

Sunoikisis Digital Cultural Heritage, Spring 2021

Session 3. Wikipedia and cultural knowledge production

Evelin Heidel/Scann (Creative Commons)
Effie Kapsalis (Smithsonian Institution)



**What does
"open" mean in
the face of
inequity and
inequality?**

Looking at the Internet for the Other



**Let's change
shoes**

**Have you ever tried to search the Internet
as...**

...a black woman?

why are black women so

why are black women so angry

why are black women so loud

why are black women so mean

why are black women so attractive

why are black women so lazy

why are black women so annoying

why are black women so confident

why are black women so sassy

why are black women so insecure

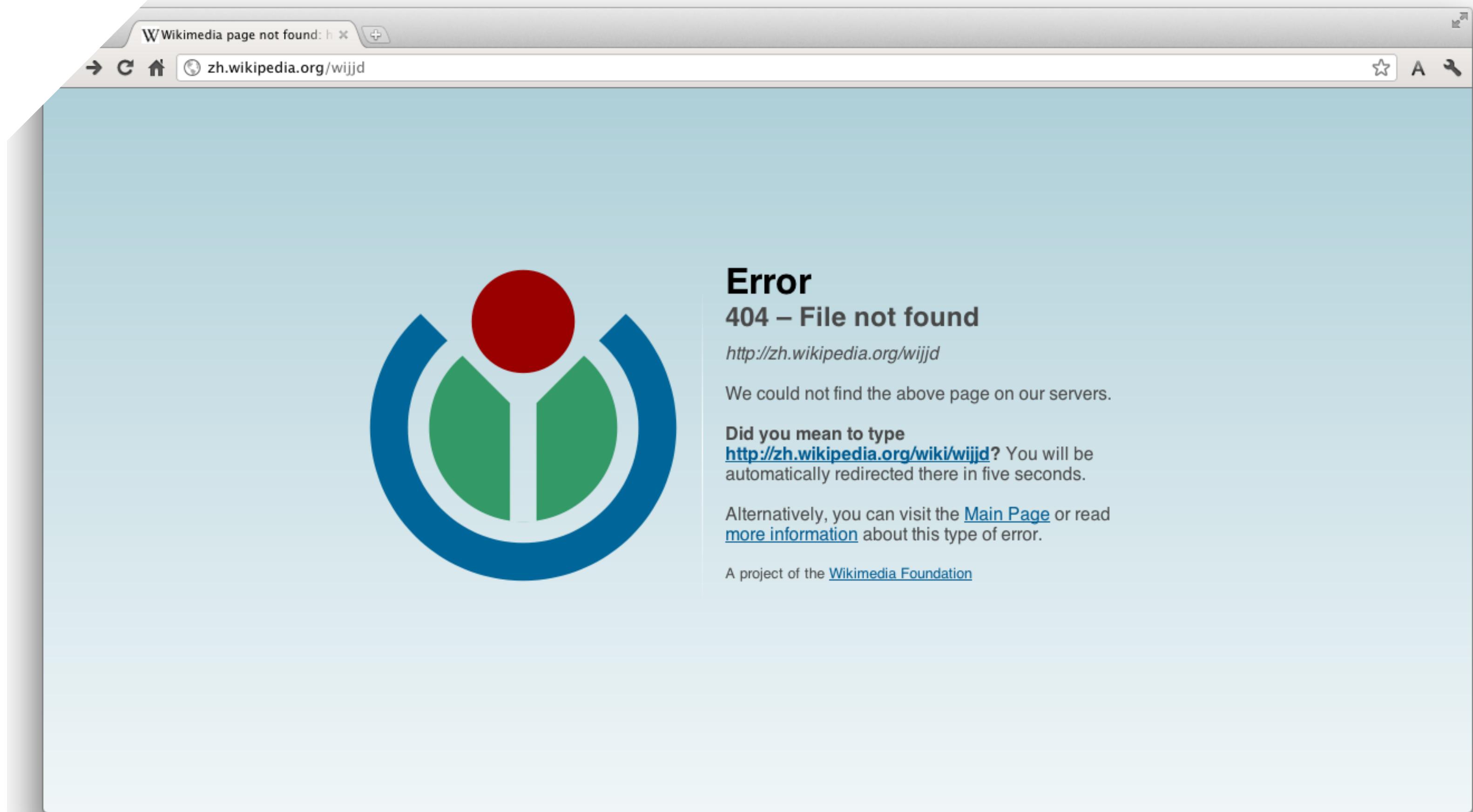
ALGORITHMS
OF
OPPRESSION



...a minority
language
speaker?

