The Wikipedia Assignment: Where Students’ Interests, Confidence, and Public Participation in Knowledge Production Intersect

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Information literacy. Research skills. Knowledge production. Self-directed learning. A commitment to truth. These are among the hopes we have for our students and that give us inspiration for our work in higher education. One means to advancing each of these is the Wikipedia assignment.

In 2010, the Wikipedia Student Program launched to help college students achieve the above goals all while improving Wikipedia content. The Program is a simple but powerful concept. Students from institutions across the U.S. and Canada contribute to Wikipedia as a course assignment. Students are in an incredibly privileged position vis-a-vis knowledge. They have access to sources that are, for many, often behind paywalls, and they have their professors - experienced, subject-matter experts in their field - to guide them.

In this session, Helaine Blumenthal, Senior Program Manager at Wiki Education, will speak about the Wikipedia assignment’s broader impact and how instructors can partner with Wiki Education to design and facilitate a Wikipedia assignment. Trudi Jacobson, Professor Emerita at the University of Albany, SUNY, and Mark Marinkovic, a student of Trudi’s, will discuss their experiences using a Wikipedia assignment in information literacy courses. And Naniette Coleman, Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Privacy and Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at UC Berkeley, and Ava Wu, a student of Naniette’s, will discuss their experience using a Wikipedia assignment to improve Wikipedia’s coverage of cybersecurity, privacy, and surveillance topics in numerous languages.

The session will be held on April 11 at 12:00 PM Pacific time. Use the following link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOGrpJlsEtRpYtzMJHZTZPRxumiV2FAG

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URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOGrpJlsEtRpYtzMJHZTZRxumiV2FAG