

Wikimedia Paralympic history project

Overview

The Paralympic history project is directly relevant to the vision, mission and commitments of the Wikimedia Foundation.

1. **The *vision statement* of the Wikimedia Foundation:**

“Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That’s our commitment.”

The Paralympic history project adds to the sum of human knowledge by creating articles about Paralympic sport generally and the Paralympic movement in Australia which may not otherwise be created.

2. *“The mission of the Wikimedia Foundation is to empower and engage people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a [free license](#) or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally.*

“In collaboration with a [network of chapters](#), the Foundation provides the essential infrastructure and an organizational framework for the support and development of multilingual wiki [projects](#) and other endeavours which serve this mission. The Foundation will make and keep useful information from its projects available on the Internet [free of charge](#), in perpetuity.”

Through its activities, the Paralympic history project has inspired and led to an expansion of information about Paralympic sport in other countries and other language versions of Wikipedia. This information was previously unavailable through Wikipedia and otherwise difficult to find.

3. **Commitment to openness and diversity**

“Though US-based, the organization is international in its nature. Our board of trustees, staff members, and volunteers are involved without discrimination based on their religion, political beliefs, sexual preferences, nationalities, etc... Not only do we accept diversity, but we actually look forward to it.”

The Paralympic history project addresses issues of lack of diversity in the coverage of sport in Wikipedia, including the significant discrepancy between the number of articles about Olympic sport and the number about Paralympic sport. It has introduced people with a disability to the editing process and has the potential to significantly expand the number of people with a disability who edit Wikipedia.

In addition, the project has already demonstrated its capacity to:

4. **Meet a need for Paralympic information;**
5. **Introduce new editors to Wikipedia and develop an active community around the creation and editing of articles about Paralympic sport;**
6. **Engage with existing editors;**
7. **Develop a library of Paralympic sport images for use globally, including by Wikipedia;**
8. **Creates a precedent of editing and reporting at the Paralympic Games which is being picked up and followed internationally;**
9. **Develop partnerships which investigate new and innovative ways of expanding the relationships between Wikimedia Australia and the wider community, such as the ARC research project with UQ and the APC; and**
10. **Build a public profile and media coverage of Wikipedia community activities.**

Details

Here is some detail relating to these points:

1. Adding to the sum of human knowledge

- Since the project commenced, the number of Wikipedia articles about Paralympic sport has more than doubled, from 3,149 to 6,610. (In mid 2011 before HOPAU, this is what the [Paralympics stats](#) looked like. And here are the [current stats](#).)
- The project itself has been directly responsible for creating more than 800 articles in the English language version of Wikipedia.
- The project has created or significantly expanded every article in Wikipedia about Paralympic sport classification. Classification – the process of matching competitors into classes for competition according to their level of impairment within their sport – is the basis of all Paralympic competition but in the past has been little understood outside the Paralympic cognoscenti.

Prior to the commencement of this project, most classification categories were not covered in Wikipedia, making it difficult for those not involved in Paralympic sport to access information. Through the project, 127 articles have been created. These articles attracted significant traffic during the London Paralympic Games. For example, the article on T38 classification was viewed 35,000 times on the day when Australian T38 athlete Evan O’Hanlon won the 100m gold medal in London.

- Of all the Wikipedia Paralympic articles, 73, or 1.1% have achieved Good Article (GA) status. Most of these have been developed through this project. By comparison, 0.43% of all Wikipedia articles and just 0.25% of articles about Olympic sport are rated GA. In adding to the sum of knowledge, the Paralympic history project has done so more comprehensively and at a higher quality than the Wikipedia “norm”.

2. Empower and engage people around the world

- In Australia and internationally, the disabled community is the most marginalised and invisible group within society. The history project:
 - Empowers people with a disability by recognising achievements in the “world’s encyclopaedia” on a level which is more comparative to the achievements of able-bodied athletes than what was available before the project.
 - Engages people with a disability as editors and contributors to the project. Since its commencement and the first workshop in Perth on 17 September 2011, the project has attracted and included people who have a disability as editors and contributors. These include Paralympians and people such as [Graham Pearce](#) who have previously had no involvement with the Paralympic movement. (See Attachment B for a list of editors and other contributors to the project.)
 - Tells the stories of people with a disability which inspire and resonate with other people with a disability and their families. Telling these stories brings disability into the mainstream.
- In two years, and with limited funding and resources, the project has spread beyond Australia through the direct efforts of the participants in the project. Activities have been conducted in Indonesia, England, Spain and Ukraine.
- The project has created articles about Paralympic athletes, sports and activities from many different countries. During the London Paralympic Games, articles were created about athletes and teams from 27 countries. At the 2013 Asia-Oceania Regional Basketball Championships held in November in Thailand, articles were created about the teams from most of the participating nations.
- The project engages the Australian Federal Government, the academic community and the university sector about the ways in which Wikipedia contributes to knowledge production on a global level.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant awarded to the University of Queensland (UQ),

Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee (2013-2016) is the first in Australia for a project involving Wikipedia and is the first sports history project funded through the prestigious national ARC that acknowledges the innovative and collaborative approach between the three partners.

Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee are the identified industry linkage partners and were closely involved in the preparation of the grant application with the applicant, UQ (see Attachment D).

The ARC project will:

- Bring substantial financial resources to the project from UQ, the APC and the ARC.
- Contribute to the academic analysis of the role of Wikipedia and its value in recording history.
- Significantly increase the Wikipedia coverage of Paralympic sport.
- Pilot the integration of Wikipedia articles within the format of a written history and its broader, complex narrative, thus expanding the role of Wikipedia in the history-making process.
- Participants in the project representing Wikimedia Australia, the University of Queensland and the Australian Paralympic Committee have presented papers at conferences, including in the USA (American Society of Sports Historians), the UK (Coventry University conference on disability sport), Hong Kong (Wikimania) and Australia (Australian Librarians Association, Australian Society of Sports Historians, Australian Media Traditions) on the project and the mutually beneficial relationship between the partners involved in it. Through these presentations, the project's concepts are being spread and taken up (See Attachment C for further information).
- Academics from UQ (Townsend, Osmond and Phillips) have published the first, peer-refereed journal article on the relationship between Wikipedia and sport history in the premier journal, *The International Journal of Sport History*. This article has attracted considerable attention from academics and has been viewed almost 200 times since its publication earlier this year (See Attachment C).
- This project has specifically engaged the student body at the University of Queensland. In terms of involving students, Wikipedia is given a significant profile in the course *The History of Sport and Physical Activity in Australia* at UQ. In this course, which is taken by future physical education, exercise science, arts and journalism professionals and taught by Associate Professor Phillips, Wikipedia constitutes approximately 20% of the content material. Students are introduced to Australian Paralympic history project and the centrality of Wikipedia, including a philosophical and practical analysis of the online encyclopaedia. In follow-up tutorials, students are required to experiment and evaluate Wikipedia with a specific focus on Australian sportspeople.

3. Openness and diversity

People with a disability are constantly marginalised within society. This marginalisation is reinforced when the activities and achievements of people with a disability are not treated equally with the equivalent activities and achievements of the able-bodied community.