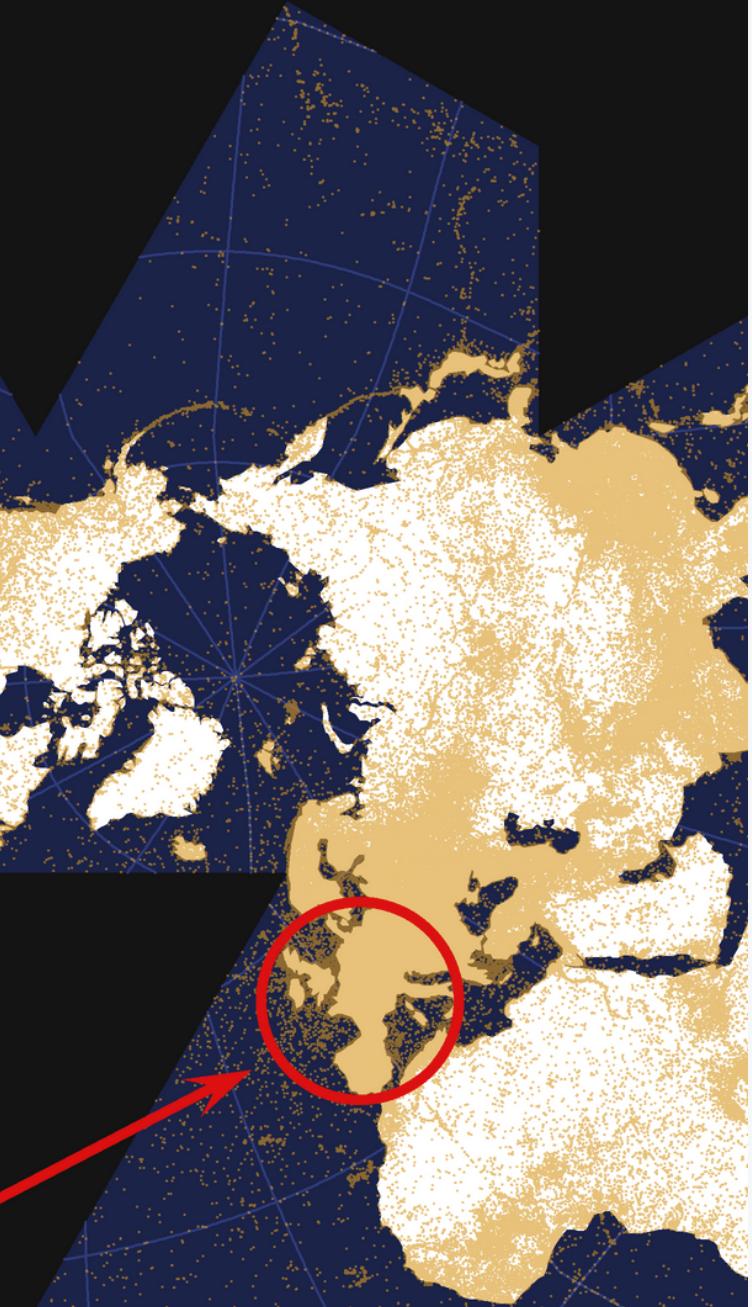
**...as a person
living in a culture
with a strong oral
tradition?**





Inequitable Coverage of Wikipedia

Knowledge for numerous users, Wikipedia's coverage is far from even. Based on 3,336,473 geotagged articles in English Wikipedia, this map shows where knowledge is represented by an orange dot.



