WIKIPEDIA EDUCATION PROGRAM
Wikipedia Education Program = open knowledge + practical skills
It’s a win-win (-win-win-win-win-win-...)

Photo courtesy of Wikimedi Nigeria user group
Why does it matter?
The Geographically Uneven Coverage of Wikipedia

While it is an invaluable resource of knowledge for numerous users, Wikipedia's articles have a strong bias in their geographic distribution. Below map is based on 3,336,473 geotagged articles in November 2012 data dumps of 44 language versions. Each article is represented by an orange dot.

There are more Wikipedia articles inside this circle than outside of it

This map is part of the Information Geographies project at http://geography.oi.ox.ac.uk.

Data sources: Wikipedia, Natural Earth
Knowledge gaps

- Content written about Africa is generally not written by Africans

What’s an encyclopedia?

- Students take part in knowledge production and become critical digital consumers

Practical skills

- Practical application of skills learned in the classroom
How does it work?
Flexible models

Design an assignment that works for your students and for Wikipedia

Adjust to learner’s skill level, manage expectations

Think outside the article (photo competitions, group work, audio recording)

Connect with communities

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Ghana User group.
Regional context
Initiatives in Africa

Algeria (University pilots)
Egypt (University programs)
Ethiopia (Summer 2017 intern)
Ghana (Wiki Clubs and university pilots)
Nigeria (Wiki Club and university pilots)
South Africa (OER, offline access)
Tunisia (Cultural heritage)
Uganda (ISOC funded initiative!)

Photo courtesy of Zachary McCune
How to get involved?
Count me in!
What next?

Identify partners (schools, professors, administrators, ministers, ISOC Chapters?)

Identify a goal (local language content, specific topic area)

Connect with community (each wiki is different)

Start small and iterate (learn from mistakes)

Wiki Indaba 2018 in Tunis

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Nigeria user group
Resources

education@wikimedia.org

http://education.wikimedia.org

Case studies, example syllabus

Toolkit (steps from start to finish)

Newsletter with global updates

Direct consultation, mentoring and support

Grants to support your work

Photo courtesy of Sage Ross
Thank you!
Merci :)

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Photo: courtesy of Matthew Roth