

Collaboration and Innovation: NNLN's Nationwide Online Social Justice - Health Equity Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Karen Coghlan, JD, MS, MLIS - Karen.Coghlan@umassmed.edu - National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region



Background

There is a growing trend in libraries to engage their communities with information and open data by holding Wikipedia edit-a-thons. During these events, participants learn about this widely used online resource through hands-on editing of articles, including improving citations and adding new facts. The purpose of this poster is to report on the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) health equity focused online edit-a-thon. The event utilized librarians' research skills to make Wikipedia a better, more evidence based resource by using National Library of Medicine (NLM) databases to edit content and add citations.

Project Objectives

- Engage members
- Utilize Librarian research skills
- Improve the use of NLM resources
- Make Wikipedia a better evidence-based resources

Method

1. Formed a cross regional planning group at NNLN libraries
2. Talked to the Wikipedia medical community about their needs, chose a topic: Health Equity and Equal Access to Health Information
3. Published a Wikipedia page about the project with training details, event information
4. Promoted the Edit-a-thon with You Tube videos, blogs, newsletter features, Twitter
5. Created and recorded online webinar training session and handout for NLM resources to use for editing including:
 - **MedlinePlus**
 - **PubMed**
 - **Genetics Home Reference**
6. Tracked edits by having editors add #citeNLM in edit record

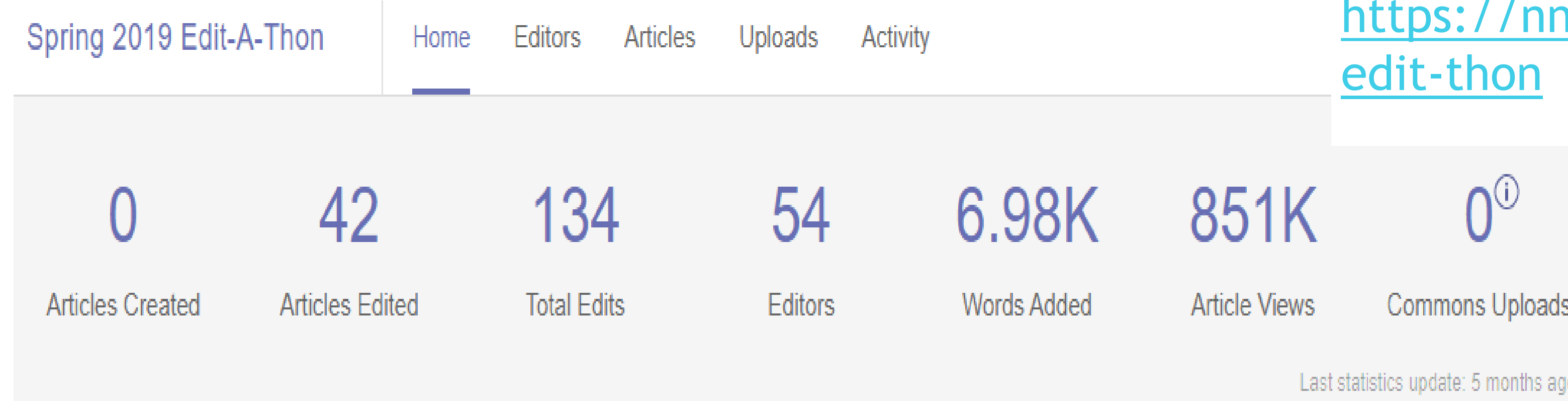
Results

The Spring 2019 Health Equity Edit-a-thon was held both online using Twitter and in person at an immersion session at the Medical Library Association. In Spring 2019 no new articles were created, but more supporting text and citations were added to existing articles for a total of 134 edits made by 54 editors. Unfortunately, if #citeNLM is not entered in the edit record, the campaign edits cannot be tracked.

Future Plans

- November Wikipedia Campaign period opens
- #citeNLM Online Edit-a-thon November 20, 2019 Topic: Mental Health
- In person session Nov. 20 at Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Wikipedia Dashboard Data



Organizers Guide: *So You Want to Organize*

This guide is intended to help you organize an edit-a-thon at your library

<https://nnlm.gov/national/guides/ccs/wikipedia-edit-thon>

#CiteNLM
Improving Health Information on Wikipedia