Within Wikipedia, the differential coverage between Olympic sport and Paralympic sport reinforces the prevailing culture that marginalises the role of people with a disability, even though 19 percent of Australians, and between 10 and 20 percent of people worldwide, have a disability.

Every time an able-bodied athlete or event is covered by an article in Wikipedia, but the equivalent Paralympic athlete or event is not covered, it reinforces the prevailing culture.

The Paralympic history project has actively addressed this endemic lack of diversity within Wikipedia through the creation of articles and by actively creating a community of editors and other contributors to give profile to the achievements of people with a disability in sport.

- The difference in the number of articles about Paralympic sport and its able-bodied equivalent - Olympic sport - remains considerable. However, due to this project, the proportional difference has narrowed. In 2013 there are thirteen articles about Olympic sport for every article about Paralympic sport. Two years ago there were twenty Olympic articles for every Paralympic article. The coverage of

Paralympicsport has more than doubled in the past two years, from 3,149 to 6,610, and the number of Good Articles (GA) has increased five-fold, from 14 to 73. Of the 59 new GAs, all but one were created or significantly improved by project participants. In the same period, articles about the Olympics increased approximately 1.3 times from 64,054 to 85,720 articles, and Good Articles doubled from 106 to 218.

- The success of the project in attracting editors with a disability supports diversity within the Wikipedia editing community. These editors include [Melissa Carlton](#), [Elizabeth Edmondson](#) and [Graham Pearce](#).
- Approximately half of the editors involved in the Paralympic history project are female, including new editors [Tara McPhail](#), [Melissa Carlton](#), [Patricia Ollerenshaw](#), [Rebekka Wake](#), and [Elizabeth Edmondson](#). In addition, experienced editor [Laura Hale](#) has been the most prodigious contributor to the project.
- Telling the stories of people with a disability within the forum of Wikipedia helps to normalise and inspire others with a disability within society.

4. Need for Paralympic information

- The table below summarises the number of pageviews of Wikipedia articles created through the project during the period covering the London 2012 Paralympic Games. The total number of pageviews (1,926,124) exceeded those of the Australian Paralympic Committee website and the website of the ABC, the Australian Games' broadcaster.

Article type	Number	Views
All classification articles	124	648,798
Top level 2012 event articles	21	866,273
2012 Australian Paralympians	174	411,053

- Prior to this project there was minimal information about Paralympic sport in Wikipedia. The project created 127 articles about Paralympic classification and standardised and expanded articles about Australia at the Paralympic Games. Articles have been created about every Australian Paralympic Games medallist and an article was created about every athlete in the Australian 2012 Paralympic Team. Photos of every 2012 Australian Paralympic Team Member were uploaded into Wikimedia Commons and used in the articles.

5. New editors and active community

The Paralympic history project has created a community of contributors – not all of whom edit – with a shared interest in the coverage of Paralympic sport through Wikipedia. The use of Google Groups has enabled all members of this community to actively participate in this community and to maintain their engagement.

- The project has engaged editors and other contributors from outside the traditional Wikipedia community. More than half of the new editors who have joined the project have been female, compared with the average female proportion of 10 percent of Wikipedia editors.
- The project has attracted new editors who have a disability, as well as existing editors who have a disability.
- The workshops conducted for the project have created content (especially the classification workshop in Canberra in July 2012, which was facilitated by the APC's Classification Manager) and successfully resulted in the recruitment of new editors. This has demonstrated the success of building workshops around the project and supporting those workshops with resources and expert input.
- Paralympic sport events in Australia (Gliders and Roller World Challenge, July 2012, Wheelchair Rugby Tri-Nations September 2013, etc.) have helped maintain momentum in the project by providing opportunities to take photographs for use in articles, interviews, content about athletes, and reporting through Wikinews. During these events, project editors have updated articles about sports, teams and individuals in partnership with the APC, which has provided active support.

- The Google Groups project mailing list (HOPAU) is a regular source of content from people who are not comfortable editing directly. Corrections and new material are provided via people in the Paralympic community and contacts are also shared freely when a Wikipedian asks for help.

6. Existing editors

- The project has engaged with experienced existing editors. By supporting them, providing resources, feedback, and opportunities for collaboration and recognition, the project has sought to enhance their involvement with Wikipedia and to regenerate their interest.
- Editors such as [Laura Hale](#), [John Vandenberg](#), [Graham Pearce](#), [Ross Mallett](#), [Toby Hudson](#), and [Robert Myers](#) have made major contributions to the project by creating and editing articles, taking photos of events, doing interviews, writing Wikinews stories and training and mentoring new editors.
- Existing editors have seen sufficient value in the program that some of them have spent large amounts of their own money to attend events in Australia and overseas. For example, in November 2013, [Ross Mallett](#) travelled from Canberra to Bangkok to cover the Asia-Oceania wheelchair basketball zonal championships, and [John Vandenberg](#) travelled from Jakarta to Bangkok to for the same event.

7. A library of Paralympic sport images.

- Since the project commenced, [1,763 images](#) have been uploaded into Wikimedia Commons for use in Wikipedia articles about Paralympic sport.
- These images have been used extensively across the different language versions of Wikipedia to illustrate articles about Paralympic sport. For example, [this image](#) of Priya Cooper appears in three English language articles as well as articles in six other language versions of Wikipedia.
- One of the aims of the project is to make available 35,000 images from the APC's collection.

8. A precedent of editing and reporting at the Paralympic Games

Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee combined to fund the first media accreditations of Wikipedia editors at the Paralympic Games, when they sent two editors to the London 2012 Paralympic Games under the "Wikimedians to the Games" (W2G) project.

The two Wikimedians who attended the Games published 69 Wikinews articles during the Games, conducted thirteen interviews, uploaded a number of images to Wikimedia Commons and updated Wikipedia articles about the Games and the Paralympic movement. The report of the W2G project is contained in Attachment B.

Expanding this concept internationally, one of the W2G Wikimedians, [Laura Hale](#), will take a team of accredited Ukrainian Wikinews reporters to the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

Because Ukrainian Wikipedia lacks a great deal of Paralympic content and in preparation for Sochi, Laura and her team are working on creating a way to bulk create articles as many Paralympic medallists and world record holders as possible. Laura has also talked to people involved with four other language Wikipedia projects who have indicated their interest in bulk creating articles about Paralympic medallists if a standardised data file is available to allow ease of translation.

The Australian Paralympic Committee is keen to support Wikimedians to attend the 2016 Paralympic Summer Games in Rio.

9. New and innovative ways of expanding relationships

The Paralympic history project involves a relationship between Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee which assists in furthering the vision and mission of the Wikimedia Foundation and addressing social equity needs, without compromising the editorial independence of the editors involved in the project.

The project has attracted and retained a wide range of new and existing editors, including a high percentage of female editors, by:

- associating workshops and editing activities with Paralympic sport events;
- providing resources and materials for the project from the APC's holdings, including images;
- creating a community of users through Google Groups;
- encouraging mentoring of new editors face-to-face and by email;
- creating and supporting the Wikimedians to the Games concept; and
- engaging with universities to support and expand the project.

