what's missing, and I'll give you some examples, it's not so hard to create that article if you look at a similar one and then replicate it.

So, I did a search on Wikipedia and came to an article called, "The List of United States Senators from California," and I found that all of these articles, lots of them you see here, about eight, nine, ten of them are missing. We don't have articles about these, and so this is a good place where you could jump in and help. I then did a search for articles about legislation that are missing. This is the list of U.S. federal legislation, 1789 to 1901.

There are actually on that page – you see the blue link? There's actually quite a few more that are missing, but these are five that caught my eye and I wanted to share with you, in the hopes that maybe you'll jump in after you leave here and decide to give it a go.

Not only, though, do we need your help creating articles, every article can be improved. And so you're thinking well, what can I do? Andrew just talked about adding information about archival collections of the papers of current and former members of the House and the Senate into Wikidata. But guess what? That information is missing from the Wikipedia articles, too. And so if you're thinking well, Wikidata, that's for when I can run. Wikipedia, that's for when I can walk, and if you're just in the walking phase of what you do in the Wiki universe, go to the Wikipedia article of your congressperson and see, is there information there about where the archives are, and if not, add that. You can also add simple little things like this, "Curlicue, curlicue, authority control, close curlicue,

close curlicue," and when you add that to someone's article, then the information that's stored in Wikidata populates the bottom of an article. I'll give you an example. You can also add things like categories and info boxes, and you can improve wording, and you can add references and such.

All right, so I live in a small town in California between Sacramento and Reno called Nevada City, and I did some research to see who was the first congressperson, member of Congress, from Nevada City, and guess what? It was William F. Englebright. So this is what his article looks like, not very snazzy. I put some red boxes around things that you can see in the article right now. The red box is mine; what else is there is already there. And so, it says at the very top that this article contains some references, but we really don't know what they're pointing to, so help. And then you see in the middle it says that there's a Harvard reference warning. There is no link pointing to this citation. And then at the very bottom, my red box, it says this article is a stub. You can help improve it. So just looking at it, you can see this article could use some work, and it's as good a place as any to get started.

William Englebright was followed by a congressman name Raker, and we're going to look at that article, too, to see how that's a little bit better. And you'll find that historically, the articles about members of Congress in the very early years are not as good as the members of Congress currently. So you probably recognize what this looks like, and it shows you where the records are kept for Congressman Englebright, but

they're not included in the article, so here you go. Here's the information. This is what we want to get into the article.

Now, John Raker followed on the heels of Mr. Englebright, and look at what he got. Somebody has planted, on the far right, a info box. Isn't that snazzy? I think it looks great. And you'll find that most members of Congress have this info box, but poor Mr. Englebright, he doesn't. And not only does he have an info box, but he has, at the bottom of his article, authority control. Authority control being planted in his article shows at the very bottom, as you can see here, that his WorldCat identity, his **VIF**, his U.S. Congressional Record is included in the gentleman's article, and without that, you can't see it. So as a go-by, going back to Mr. Englebright, Mr. Englebright does not have authority control embedded at the bottom of his article, and therefore, you don't see his WorldCat identity, his VIF identity and such, so there's lots we can do to improve this one.

All right, so I know what you're thinking: Hey Rosie, help. Where do I start? I got the answer for you. We have something on Wikipedia called WikiProjects. That's where editors from around the world, who have a like mind on what they want to work together on, come together. We have a WikiProject U. S. Congress and guess what? They sort their most popular pages. Let's take a look. These are the most popular pages during the period of February 1st through February 28th of this year, and this is updated, you see, periodically, not so often, because the last update was March 15th. You can sort these in various ways, but let's sort by importance. So you can see that what is considered the top

most important articles and who makes these decisions? Wikipedians. And who's a Wikipedian? It's anyone who wants to be. We're all volunteers.

These are the articles that are considered the most important, top importance. You can see some of them are B-class – B is better than C – and some are GA, good articles.

That's pretty good. And then some of them are just – one of them, it's just a start class article. Start class means it's just started. It's not very good. It might be old, but it hasn't gotten very far. And this is a good place where if you're thinking well, where do I get started, just go to this article, this page I should say, and scroll through this. You'll see about a hundred of the top most important articles regarding U.S. Congress, and jump in and see if you can improve the article.

Okay, so what can we do together? First of all, you have just met three members of Wikimedia District of Columbia. We are editors, if you will, and we are scattered all over the United States, and any of us would be welcome to work with you, wherever it is that you're located, where your archives are located. I just talked about WikiProject U.S. Congress, and those editors would love to work with you, as well. We'd be glad to make an introduction. And then, Kelly talked about the Wikipedian in residence program that we have throughout the world. She has that role at the University of West Virginia libraries, but we don't have one in your organization, and if you'd like to have a Wikipedian in residence, we'd be glad to talk to you about that.

Thank you very much, and now we're open to discussion Q&A.

[End of session]