

# Improving Health Information on Wikipedia

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# National Network of Libraries of Medicine



## Eight Regional Medical Libraries (RML)

NNLM provides:

- Funding opportunities
- Training
- Educational Materials
- Community Outreach

# Agenda

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- Describe why Wikipedia is an important health information resource
- Share experiences and takeaways from #CiteNLM
- Identify tools and resources for hosting an edit-a-thon

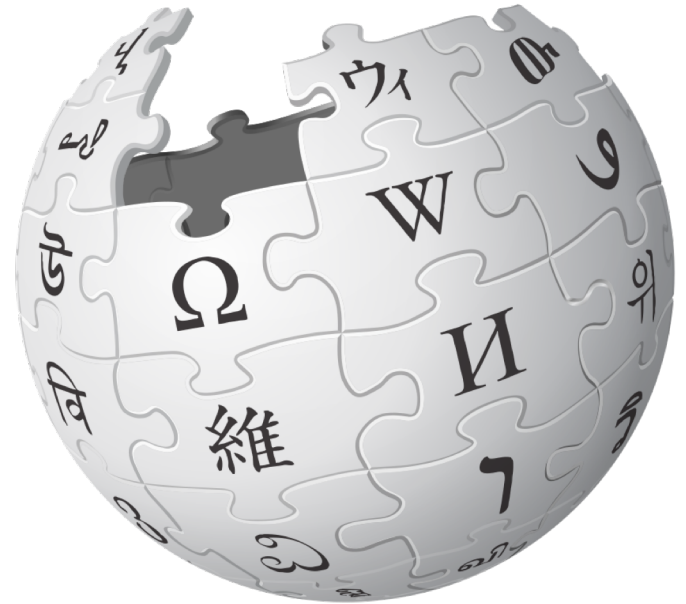
# Why Wikipedia?



# Why Wikipedia?

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- 5th most visited website in the world
- Shared values: librarians and editors value good citations and accurate information
- Relevant to all kinds of libraries
- #1Lib1Ref



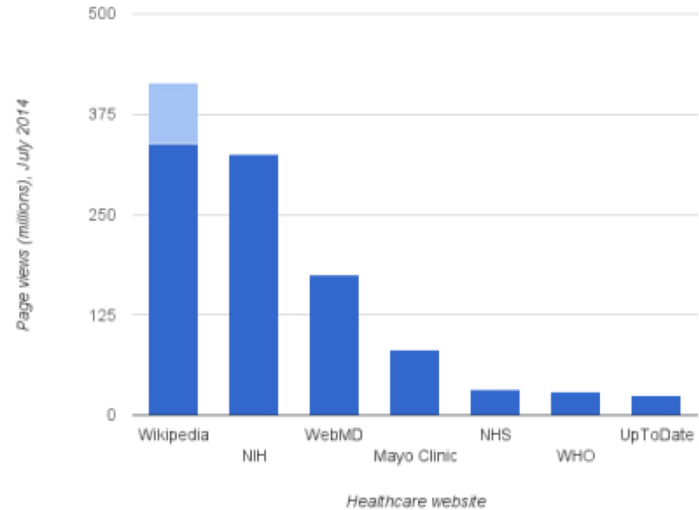
# Why Wikipedia?

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- The average American visits the doctor three times per year, but spends 52 hours a year searching for health information on the internet
- Wikipedia has more than 155,000 health topic pages that are viewed 7 billion times a year
- Only 9-10% of Wikipedia editors self-identify as female

# Why Wikipedia?

- 50% to 70% of physicians use Wikipedia
- 94% of medical students use Wikipedia
- Used by 20% to 60% of journalists
- Frequently used by policy makers



Health care site traffic comparison

# #CiteNLM





# #CiteNLM

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NLM is actively engaged in reaching a major strategic goal to “reach more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement pathways.”

By holding Wikipedia Edit-a-thons, we can:

- Improve the use of NLM and other open access resources
- Engage NNLN members nationwide
- Make Wikipedia a better, evidence-based resource

# #CiteNLM

Three past events:

- Rare Diseases - Spring 2018
- Women's Health - Fall 2018
- Health Equity - Spring 2019

In total, our 136 editors have:

- Made 1,575 edits
- Edited 357 articles
- Created 25 new articles



# #CiteNLM

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# Hosting an Edit-a-Thon



# Hosting an Edit-a-Thon

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- Identify topic
- Identify open access resources
- Identify articles
- Involve your community
  - National health observances
  - Freshman library session
  - Collaboration with department or course

# Hosting an Edit-a-Thon

## Features of Visual Editor tool bar

The diagram shows a horizontal toolbar with various icons. Red arrows point from text labels to specific icons. Labels above the toolbar include: Undo, Redo, Paragraph formats, Character formats, Citations, Insert Photos, Tables etc., Help, and Use source editor. Labels below the toolbar include: Paragraph formats, Links, Lists, Symbols, Whole of Article actions, and Save. The toolbar itself contains icons for Undo, Redo, Paragraph, Bold, Italic, Link, Cite, Lists, Insert, Symbols, Help, and a Save changes button.

Some tool bar items appear/disappear in some situations

NIH > NLM > NNLM

#citeNLM2018

## The Five Pillars of Wikipedia

The infographic consists of five vertical panels, each with a circular icon and a text description. From left to right: 1. A globe and book icon with the text 'It's an encyclopedia'. 2. A scales of justice icon with the text 'Neutral point of view'. 3. A puzzle piece icon with the text 'Free to use, edit and share'. 4. A speech bubble with a smiley face icon with the text 'Respectful and civil decorum'. 5. A lightbulb icon with the text 'No firm rules'. Below these panels is a globe made of puzzle pieces with the word 'WIKIPEDIA' written across it.

It's an encyclopedia

Neutral point of view

Free to use, edit and share

Respectful and civil decorum

No firm rules

WIKIPEDIA

Utilize existing trainings, presentations, and materials for your event!

# Hosting an Edit-a-Thon

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## Tips and Best Practices:

- Have participants create Wikipedia accounts in advance
- Test run all technology including WiFi or virtual meeting rooms
- Consider a broad topic for your edit-a-thon
- Create a dashboard for the event

# Selected Resources

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- [nnlm.gov/wiki](https://nnlm.gov/wiki): #CiteNLM Project Page
- [#1Lib1Ref](#): Ongoing editing campaign with resources for organizing events and finding articles in need
- [WikiProject Medicine](#): Home for health and medicine collaboration on Wikipedia
- [Wikipedia + Libraries](#): Use, edit, and teach Wikipedia at your library



# Thanks #CiteNLM!



# Get In Touch!



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