The agreement between the APC and the University of Queensland (UQ) to produce a written history of the Paralympic movement in Australia has helped to support the project by sourcing material for articles and creating opportunities for collaboration (workshops, research, interviews, etc.). The project will use the Wikipedia content to enhance the written history in an online ("e-book") format.

The innovative nature of this collaborative approach has attracted a substantial industry linkage grant from the Australian Research Council (ARC). Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee are the identified industry linkage partners and were closely involved in the preparation of the grant application with the applicant, UQ.

11. Public profile and media coverage

Through the APC, Paralympic sport has a good media profile in Australia. During the London Paralympic Games, there were 63,343 stories about the Paralympics in Australian media (radio, TV, press and internet).

The APC's relationship with media is very positive and the APC has encouraged promoted the project and the use of Wikipedia with the media because it has been able to verify that the information in Wikipedia is accurate and up-to-date due to the relationships that are fostered through the project.

The APC, UQ and WMAU have generated a high public profile for the ARC grant and Wikipedia workshops through a number of press releases and online stories. For example, see:

- APC Press Release, "[Murderball Hits St Mary's Cathedral Square](#)", 13 August 2013 (published on-line in various formats).
- UQ Press Release: UQ News, "[Australian Paralympic movement set to harness the power of social media](#)", 25 September 2013.
- The *Inside the Games* website story "[Australian Paralympic history project secures funding](#)", 1 October 2013.

The project has also received support and encouragement in the media from the highest level of the Australian Government. Kate Lundy, Federal Minister for Sport during the London Paralympic Games and former Labor spokesperson for technology, recognised the collaborative strengths of the project and its associated partners in her [blog](#).

In these ways, the project partners have successfully promoted the public profile of the project and will continue to do so.

Summary

The HOPAU project has been successful, and addresses the vision and mission of the Wikimedia Foundation. It has been particularly successful at:

1. Engaging new Australian editors.
2. Engaging new female Australian editors.
3. Engaging existing Australian editors.
4. Creating new English Wikipedia content.
5. Creating high quality content.
6. Developing a content area with a wide readership (especially during the 2012 Paralympics).
7. Piloting a concept in Australia that will be useful to other movement entities, including Wikinews projects and elite sport organisation partnerships.

It has the potential to continue to be all those things for quite a while.

For the future

The collaboration of Wikimedia Australia with the APC and UQ through the project supported by the Australian Research Council will grow and expand on the outcomes identified in the preceding sections. In particular, the ARC research component of the project will provide the capacity to:

1. Organise a series of workshops in Australian capital cities with the Paralympic movement as the focal point. These workshops will be characterised by a specific pedagogy that firstly educates attendees in the process of editing Wikipedia pages, secondly provides a synopsis of the Paralympic project, thirdly provides access to appropriate electronic sources to create Wikipedia articles, and fourthly provides mentors (experienced editors) to help nurture skills for novice editors.
2. Organise, catalogue, copy and deliver digital access to appropriate archival material including minute books, newspaper articles, photographs, images, book sections as well as providing published sources such as histories of the Paralympic Games to enable Wikipedians to edit articles on the Paralympic movement.
3. Build on the new editor outcomes to create a viable, self-sustaining community of contributors.
4. Enhance the quality content outcomes (measured by GA percentages, FA and other criteria) and, as the book research continues, errors or omissions in Wikipedia quality will be fixed.
5. Support increased academic activity around Wikipedia coverage of Australian sports, which will raise the profile and perceptions of Wikipedia in the eyes of the Australian public and the academic community. Associate Professor Phillips is President of the Australian Society of Sport History as well as the incoming editor of the *Journal of Sport History*(USA) and in these positions will both encourage and facilitate conference presentations and journal articles that engage with Wikipedia as critical form of online knowledge production.
6. Generate a PhD stipend for a postgraduate student to research and write an 80,000 word thesis that will be dedicated to examining Wikipedia in the context of knowledge production. This thesis and associated publications and presentations in national and international forums will provide multiple platforms for analysis, consideration and debate about the role of Wikipedia.
7. Establish the precedent for funding of future Wikimedia projects through the Australian Research Council. The project is crucial to establish the working relationship between academics and Wikipedians and will provide a 'proof of concept' to the ARC for funding future collaboration between the university sector and Wikimedia.
8. Pilot digital history incorporating Wikipedia. Associate Professor Phillips and Dr Osmond have a forthcoming book titled *Sport History in the Digital Age* and their research focus over the next five years will embrace Wikipedia, and digital history more broadly, as a phenomenon of the internet age.

There are opportunities for the project to expand across other WMF projects. For example, the use of Wikidata to extract, analyse and use data from articles created across the project. This will assist in developing a greater understanding of the Paralympic movement and the role of Wikipedia in promoting knowledge of the movement. It could provide information about Paralympians and the movement – for example, assisting councils, businesses, and teachers to identify Paralympians living in their area or who have lived in their area.



ATTACHMENT A: W2G

A report on the Wikimedians to the Games project

Adapted and including tabular data from a report written by Laura Hale
CC-BY <http://www.wikimedia.org.au/wiki/File:HOPAU-at-London-Paralympics.pdf>

Background

The Wikipedia Australian Paralympic history project (HoPAu) was set up to address a deficiency in the Wikipedia coverage of Paralympic sport. A side benefit is that it has facilitated the collection and management of material for the broader Australian Paralympic history project.

The project has been developed by the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and Wikimedia Australia (WMAU) in collaboration. The contributors to the project are volunteer Wikipedia editors.

The nature of Wikipedia is such that individual contributors will follow their own interests and also respond to needs that they identify for articles. Hence, the Wikipedia Paralympic history project has evolved to encompass a role in capturing and preserving information about the current activities of the Paralympic movement in Australia as well as historical information.

In 2012 the APC and WMAU conducted a competition to encourage people to contribute to HoPAu. The competition was called "Wikimedians to the Games" (W2G) and the prize was a trip to the London 2012 Games for two Wikipedians. The winners would be required to report for Wikinews during the Games and contribute to Wikipedia articles about the Games. The trip winners were Laura Hale and Ross Mallett.

This report summarises the W2G.

Pre-Games

Through HoPAu, articles had been created about most Australian Paralympic medalists, Australia at each Paralympic Games, Australian Paralympic teams and a range of other subjects.

Wikimedia Australia and the APC conducted content workshops:

- State Library of Queensland workshop.(May 2012)
- Classification workshop in Canberra. (July 2012)
- Sydney Rollers & Gliders World Challenge Wikinews test workshop. (July 2012)
- 3 IRC Wikinews Workshops.

Laura Hale conducted a Wikinews workshop in London August 2012 in the lead-up to the Games.

Upon nomination as one of the W2G, Laura Hale worked with the APC and other HoPAu editors to:

- create articles about all 161 Australian 2012 Summer Paralympians;
- place pictures of every 2012 Australian Paralympian on Wikimedia Commons and in their Wikipedia article;
- create an extensive set of articles about as many Paralympic classification classes as possible (127 created);
- publish articles on Wikinews in lead-up to London Games;
- donated images taken by the Wiki community of Australian Paralympic sport to Wikimedia Commons(more than 250 images); and
- Upload Paralympic related interviews to Wikimedia Commons (10).