And this is the larger picture

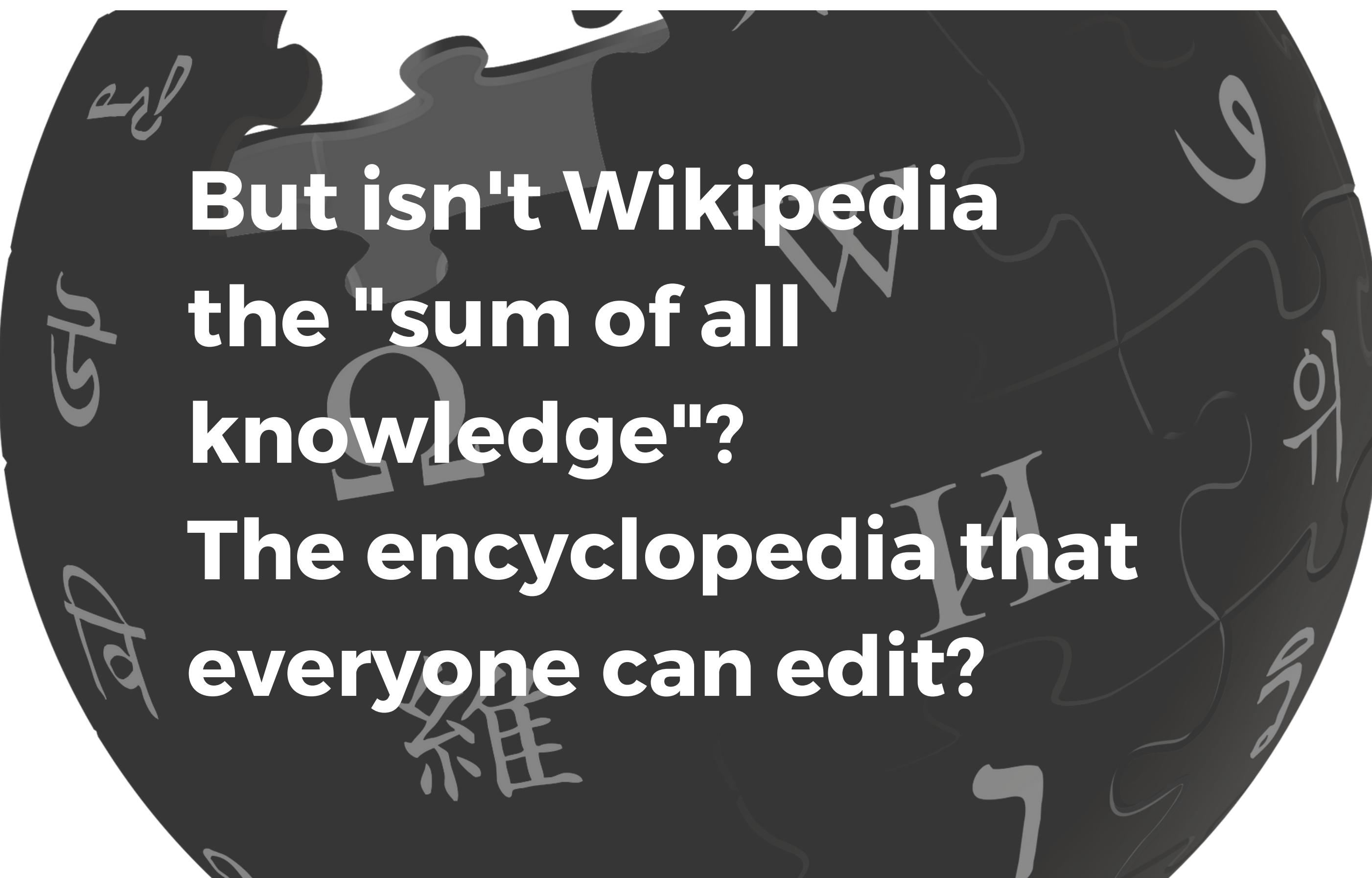
20% of the world edits
80% of the content in
Wikipedia.

That 20% comes primarily
from Europe & North
America.

Only 1 in 10 of editors
self-identify as female.

84% of articles focus on
Europe and North
America.

This map is part of the Information Geography project at <http://geography.ox.ac.uk>.



