

Knight News Challenge (/)

THE CHALLENGE

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ACTIVITY FEED

 **MalditoMendez** (<http://twitter.com/MalditoMendez>) **tweeted:**
Come join the conversation from the #newschallenge challenge: <https://t.co/1NyK3QHfGE> (<http://twitter.com/MalditoMendez/status/594286599053058049>)

 **rebuiltbetter** (<http://twitter.com/rebuiltbetter>) **tweeted:**
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 **jessicahodder** (<http://twitter.com/jessicahodder>) **tweeted:**
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 **michaelbolden** (<http://twitter.com/michaelbolden>) **tweeted:**
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ENTRY

BACK TO LIST ()

Local Knowledge Fellowships: A residency program that puts the library at the heart of open, local community knowledge

The Local Knowledge Fellowship is a new kind of residency program that reimagines the library as a nexus point for the creation and exchange of open knowledge about the local community itself. The Fellowship program will pair civic-minded individuals with libraries for a year-long residency focused on collecting and sharing knowledge about the local community using LocalWiki as well as other open-knowledge resources such as OpenStreetMap.

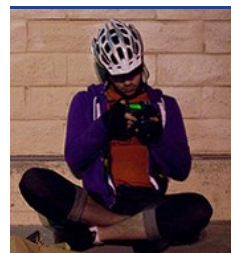
Fellows will work directly with library staff to build off the best of what the library has to offer -- local historical collections, existing outreach programs, and knowledge of community needs -- to share and organize knowledge that is otherwise inaccessible to the community at large.

In one sentence, describe your idea as simply as possible.

A new kind of library residency program that re-imagines libraries as stewards of open, digital knowledge about their local community.

Briefly describe the need that you're trying to address.

With their open culture, local historical collections, freely available Internet access, accessible space, and essential civic place in their communities, we believe that local libraries can become natural stewards of knowledge about their local communities. There has been a great deal of interest in LocalWiki from the library community as a means to increase digital access to and awareness of their unique, locally-centered collections -- increasing citizen engagement and participation in local processes, and access to knowledge that helps



(/profiles/philipn)

Submitted by:
Philip Neustrom (</profiles/philipn>)
September 30, 2014,
15:12PM

2788 views
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(<http://twitter.com/rachelannyes>)
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community members address local needs in a historically-conscious way (https://localwiki.org/main/LocalWiki_and_Libraries). A great example of this is in Oakland, where community members wrote hundreds of LocalWiki articles using the public library's local history collection, creating a referenceable, open-content base from which important projects such as the 2014 mayoral election documentation could grow (http://oaklandwiki.org/2014_Mayoral_Election).

What progress have you made so far?

Over a dozen libraries across the US have either participated in or proposed LocalWiki-related events or programs, including public libraries in Ann Arbor, Oakland, Canton, Berkeley, Tulsa, Detroit, Fremont, Toledo, Chattanooga, Boise and Arlington Heights, as well as the private Prelinger Library in San Francisco (please see: https://localwiki.org/main/LocalWiki_and_Libraries). For instance, the Oakland LocalWiki collaborated with the Oakland Public Library on a series of local history editathons that resulted in hundreds of page creations and increased notoriety of what is now one of the largest and most active LocalWiki communities in the world (http://oaklandwiki.org/Local_History_Editathons & <https://localwiki.org/blog/2013/jan/18/oakland-wiki-hosts-first-series-local-history-edit/>). The Ann Arbor District Library welcomes new contributors through its regular editing parties, and the Prelinger Library in San Francisco graciously hosted a gentrification history editathon that explored the redevelopment projects that inform today's contentious wave of gentrification (<https://localwiki.org/blog/2014/aug/4/san-francisco-localwiki-gentrification-editathon/>).

What would be a successful outcome for your project?

We want to cultivate a new kind of library residency program that will drastically increase the organization and accessibility of local knowledge and help define a new role for local libraries as stewards of open, digital knowledge about their geographic community. Partner libraries, whose needs and resources may vary wildly, will work with their Fellow to set the rough agenda and metrics for the year while actively documenting ideas for how this can be replicated in the future by other libraries. We hope that at the end of the one-year pilot, our Fellowship program will have been able to grow enough local content, community involvement and interest within the library community that we will attract interest from other institutional funders as well as encourage libraries to directly sponsor Fellows in the future (akin to the Wikipedian in Residence program).

Please list your team members and their relevant experiences/skills.

The Local Knowledge Fellowship program will be overseen by the LocalWiki organization as well as a committee of relevant advisors to be determined as the project begins. Team members and advisors thus far include: Philip Neustrom -- Executive Director and Co-Founder, LocalWiki // Vicky Knox -- Community Manager, LocalWiki // Matt Hampel -- Board Member, LocalWiki and Co-Founder, LocalData //

Kate Chapman -- Executive Director, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team and Board Member, OpenStreetMap Foundation // Phoebe Ayers -- Board Member, Wikimedia Foundation and Science & Engineering Reference Librarian, UC Davis // Ivan Silva -- Librarian, Belvedere-Tiburon Library and LocalWikian // Elizabeth "Betsy" Megas -- Trustee, Santa Clara City Library and Wikimedian, LocalWikian // The global LocalWiki volunteer community and LocalWiki advisors (<https://localwiki.org/about/>) // Individual fellows will be overseen by their host library, with assistance from the global LocalWiki project. Libraries we've had a chance to talk to who have expressed preliminary interest in the Local Knowledge Fellowship program include: Ann Arbor District Library // Tulsa City-County Library // Skokie Public Library // Arlington Heights Memorial Library // Belvedere-Tiburon Library and the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society

Location

Each Fellow would directly report to their local host library system, with coordination and assistance provided by the global LocalWiki project, based in San Francisco, California, USA.