TABLE 1
Total views between 12 August and 11 September 2012.

Article type	Number	Views
All classification articles	124	648,798
Top level 2012 event articles	21	866,273
2012 Australian Paralympians	174	411,053

In general, classification articles were viewed most often on the day of an event with an Australian athlete in that classification. For example, the T38 classification article was viewed 35,005 times on the day that Evan O’Hanlon won the T38 100m final. The following articles all had more than 25,000 pageviews: T38, T37, T44, S12, S10 and ‘Disability sport classification’.

The 21 articles about events at the 2012 Summer Paralympics and the main 2012 Summer Paralympics article were viewed an average of 41,251 times each.

Articles about the following athletes were viewed most often, each having more than 5,000 views : Australia at the 2012 Summer Paralympics, Matthew Cowdrey, Evan O’Hanlon, Kelly Cartwright, Jacqueline Freney, Chris Bond, Maddison Elliott, Ryley Batt, Kurt Fearnley, Ahmed Kelly, Ellie Cole, Kayla Clarke and Madison de Rozario. Three of these articles appeared as DYKs in this period: Chris Bond, Ahmed Kelly and Kayla Clarke.

There were a total of 15 translations of HoPAu articles into non-English versions of Wikipedia.

A “Did You Know” appearance on the home page of Wikipedia usually boosts views of an article. In the lead up to the Paralympics, articles were prepped to appear on Wikipedia’s front page DYK section. 59 articles were appeared in the DYK section in the lead-up to the Games or during the Games. Attachment A shows the date an article appeared and views on the day.

The most popular DYK was Chris Bond (wheelchair rugby), which received twice as many views as the second most popular DYK.

Good Article status in Wikipedia is a rating that indicates that articles have a higher level of detail and quality. About 11 percent of all articles achieve “Good” status.

12 HoPAu supported articles have earned Good Article status. Of these, 10 are about London Paralympians: Angie Ballard, Jennifer Blow, Meica Christensen, Ellie Cole, Nicole Esdaile, Jessica Gallagher, Rachel Henderson, Michelle Rzepecki, Tyan Taylor, Teigan Van Roosmalen. Of these, 6 achieved their status a month before the start of the Games.

One of the goals of the project was to update the article about Australia at the 2012 Summer Paralympics during the Games period with results and other information. Nine editors made most of the edits to the article during the Games period. Of the 13 human editors who made 2 or more changes to articles, 8 are affiliated with the HoPAu project.

TABLE 2
DYK articles

Article	Date	Views	Article2	Date2	Views2
Katherine Downie	22-Aug	1583	Tyan Taylor	2-Sep	404
Michelle Rzepecki	23-Aug	790	Jennifer Blow	3-Sep	1531
Taylor Corry	24-Aug	1001	Chris Bond (wheelchair rugby)	3-Sep	9864
Matthew Bugg	25-Aug	613	Scott Reardon	3-Sep	496
Kara Leo	26-Aug	691	Michael Auprince	3-Sep	3212
Todd Hodgetts	27-Aug	393	Grace Bowman (equestrian)	4-Sep	491
Mitchell Kilduff	29-Aug	1221	Josh Hose	4-Sep	1389
Georgina Kenaghan	29-Aug	770	Jodi Elkington	4-Sep	729
Nicole Esdaile	29-Aug	743	Erinn Walters	5-Sep	1993
Gavin Bellis	29-Aug	892	Melissa Tapper	5-Sep	1138
Ahmed Kelly	29-Aug	1392	Matthew Cameron	6-Sep	445
Hannah Dodd	30-Aug	1981	Rob Oakley	6-Sep	1017
Andrew Harrison (wheelchair rugby)	30-Aug	1278	Rachael Dodds	6-Sep	1302
Abebe Fekadu	30-Aug	1383	Georgia Beikoff	6-Sep	597
Jonathan Harris (sailor)	30-Aug	400	Ben Newton	7-Sep	356
Jack Swift	30-Aug	683	Gabriel Cole (athlete)	7-Sep	717
Luke Cain	31-Aug	1523	Matthew Silcocks	7-Sep	615
Rebecca McDonnell	31-Aug	748	Sarah Vinci	7-Sep	2727
Jannik Blair	31-Aug	2093	Stephen Churm	7-Sep	359
Rachel Henderson	31-Aug	832	Damien Bowen	8-Sep	308
Nick Taylor (basketball)	31-Aug	510	Kayla Clarke	8-Sep	4023
Kristy Pond	31-Aug	775	Rosemary Little	8-Sep	720
Adam Kellerman	1-Sep	392	Stephanie Schweitzer	8-Sep	781
Richard Eliason	1-Sep	1143	Erik Horrie	9-Sep	270
Tim Antalfy	1-Sep	740	Amber Merritt	9-Sep	499
Jeremy McClure	1-Sep	500	Jake Lappin	9-Sep	1126
Matthew Haanappel	1-Sep	399	Simon Patmore	9-Sep	376
Meica Christensen	1-Sep	374	Carlee Beattie	10-Sep	600
Janel Manns	2-Sep	1152	Michael Roeger	10-Sep	552
Rheed McCracken	2-Sep	735			

Wikimedia Commons

In the lead-up to London, the Australian Paralympic Committee uploaded more than 600 images to Wikimedia Commons, an image sharing resource which is part of the Wikimedia project. In addition, images were uploaded by people involved with the project, including LauraHale and Bidgee, who photographed at events in Australia in the lead-up to the Games. One image taken by a participant was used in a television broadcast about the men's wheelchair basketball team in the lead-up to London.

Images uploaded as a result of the project have been used extensively across 22 different language versions of Wikipedia.

German Wikipedia used images during the Games in articles about the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu at the 2012 Summer Paralympics. The profile picture of Jacqueline Freney was used in the German article Sommer-Paralympics 2012, the main article about the Games. This article was viewed 143,434 times during the previous 30 days as of 13 September.

Oceania Paralympic images taken for the project were also used on several pages on French Wikipedia for country specific Games articles. Images from the Rollers and Gliders World Challenge appear on articles about wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics, the Great Britain men's team, and the Australian men and women's teams.

Spanish Wikipedia used the team profile image of Greg Smith for their article about him.

The audio interview with IPC Hall of Fame inductee Trischa Zorn and connected picture were used on at least three different language Wikipedias, including English, Italian and Portuguese.

Many images were across Wikinews articles, including news articles about the Rollers and Gliders World Challenge, London Paralympic articles original reporting, a press conference in Canberra before the Games and more.

Wikinews

Table 3 summarises the Wikinews articles by sport published in the Paralympic period. Table 4 breaks down the articles according to the country of the subjects of the stories. During the Games, articles were written about athletes from 29 different countries.