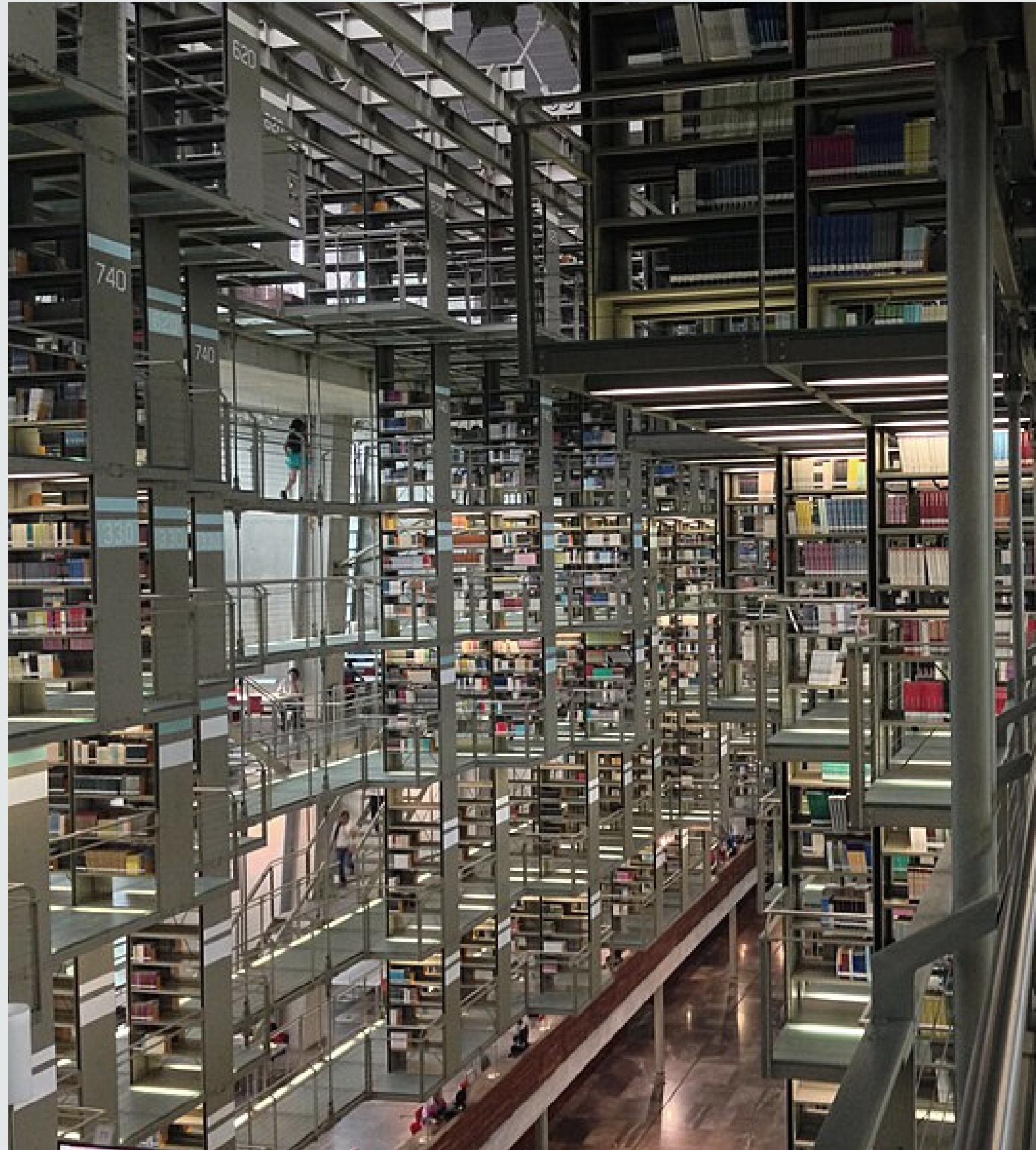
**But isn't Wikipedia
the "sum of all
knowledge"?
The encyclopedia that
everyone can edit?**

▶ but then again...

**What knowledge?
Whose knowledge?
And in which format?**

130 million books in 480 languages

Of those books, only 20% are in the public domain. 10-15% are only in print (and even less are in digital). There are +7,000 languages in the world.

