Provides a joint teaching tool for both disciplinary instructors and Partnership between the library and School of Journalism that will
Students are given real world experience with results that are valued Challenges students to defend their work outside the classroom Increased ability to research and write a truly neutral article New understandings about copyright issues for the students Explains why Wikipedia is not always a trusted source, and how to
Students were engaged Students were introduced to the Archives and Special Collections Exposes unique library collections and materials to a wider audience Contributes to a larger scholarly community 18 new or updated pages on Wikipedia, most about local or campus Fosters connections amongst librarians, teaching faculty, and students

Wikipedia and Library Instruction
2011

Why Wikipedia?
Simply put, Wikipedia is where the users are. Rather than waiting and waiting for the students to come to you, we need to go to where the users are already riveting.

Assignment
Timeline:
1 60 minute instruction session. Teaching Wikipedia basics about editing and authoring, A reference on library resources and research, with an emphasis on Journalism resources.
1 week to create a stub article in Wikipedia.
3 weeks to create the full article.
1 week for additional revisions to the article based on feedback.

Creation
Students went through the tutorials that Wikipedia provides about article creation. However, most students simply found a page for a similar article, which was done well, and copied the layout, format, and subjects.
The student that created the article for Mount Jumbo, a large feature in the Missoula landscape, copied the layout from the Mt. Everest Wikipedia page, which ended up adding more geographical information than she had originally planned for her article.

Unexpected Copyright Lessons
Another Wikipedia user objected to the fact that the creator of the page had not given permission for this picture to be used. The statue is Maureen and Mike Mansfield, for whom the Library building is named. After having several exchanges with this user, the student eventually changed the image to one that did not include the statue.

Monitoring
One of the benefits of using Wikipedia is that the instructors, librarians, and students can monitor each change that is made to each article from its creation forward. Different versions of the article can be compared to one another, which is important when other users are capable of making changes to what the student originally wrote.

Defense
Students had to be able to demonstrate why their topics were important to a broad audience. Many students believe that if a topic is important to them, then it should be important to everyone. Having to defend why an article is notable added another layer to the project, and was a benefit to the journalism students. A few of the topics were chosen for the students with the idea that the "claim to notability" argument would arise from other Wikipedia articles.

Why Wikipedia is user created, and some users have intense feelings about certain subjects. The interaction that can create between student and Wikipedian led to many interesting conversations on the "Talk" pages and amongst the students. None of the students in the class had any prior experience creating or editing Wikipedia articles. Most had used it for research or to find basic information quickly. Wikipedia gives an instant interaction with the reader of the information, which is important for research or to find basic information quickly. 

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Students were given examples of both good and bad articles in Wikipedia, and how to not make the same mistakes. They were also given ideas about what to do if and/or when their articles were questioned by other users.

Specifics:
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Examples:
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Additional Benefits
Allows you to highlight local features or locations on campus. In your city or in your state. These pages are also more likely to be additionally edited by local Wikipedia users and could potentially start a dialogue. Increases awareness about local features on the web and in the community, as Wikipedia articles are usually one of the top results in Google.

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