In addition, Wikinews interviews were conducted with:

- Amber Merritt in the Mixed Zone
- Tyan Taylor in the Mixed Zone
- Greg Smith in the Mixed Zone
- Claire Harvey in the Mixed Zone
- Michael Hartung
- Paul Bird
- Duncan Campbell
- USA Hall of Fame inductee Trischa Zorn
- Samoa Paralympic representatives
- Vanuatu Paralympic representatives
- Fiji Paralympic representatives
- Tonga Paralympic representatives
- Solomon Islands Paralympic representatives

TABLE 3

Wikinews articles by sport and views

Sport	Total articles	Total views	Average views
Swimming	2	2808	1404.0
Equestrian	1	1088	1088.0
General	19	19810	1042.6
Goalball	3	2848	949.3
Wheelchair rugby	3	2767	922.3
Cycling	2	1838	919.0
Athletics	5	4075	815.0
Wheelchair basketball	10	8066	806.6
7-a-side football	1	787	787.0
5-a-side football	2	1491	745.5
Table tennis	3	2154	718.0
Wheelchair fencing	4	2832	708.0
Judo	4	2805	701.3
Sitting volleyball	3	2001	667.0
Shooting	3	1865	621.7
Boccia	2	1151	575.5
Powerlifting	1	371	371.0
Rowing	1	355	355.0

TABLE 4
Wikinews articles by subject country and views

Country	Total articles	Total views	Average views
Papua New Guinea	1	1406	1406.0
Sierra Leone	1	1174	1174.0
United States	3	3342	1114.0
Algeria	2	2072	1036.0
South Korea	1	1036	1036.0
Greece	1	1003	1003.0
Portugal	1	1003	1003.0
Multiple	13	11960	920.0
Australia	22	19407	882.1
Brazil	2	1746	873.0
China	3	2493	831.0
Côte d'Ivoire	1	806	806.0
Slovenia	2	1591	795.5
Argentina	1	787	787.0
Iran	1	787	787.0
Canada	2	1534	767.0
Oceania	2	1523	761.5
Turkey	1	754	754.0
Hungary	2	1496	748.0
Vanuatu	1	727	727.0
Ukraine	1	725	725.0
France	2	1448	724.0
Poland	2	1432	716.0
South Africa	1	693	693.0
Slovakia	3	2046	682.0
Germany	1	667	667.0
Great Britain	5	3181	636.2
Solomon Islands	1	569	569.0
Spain	1	469	469.0
Samoa	1	371	371.0

Wikinews articles were published about the 2012 Summer Paralympics in advance of the Games to teach others how to write for the project and to test how to use it in advance of on the ground reporting. The 20 articles in Table 5 were the published articles and the views for the 30 previous days as of 17 August. The sponsorship issue was one Wikinews reported on before most of the Australian media.

TABLE 5
Wikinews articles published in the lead-up to the Games

Past 30 days	17-Aug-12
2012 Australian Paralympic swim team announced	642
African Olympians and Paralympians prepare for their London odyssey	463
Australia men's national wheelchair basketball team beat Japan 80-49 in final game of pool play	1056
Australia Rollers victorious against Great Britain men's national wheelchair basketball team	1475
Australian adaptive rowers prepare as Paralympics looms	159
Australian Centre for Paralympic Excellence unveiled	814
Australian Gliders beat Germany women's national wheelchair basketball team on day two of Rollers & Gliders World Challenge	1020
Australian Gliders glide past China women's national wheelchair basketball team	1219
Australian Gliders squeak out first place victory over Germany women's national wheelchair team	1288
Australian Rollers roll over Great Britain men's wheelchair basketball team	1176
Australian rowers prepare for 2012 Olympics	359
China women's national wheelchair basketball team tops Japan for third place at Rollers & Gliders World Challenge	1382
Cyclist Sean Finning last competitor named to Australia's 2012 Paralympic team	1287
Kosmala's 2012 Games inclusion highlights Australian Paralympians' longevity	169
No surprises for sport in 2012/2013 Australian federal budget	372
Non-sponsors' logos plastered by peeved Paralympians	141
Paralympic swim world records tumble at Australian championships	246
Wikinews interviews Australian Gliders Leanne Del Toso, Sarah Vinci, Amber Merritt, Clare Nott	1717
Wikinews interviews Great Britain men's national wheelchair basketball player Ade Oregembe	1336
Wikinews interviews Great Britain men's national wheelchair basketball player Joni Pollock	1423

Connections to the project

Games attention:

- Australian Federal Minister for Sport Kate Lundy blogged about the HOPAU effort.
- Kate Lundy mentioned the HOPAU effort in Parliament.
- France 24 mentioned project.
- An English newspaper mentioned the project.
- An Australian television station used a HOPAU taken image from Rollers and Gliders World Challenge.
- A Wikinews article was published in print in Sierra Leone.

Twitter

Wikinews articles with 2 or more mentions on Twitter are shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6
Wikinews articles with 2 or more mentions on Twitter

Article	Twitter Who
Athletes prepare for 2012 Summer Paralympics at the Paralympic Fitness Centre	21 jayvdb, poundsloser, stephenrusell, workoutequipme1, gym_equipment, fitnessreport, feelhealthynow, apeterson23, chrisfarrell, fittjenni, atypicalmaven, fitness55, mrfitness18, stairmaster15, thompson1alex, fokalorivMorra, tejoanJoan, fitness13, stairmaster19, treadmill19, wikinews
Papua New Guinea represented by two Paralympians in London	7 Wikinews, jayvdb, pngtourism, ubhanjause, clay_dusava, transniugini, attimika
Algerian 2012 Paralympic coaches express optimism	4 Wikinews, jayvdb, algerianews2, brokepimpstyles
1964 Australian Paralympic medalist Trevor French dies	3 Wikinews, jayvdb, en_wikinews
Turkey men's wheelchair basketball team practices ahead of 2012 Summer Paralympics	3 Wikinews, jayvdb, ballergeist
Australia and South Africa men's national wheelchair basketball teams play in their 2012 Paralympics opener	3 Wikinews, Purplepopple
Hungarian Zsuzsanna Krajnyak defeats compatriot Veronika Juhasz, taking 2012 wheelchair fencing bronze	3 Wikinews, shaun_hipsley, terrorandlove
Sierra Leone sends lone athlete for the nation's second ever Paralympic Games	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
2012 Paralympic Village occupied by competitors as nations ready for the Games	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
Australians make Paralympic Village uniquely their own	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
IPC criticizes US Paralympic coverage	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
Preparedness for 2012 Paralympic Games differs between National Paralympic Committees	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
Canadians express optimism regarding medal potential at 2012 Summer Paralympics	2 Wikinews, jayvdb
South Korean men's national goalball team defeats Algeria 4-3	2 Wikinews, algerianews2
Day two of Paralympic judo underway in London	2 Wikinews, newsbin2
Ukraine beats Great Britain women's sitting volleyball in straight sets at 2012 Summer Paralympics	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Defending Paralympic table tennis gold medalist Ying Zhou defeats Slovene Andreja Dolinar in group play	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Wikinews tours London Paralympic Village wheelchair repair workshop	2 Wikinews, elitre
Grace Bowman withdraws from 2012 Paralympic Dressage Individual Championship Test - Grade II event	2 Wikinews, brittweckert
Wikinews interviews winner of 55 Paralympic medals, Trischa Zorn	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Fifteen medals awarded on London Paralympics fourth night of track and field	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Wheelchair rugby gets underway at London Paralympics	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Wikinews interviews Amber Merritt Australian Paralympic wheelchair basketballer	2 Wikinews, pl_wikimediagh
Gliders defeat USA in 2012 Paralympic semifinals	2 Wikinews, pattman_film
Wikinews speaks with Claire Harvey	2 Wikinews, tommorris

People linked to HOPAU related content on Twitter, with the most popular content to link to being Wikinews articles. Table 7 shows that 117 links were shared by 38 distinct users for Wikinews content, 109 distinct links by 26 users for Wikipedia articles about 2012 Australian Paralympians, and 24 links by 15 distinct users to classification articles.