Folks gathering around a table at the LocalWiki + Prelinger Library gentrification and displacement editathon.



This project draws inspiration from two major sources: the emerging interest in LocalWiki by the local library community (please see https://localwiki.org/main/LocalWiki_and_Libraries (https://localwiki.org/main/LocalWiki_and_Libraries)), and the successful and ongoing Wikipedian in Residence program hosted by major cultural institutions around the world, including Harvard, the British Museum, the British Library, the Palace of Versailles, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, and more. We believe that a locally-scaled residency program has the potential for even greater impact on the lives of everyday community residents.

Here's how we think it could work:

Prior to our call for applicants, we will form a fellowship selection committee, finalize our initial set of partner libraries, discuss program specifics and timelines, and set a date for the Fellowship program period. Fellows will begin their residency with an initial training period given by LocalWiki staff and advisors that will give them an overview of LocalWiki and OpenStreetMap, community and event organizing, as well as major topics in the open knowledge landscape: copyright, licensing, creative commons, open data, and collaborative online communities.

Library staff will orient Fellows in the strengths of the local library (i.e. local history collections, existing programs), as well as community needs and current events. Fellows and library staff will collaborate to craft a framework for the residency, including metrics for evaluation. Fellows will report directly to the library staff during the one-year residency period, and financial support will be provided to the library for this oversight.

Fellows will work continuously with their local library throughout the one-year fellowship period to chronicle the many facets of their community using LocalWiki and other open knowledge tools, and will work with library staff to hold various public editing sessions on themes relevant to the library's collections and the geographic community it serves. Community editing sessions will happen at least once per month throughout the year. Prospective themes include: local elections and candidates (http://oaklandwiki.org/2014_Mayoral_Election); political and policy issues of local concern (<https://localwiki.org/sf/Gentrification>); neighborhoods (<http://oaklandwiki.org/Neighborhoods>); public resources (https://localwiki.org/cha/Wifi_Speed_Survey); social services (<http://oaklandwiki.org/Resources>); local history (<https://localwiki.org/hsl/>); photography (https://localwiki.org/santacruz/Beautiful_Santa_Cruz); transportation (https://localwiki.org/detroit/Detroit_Department_of_Transportation_%28DDOT%29); etc.

The fellows will also reach out to local educational, community, government, and business leaders in the area, and if possible, bring them into the library, or bring the library community to them. For instance, a fellow might organize a talk or tour by a museum docent or curator, and then work together with the community members and the docent to bring some of the museum's content or history into LocalWiki.

Ultimately, we hope that the program will not only open local knowledge at the library, but promote further community collaboration in documenting local knowledge, giving historical

context and nuance to local issues.

Librarians are the original open knowledge activists, and we see libraries as key partners in our movement to collect, share, and open the world's local knowledge. With support from the Knight Foundation, we hope to refine a replicable, cost-effective model of the local library as a steward of open knowledge about the local community itself.

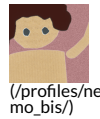
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COMMENTS

Join the conversation and post a comment.

Post a comment



(/profiles/nemo_bis/)

Federico Leva (/profiles/nemo_bis/)
November 10, 2014, 10:12AM

Link

Nice! It's true that there is a lot of potential for collaboration between libraries and free knowledge projects which record local history. For instance Wikimedia Italia in 2010 has started a partnership with Tuscany for librarians to contribute on Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and Wikisource. I'm glad to see the model spread.
http://wiki.wikimedia.it/wiki/Wikipedia_news/numero_29/en#GLAM
http://wiki.wikimedia.it/wiki/Wikipedia_news/numero_29/en#GLAM

0 Applaud

Post a reply



(/profiles/675404371/)

Bill Pardue (/profiles/675404371/)
October 20, 2014, 13:01PM

Link

LocalWiki+Libraries can be a very powerful tool for community-building.

2 Applaud

Post a reply



(/profiles/548801371/)

Tod Robbins (/profiles/548801371/)
October 02, 2014, 15:22PM

Link

This is a fabulous idea for multiple reasons. One that come to the top of my list is that local libraries generally contain some rare or exclusive primary and secondary sources about the history of the communities in which they are based.

Kni

This would be a wonderful way to promote and extract the value of local libraries on the web.

5 Applaud

Post a reply



(/profiles/10002293578333/)

Mikio sugiyama (/profiles/10002293578333/)

Link

October 01, 2014, 08:13AM

Great. fusion of library and localwiki.

It would then know the history, to open the future.

3 Applaud

Post a reply

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