



Request for Qualifications

Wikipedian-in-Residence for *Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together*

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Submission deadline: Please provide requested qualifications to Mercy via email by **5 pm (Pacific)** on **Friday, January 13, 2017**. **Questions or clarifications are welcome prior to submission.**

Organizational Summary

Founded in 1967, [OCLC](#) is a global nonprofit library cooperative that provides shared technology services, original research and community programs for its membership and the library community at large. We are librarians, technologists, researchers, pioneers, leaders and learners. With 16,000+ library members in more than 100 countries, we come together as OCLC to make information more accessible and more useful.

Whether we're supporting advancements on the leading edge of science or helping children build a strong learning foundation, shared knowledge is the common thread. People can find the answers they need to solve important problems in their lives, in their communities and in the world. Together we make breakthroughs possible.

We have greater impact when we work together to champion libraries and increase their visibility. OCLC has a long history of creating, testing and scaling programs that promote libraries and librarianship. [WebJunction](#) is OCLC's flagship public library program (managed by [OCLC Research](#)), and provides online resources, programming and learning opportunities that build the knowledge, skills and confidence public library staff need to power relevant, vibrant libraries. WebJunction resources are openly available to all professional, paraprofessional and volunteer library staff with access to the internet. WebJunction designs and delivers transformational programs for public libraries that address community needs such

as lifelong learning, health and wellness, and economic success. More than 70% of all U.S. public libraries across all 50 states have participated in WebJunction programs and learning since 2003.

Project Summary – Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together

Public libraries and librarians are natural partners for the Wikimedia movement, sharing a commitment to free access to knowledge. OCLC has secured funding from the Knight Foundation to capitalize on this synergy and create a national training program for 500 public librarians to build skills in editing Wikipedia and implement Wikipedia programming for their local community members. A grant from the Wikimedia Foundation is funding the Wikipedian-in-Residence position at OCLC to serve as the content expert in developing training materials, understanding Wikipedia community norms and mentoring librarians. The project began in December 2016 and is scheduled to continue through May 2018.

Additional information about the project can be found here: [Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together](#) and on the [Wikimedia Foundation grant page](#).

Role of the Wikipedian

OCLC seeks a Wikipedian-in-Residence (WIR) to support the implementation of its *Wikipedia + Public Libraries* project. This is a 16-month, full-time (40 hr/wk) contract. It is strongly preferred that the WIR work at either our Seattle, Wash., or San Mateo, Calif., office where OCLC Research project staff are located.

The WIR will work with the OCLC Research project team to expand knowledge, skills and confidence among public librarians to use and edit Wikipedia, support library patrons as they do the same, and host library programs that engage local community members with Wikipedia. Additionally, the WIR will help librarians navigate the librarian/Wikipedian culture gap, and connect with local Wikipedians to aid them in their efforts.

The WIR will consult on the creation and adaptation of curricular materials for a multi-week online training program that will recruit up to 500 public librarians from across the U.S. The training program, which will be designed and delivered by WebJunction (the learning program of OCLC Research), will initiate a community of practice around Wikipedia among U.S. public libraries. The WIR will play a key role in developing and nurturing this community.

Other WIR responsibilities include finding speakers for and presenting during live online training sessions, answering questions and providing additional guidance –including other connections Wikipedians-- to participating libraries, helping to measure impact of libraries' increased engagement with Wikipedia, and developing case studies from among a sample of participating libraries.

Other duties include recruiting volunteer Wikipedians to support library participants during training (including making introductions to the TeaHouse) or during implementation of local community engagement activities, and making connections with existing model engagement projects, such as #1lib1ref, AfroCrowd, Art+Feminism, Women in Red, etc. The WIR may also be asked to visit selected

libraries to provide on-site guidance and make observations as they conduct local Wikipedia-related programming.

Specific skills needed:

- An established Wikipedian with a proven track record of carrying out community engagement projects
- Clear and professional oral and written communication, in both in-person and virtual settings
- Savvy presentation skills, especially in a live online environment; understanding of instructional design principles a plus
- Strong ability to work collaboratively with a project team that values speed, accountability, execution and inclusiveness
- Demonstrated ability to develop and leverage relationships and networks
- Ability to communicate well with diverse individuals and perspectives
- Experience with volunteer recruitment and fostering and sustaining effective volunteers
- Experience working with libraries a plus

Submitting Qualifications

If you are interested in supporting this work as our WIR consultant, please prepare:

- a current resume and/or CV;
- Cover letter that details your qualifications and experience for the Wikipedian-in-Residence role as described above;
- Statement of capacity to serve in the WIR role full-time for 16 months;
- Statement of ability to work in our Seattle or San Mateo office locations;
- Statement of ability to travel to public library locations in the U.S. if required.

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