TABLE 7
Paralympic project content linked to on Twitter

Twitter	People mentioning	Total links
2012 Aussie Paralympians	26	109
Wikinews	38	117
Classification	15	24

Table 7 only looks at links to the desktop view of the Wikipedia article. People also linked to HOPAU Wikipedia supported articles using the mobile view version and using Wikipedia's URL shortener link.

Table 8 shows that the three types of Twitter linkers are relatively similar, with the exception of the 2012 Australian Paralympian linkers who appear to update more frequently, and Wikinews linkers who have more followers.

TABLE 8
Influence and connections of the Twitter linkers to HOPAU content

Article type	Followers	Statuses	Listed	Friends
2012 Paralympian	801.0	21887.8	32.5	32.5
Classification	493.7	14999.6	34.4	34.4
Wikinews	1632.2	13425.5	38.3	38.3
2012 Paralympian	239.0	8992.0	8.0	303.0
Classification	130.5	4477.0	3.0	244.5
Wikinews	286.0	2408.0	4.0	361.0
2012 Paralympian	#N/A	#N/A	0.0	#N/A
Classification	#N/A	#N/A	0.0	#N/A
Wikinews	#N/A	#N/A	0.0	274.0

Other social media

LiveJournal

While Twitter and Facebook are social media sites that are traditionally seen as driving traffic, lots of smaller sites exist with active blogging communities. One such site is LiveJournal.

While no one was linking to Wikinews articles on LiveJournal in posts or comments, links to classification articles were posted once each in journals owned by aigantighe and mancurian. Aigantighe is from New Zealand and their journal is watched by 105 people. Mancurian is from the United Kingdom and their journal is watched by more than 1,000 people. Miumau is the only person to link to an article about a 2012 Australian Paralympian. Their journal is watched by more than 27,000 people.

Google+

The Google+ community has a different type of community than the one on Twitter, attracting a community that is a bit more tech savvy and elitist. Because of this, they generally do not link to Wikipedia. The community on the site was not much interested in Australia and the Paralympics either, with only 19 comments using both keywords.

Organisational support

The following support is acknowledged:

- Wikimedia Australia funding for travel to London, and organisational support.
- Australian Paralympic Committee funding for travel to London, clothing, pins, general organisational support and workshop hosting.
- Wikimedia Foundation provided branded clothing.
- Wikimedia UK hosted a Wikinews workshop and provided Wikimedia merchandise.
- Wikinews contributors created program assistance for mobile reporting and ran multiple workshops.

Attachment B

Project contributors

To date, the Paralympic history project has been very successful in harnessing the contributions of a large number of people and providing the opportunity for them to contribute according to their interests and areas of expertise.

This attachment illustrates the breadth of the input to the project from more than 30 people, most of who continue to be involved in some way.

Not all contributors edit Wikipedia.

Facilitators

In the early stages of the project Leigh Blackall and Professor Keith Lyons from the University of Canberra were instrumental in developing the project concept and initial strategies and making the introductions to representatives of Wikimedia Australia which were crucial in establishing the project.

Leigh Blackall has been involved in Wikimedia for a very long time, but with low level of contributions outside of his own professional activity. He was a key organiser of RecentChangesCamp Canberra which WMAU supported. He envisaged Wikimedia having a role to play in the Paralympic history project, and wrote the tender for the written history component of the project. He was instrumental in gaining the support of WMAU. During this time, Leigh ran Wikipedia workshops in Australia, with libraries and education institutions. Leigh set up the project blog and the Google Group which is the main communication tool for the project.

Existing editors

The project has been fortunate to attract extensive input from a group of experienced editors. Some of them have made extensive time and financial commitments to the project. They have also played a significant role in assisting and mentoring new editors.

- [Laura Hale](#) had minor Wikimedia roles in the past, and was also a key organiser of RecentChangesCamp Canberra, but it was the Paralympic history project that pulled Laura into the Wikipedia world, and under this project she was engaged as Australia's first 'Wikimedian in Residence'. It had rocky times, and didn't fit the mold of other Wikimedian in Residence, but she is a content creation machine, and this was a critical component of the project. The 'Wikimedian in Residence' mould has since been broken a few times with the Open Science and Consumer Reports WIRs.

Laura Hale has been a 1000+ edit per month contributor for over 24 months. Laura was sent to the London Paralympics through the Wikimedians to the Games project. She continues to contribute to Paralympic topics, and has taken some of the project concepts to Spain and Ukraine.

- [John Vandenberg](#) is now heavily devoted to the HOPAU project, both in his time and has spent over \$10,000 of his own money on this project since 2011.
- [Ross Mallett](#) is now heavily devoted to the HOPAU project, both in his time and has spent over \$10,000 of his own money on this project since 2012. Ross Mallett was sent to the London Paralympics through the Wikimedians to the Games project. He attends Paralympic events in Australia and internationally and has created a number of articles about Paralympic sport in countries in the Asia Pacific region.
- [Graham Pearce](#) has contributed significantly to the HOPAU project, doing radio interviews, copyediting and polishing hundreds of articles, constantly monitoring the content for changes, and working closely with subjects to help them contribute to Wikipedia through him, and usually these contributions are adding quality rather than quantity - getting the small details right.
- [Toby Hudson](#) has photographed events and edited a number of articles, including the Wikipedia page "Disability in Australia" created in September 2013, which is 2,555 words of prose.

- [Steven Zhang](#) expanded "Amanda Fraser" and guided it onto the front page of English Wikipedia as a "Did You Know?". Steven put a lot of time into the wording of this article, and was thanked by Tony Naar and the subject's family for delicate handling of a touchy subject.
- [Robert Myers](#) (Bidgee) has attended many Paralympic events, contributing photos to the project and editing articles relating to the events.

New editors

The project has attracted a number of new editors from within the Paralympic movement and others who had previously not had an active role in Paralympic sport. As with the existing editors, for some of these new editors, the project has been a vehicle for their engagement with Paralympic sport.

Paralympians editing Wikipedia

- [Elizabeth Edmondson](#) was a Paralympic gold medallist at the 1964 and 1968 Paralympic Games. She attended the first project's workshop in Perth and has continued to edit and contribute to the project in other ways since that time.
- [Melissa Carlton](#) is a Tasmanian swimmer who attended the first Brisbane workshop and became an active editor, with a specific interest in Tasmanian athletes, coaches and officials.
- User: [Sportygeek](#) is a current female Paralympian who commenced editing Wikipedia in January 2013 and has amassed 1,056 edits in her first year of editing, mostly improving Paralympic topics, and has created several new articles.

Other new editors

- [Tara McPhail](#) was told about the HOPAU project by occasional editor Chris Gould (who was introduced to the project through her role at the National Sports Information Centre), who was a neighbour. Tara thought it would be a good project to volunteer for and attended the classification workshop in Canberra. Inspired by the topical area, and challenged by the laissez-faire nature of wikis, Tara threw herself into the tasks at hand in the HOPAU project, including creating flyers, transcribing audio, uploading photos, etc. Tara was a highly active editor for almost 12 months, has participated in meet-ups, spoken about the project at the national librarians' conference, and continues to edit occasionally.
- [Greg Blood](#) had retired from the National Sports Information Centre at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and was interested in using Wikipedia to assist in gathering material to write a book about the history of the AIS. He was recruited to the project by [Tony Naar](#), who manages the project for the APC. Greg decided to start an account and give it a try in January 2012. He has since written more than 30 articles, has been an active editor every month, and is often a 'very active' editor, and has 5,111 edits in less than two years of contributing. Since the 2102 Paralympics he has continued to edit Wikipedia, widening his interests to include drugs in sport in Australia, the organisation of sport in Australia, sport and the 2013 Australian federal election and the AIS.
- [Vicki Epstein](#) is the wife of Paralympian [Ray Epstein](#) and has written a book on the history of the disability sport in Queensland. Her interest is in Queensland athletes and she is an active contributor to the HOPAU email group.
- [Tony Naar](#) manages the Paralympic history project for the APC.
- [Rebekka Wake](#) works in the communications division of the APC.
- [Patricia Ollerenshaw](#) has been an active volunteer with the APC since 2001 and currently focuses on sourcing material for the history project. She has attended two workshops and written articles about people who have been missed by other editors.
- Graham Pearce's mother, Linda, contributes enormously to the HOPAU project indirectly, assisting and supporting Graham in many varied ways. Graham's work in this project is described above. As just one example, Linda has searched newspaper article scans for reliable sources.

- Stephen Townsend is a post-graduate student at UQ and has become involved in editing through the involvement of UQ. He has written a Wikipedia article (at the SLQ workshops), published academic articles about Wikipedia, and fixed an error identified as part of his research.
- User: Lucky102 (Ireland and Sydney) began editing Wikipedia during the 2012 Paralympic Games, working on Paralympic topics relevant to the ongoing Paralympic Games. They have made more than 1,500 contributions in 1.5 years and have created 34 articles.

Non-Australian

- Courcelles has reviewed many of the disability sport articles, and participates in the HOPAU discussions. He supports the HOPAU project however he can.
- Roger Conroy has been a disability sport contributor for a long time and has also joined the HOPAU project team, and has seen the benefits of HOPAU to the entire Paralympics area. He continues to support the project.
- User:Axid in France has been writing articles about the Paralympics and Paralympians for a long time. In 2011 and 2013 he has expressed his support for the project and helps whenever he can.
- Brian McNeil from the UK is another editor who supports the program.
- Siska, Kartika, Ivonne, Revo and Risky attended the 2012 Paralympics workshop in Jakarta.
- Kartika and Ivonne have uploaded batches of images to Wikimedia Commons.

Other project contributors

There are a number of people who are, or were, involved in the project through the Google Groups email list only. These people play a valuable role by monitoring articles and providing information, advice and suggestions to the editors. A proportion of this group are Paralympians who do not feel confident enough to edit, but maintain a keen interest in the project. They include:

- Julie Russell is a Paralympian who is married to a Paralympian. She and her husband have played a role in developing disability sport in South Australia and she contributes to related HOPAU discussions.
- Adrienne Keygan – friend of Paralympian John Martin. Attended the Brisbane workshop. Participates in HOPAU discussions where they relate to John Martin or areas of his involvement.
- Anne Currie – until 2012 was Australia's youngest Paralympic medallist. Is interested in swimming.
- Bill Mather-Brown was a member of Australia's first Paralympic team in 1960. A former journalist and writer, he provides advice on articles about the early history of the Paralympic movement in Australia.
- Carmel Williams – a Paralympian who also managed the athlete services section of the Australian team in 2000. Advises on Queensland athletes.
- Cathy Lambert is an APC staff member based in Adelaide, who has an interest in the history project.
- Chris Gould retired from National Sports Information Centre and introduced Tara McPhail to the project. She has undertaken background research for the project, especially into compiling and verifying the full list of Australian Paralympic medallists.
- Kieran Courtney works for the APC and is responsible for managing its results and sport statistics.
- Lyn Lillecrapp is a Paralympian who is interested in swimming articles.
- Murray Phillips is the primary project researcher for UQ and provides materials for use by editors.
- Tim Mannion, General Manager of Communications at the APC, has attended workshops and assists in promoting the project.

Attachment C

Academic and Teaching Engagement

International and National Conferences

1. North American Society of Sport History Conference (largest international forum for sport historians)

Keynote Address North American Society of Sport History 2012

Associate Professor Murray Phillips: 'Storying the Past in the Digital Age: Multiple Histories of the Australian Paralympic History'

Abstract

Wikipedia, the popular online encyclopaedia, is the public face of sport history. All that is needed is a computer, tablet or phone, as well as an internet connection, and then within two or three clicks you can access a bewildering array of sport history topics. Academics have been introduced to, or confronted by, depending on your position, Wikipedia through teaching or researching. There is, however, very little written about understanding knowledge creation in this online historical resource. This paper examines the foundational policies of Wikipedia – verification, no original research, and neutral point of view – that govern the creation of historical (and all other types of) pages. These three policies, I argue in this paper, pose methodological, epistemological and ontological challenges for historians. Verification privileges online material over hard copy sources like books, no original research ensures archival material remains on the shelves, and the ability to provide a neutral point of view has been hotly contested in debates about historical theory and practice. For these reasons, contributing to Wikipedia requires historians to adopt practices that align with the story space of the online encyclopaedia, but that are often in tension with the philosophical approaches adopted by the majority of sport historians.

Sport History on Wikipedia: An Australian Evaluation – Mr. Stephen Townsend & Dr Gary Osmond, the University of Queensland

Abstract

Attitudes to Wikipedia moved from derision to grudging critique following the 2005 publication in *Nature* of a favorable comparative analysis of science articles in Wikipedia and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. While historians generally speaking have begun to grapple with Wikipedia and its implications for history making, sport historians have been more reticent. This paper constitutes the first concerted empirical effort to investigate the representation of Australian sportspeople in the English-language version of Wikipedia. The overarching question is: how does Wikipedia's sheer bulk and open-source operational approach influence its coverage of Australian sport histories and how does Wikipedia acquit itself when compared to authoritative, printed encyclopaedia?

Employing the esteemed *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) and *Oxford Companion to Australian Sport* (OCAS) as 'gold-standard' comparative tools, this paper offers a macro-analysis of Australian sport history representations on Wikipedia as well as a micro-analysis of the treatment of one Australian sporting identity. The macro-analysis is twofold and contains a broad-scale investigation of all Australian sport biographies in Wikipedia (8,016 in total) and a detailed analysis of a smaller study group comprising entries common to all three sources (115). The first part of the macro-analysis is unique, organizing and analyzing information expressly provided for this research project by Wikimedia Australia. Examination of both this data and that of the smaller study group is geared toward uncovering trends affecting the representativeness of gender, generations and particular sports within Wikipedia. Understanding these trends also requires understanding Wikipedian communities of practice and their impact on the production of knowledge, which will also be addressed. The micro-analysis involves an investigation of an individual Australian sport biography, that of swimmer Annette Kellerman, to develop a qualitative gauge of Wikipedia's factual accuracy, comprehensiveness, and literary quality. Based on these analyses, the paper argues that Wikipedia

acquits itself well against the more traditional sources and, while not without flaws and limitations, can represent a legitimate information source for sport history.

North American Society of Sport Session 2013:

Conceptualizing Digital History: Three approaches – Dr Gary Osmond and Associate Professor Murray Phillips

Abstract

What is meant by digital sport history? How can we conceptualize and understand in meaningful ways the myriad forms, platforms and possibilities of sport history in the digital era? Distinctions between Web 1.0 (as essentially 'read-only') and Web 2.0 (as facilitating audience production as well as simply consumption of web-based materials) are no longer as useful as they were just a few years ago. Thinking about digital history in terms of research, teaching and communication/dissemination possibilities offers neat but artificial categories that ignore the cross-over potential and realities of historical scholarship in the digital age. And, as we have previously argued, interactivity can be a useful conceptual tool for distinguishing between various websites and platforms, but interactivity between digital creator and consumer is now possible, and encouraged, on even the most traditional web sites: most prominent museums and archives that have an on-line presence now have Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms for encouraging visitor interaction. Given these various limitations, new conceptual categories are required.

This paper proposes three approaches to understanding how sport historians engage with the Internet. We are influenced by growing literature on digital history, and on digital sport history; by our own related research projects with digital dimensions; and by our recent interactions with contributors to a book project on the topic of sport history in the digital era. The first approach is digital history and the archive, addressing how sport historians use the Internet to access the traditional archive for both research and teaching. Here digital history improves access to mainly primary source material, but otherwise does not alter conventional historiographic practice or thinking. The second approach is to conceptualize digital history as archive, for richly-layered, unique on-line histories, for new forms of data collection (e.g., Twitter archives on specific topics), and for new pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning. Here digital history augments and possibly challenges conventional historiographic practice or thinking. The third approach conceptualizes digital history as *history*, dissolving the distance between history and the distant past and instead incorporating history as part of the wider contemporary social fabric, through social media such as blogs, Facebook, fan sites, and Twitter. Here digital history disrupts conventional historiographic practice or thinking.

2. Australian Media Traditions Conference 2013

Digital Humanities, Public Histories Session

Associate Professor Murray Phillips: 'Wikipedia, Digital History and Public History'

Abstract

The popularity, growth and global reach of Wikipedia is spectacular. Many of the early criticisms from academic scholars about the accuracy, reliability and relevance of Wikipedia have been somewhat muted (Reagle 2010). Wikipedia has recently been described as: "... the most comprehensive, representative, and pervasive participatory platform for knowledge production ever created by humankind" (Burdick et al, 2012, p. 85). All that is needed is a computer, tablet or phone, as well as an internet connection, and then within two or three clicks you can access a bewildering array of topics. But how and what does Wikipedia contribute to history making, in particular public history projects? How do historians working in academe relate to Wikipedia in relation the construction of historical knowledge? And how does Wikipedia relate to the broader space of the Digital Humanities?

These are some of the questions I confronted after embarking on a multi-dimensional history of the Australian Paralympic Movement. The Australian Paralympic Movement encompasses the participation of disability athletes at the Paralympic Games, and the Australian Paralympic Committee, the peak organising body, wanted a history of their movement that included a traditional hard-copy book, but they also wanted the project to have a digital dimension. Ultimately the digital dimension is taking the form of an e-history book and Wikipedia articles. The objective of the digital platforms of the history project, besides documenting the past, is to help build a Paralympic community. In this presentation I examine the foundational policies of Wikipedia – verification, no original research, and neutral point of view – that govern the creation of historical (and all other types of) pages. These three policies pose methodological, epistemological and ontological challenges for historians. Verification privileges online material over hard copy sources like books, no original research ensures archival material remains on the shelves, and the ability to provide a neutral point of view has been hotly contested in debates about historical theory and practice. For these reasons, contributing to Wikipedia requires historians to adopt practices that align with the 'story space' (Munslow, 2007) of the online encyclopaedia, but that are often in tension with the philosophical approaches adopted by many historians. Furthermore, if Wikipedia's 'story space' – which is essentially a linear narrative created by multiple authors – is at the conservative end of the digital spectrum, it is possible to understand the challenges that more radical Digital History projects present for traditional historical scholarship.

Publications

Journal Article

Stephen Townsend, Gary Osmond and Murray G. Phillips, "Wicked Wikipedia? Communities of Practice, the Production of Knowledge and Australian Sport History", *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 30:5, 545-559.

Abstract

Academic responses to Wikipedia since its inception in 2001 have shifted from scepticism and hostility to serious critique. Wikipedia is a project driven by a community of amateur, and sometimes professional, scholars and it is this community – and associated rules and practices – that shapes the site's publicly viewable content. Despite the centrality of egalitarianism and communal wisdom to the Wikipedian ethos, the encyclopaedia is not filled equitably with historical knowledge or topics. This article addresses the role of Wikipedia in the production of knowledge in a sport history context. An analysis of 115 Wikipedia articles written about notable Australian sportspeople revealed a disproportionately large group of high-quality cricket biographies. Further investigation revealed that a small group of Wikipedians were responsible for writing these articles. The work of this community of practice is indicative of the influence that dedicated special interest groups can have over the production of knowledge on Wikipedia and raises broader questions about the production of knowledge in sport history.

Book

Gary Osmond and Murray G. Phillips, *Sport History in the Digital Age* (University of Illinois Press: Champaign, Illinois, 2014).

This collection frames and conceptualises the intersections between the sporting past and the growing array of digital media and resources, including Blogs, Electronic publishing, Facebook, Fan sites, Twitter, Wikipedia, and the World Wide Web. This critical anthology creates a typology of the Internet that conceptualises the relationship between Sport Historians and digital media; outlines the range of Internet sites and tools available to Sport Historians; summarises the reactions to the Internet by Historians and Sport Historians; and indicates how examining the Internet can contribute to understanding and reflecting about the process of writing history. Contributors to this collection are some of the world's leading Sport Historians and notable early career scholars from Australia, Europe, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The book will be published by a leading international publisher in its series titled 'Topics in the Digital Humanities'.

Attachment D:

Australian Research Council Grant Success and Acknowledgement

Please see:

http://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/File:LP130101031_Federal_Government_Letter.pdf

http://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/File:LP130101031_Partners_Letter.pdf

http://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/File:LP130101031_UQ_Letter.pdf

http://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/File:LP130101031_Professor_Macdonald_Letter.pdf