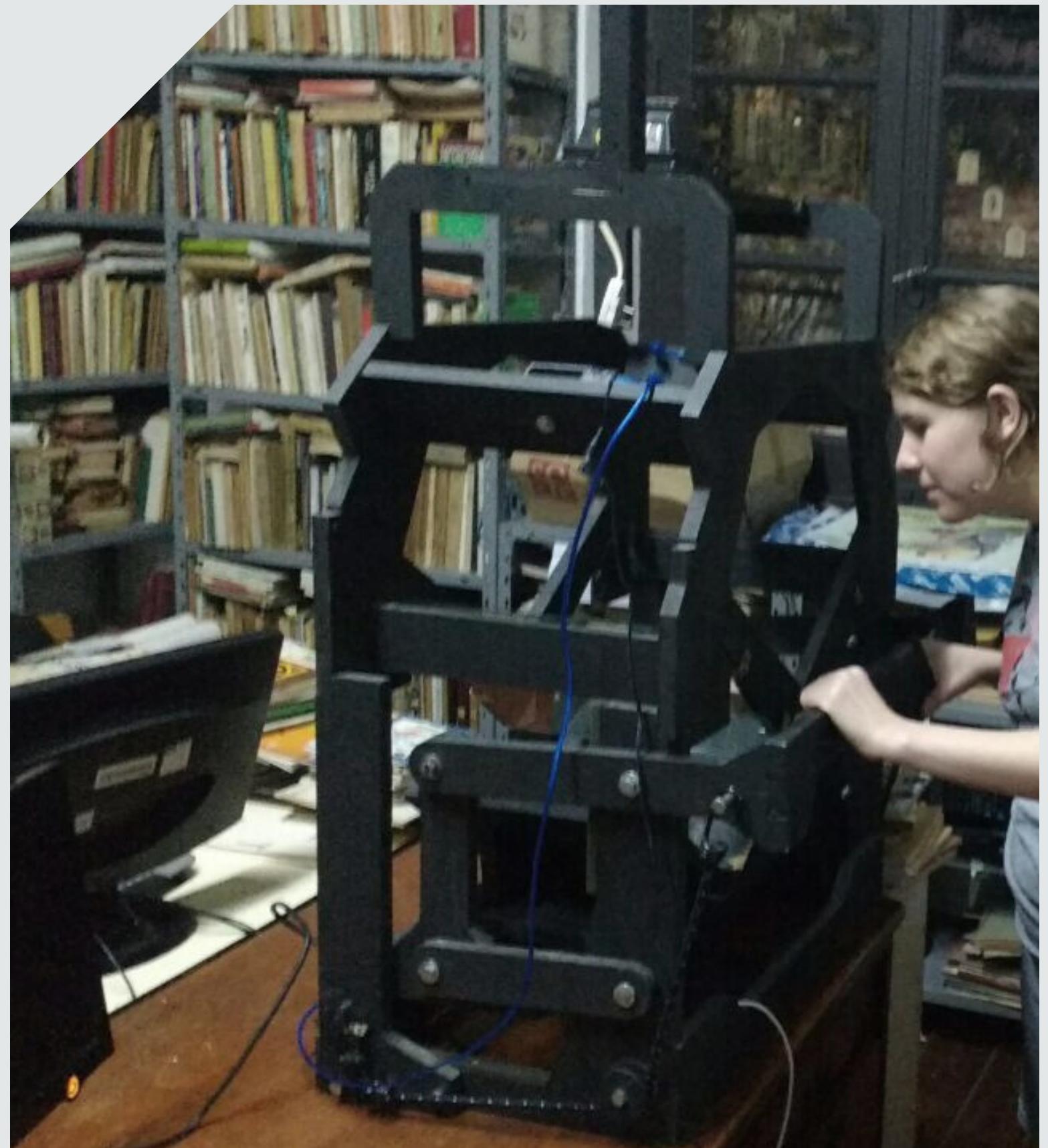
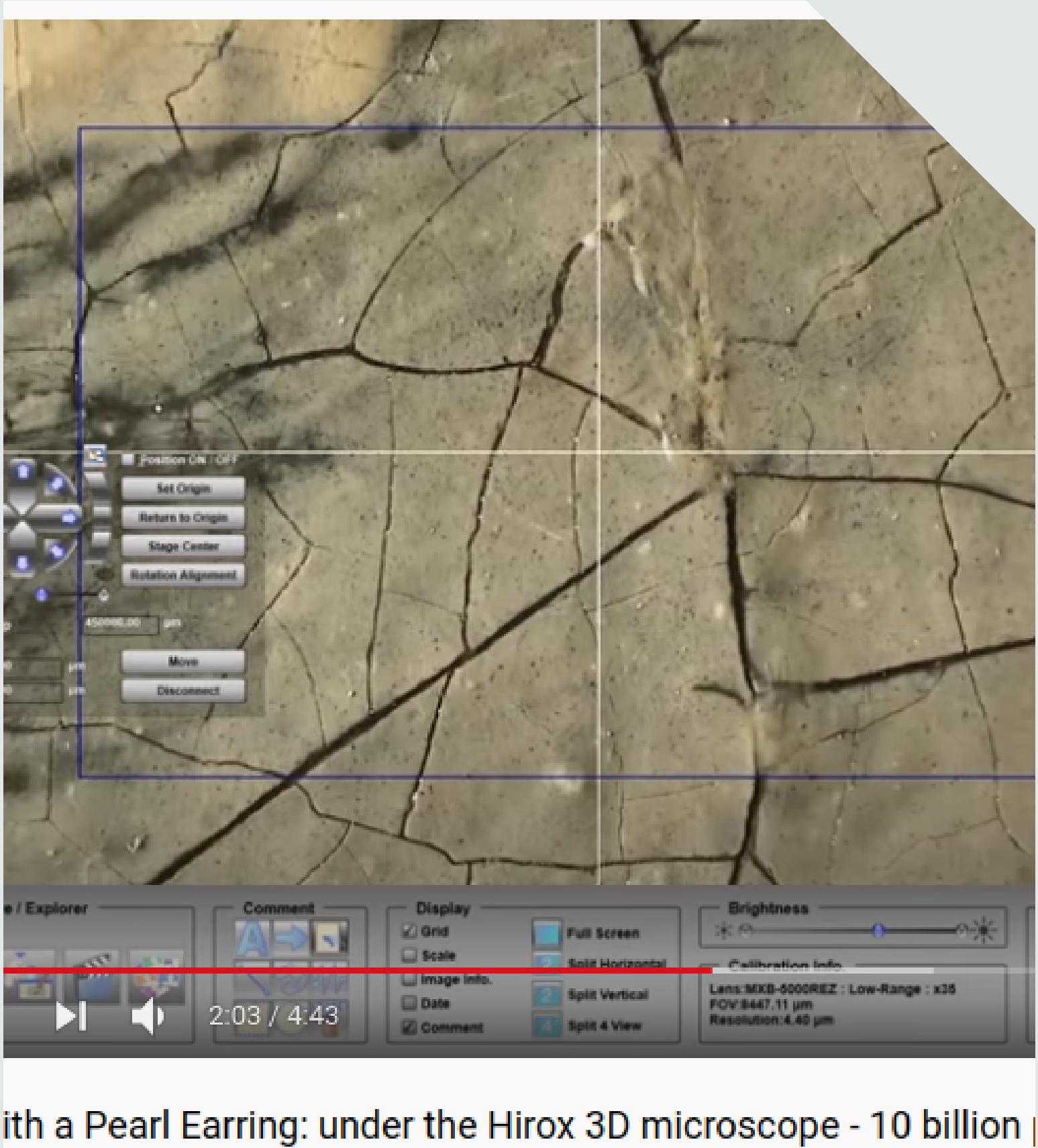


A pattern



There are many barriers for participation. It's not only about copyright or getting the CC licenses right. There are linguistic, technical, resources, all types of barriers. In sum: power dynamics.

Two versions of "digitization"



**Is then
Wikipedia to
blame?**



CHOOSE YOUR
OWN ADVENTURE®

For the yes...

- ▶ Who gets to edit?
- ▶ What rules exist for contributing?
- ▶ Who decides the rules?
- ▶ Who gets to be part of the community?

For the no...

- ▶ How often do we question other sources of knowledge?
- ▶ People do feel empowered to edit
- ▶ The rule is that there are no firm rules

Knowledge is not neutral

...can we finally come to terms
with this notion?

Environment ► Climate change Wildlife Energy Pollution

Activism

'Like I wasn't there': climate activist Vanessa Nakate on being erased from a movement

Kenya Evelyn in Washington

@LiveFromKenya

Wed 29 Jan 2020 08.01 GMT

1,179

▲ Vanessa Nakate, Luisa Neubauer, Greta Thunberg, Isabelle Axelsson and Loukina Tille, from left, in Davos on Friday. Nakate was cropped out of early versions of the photo. Photograph: Markus Schreiber/AP

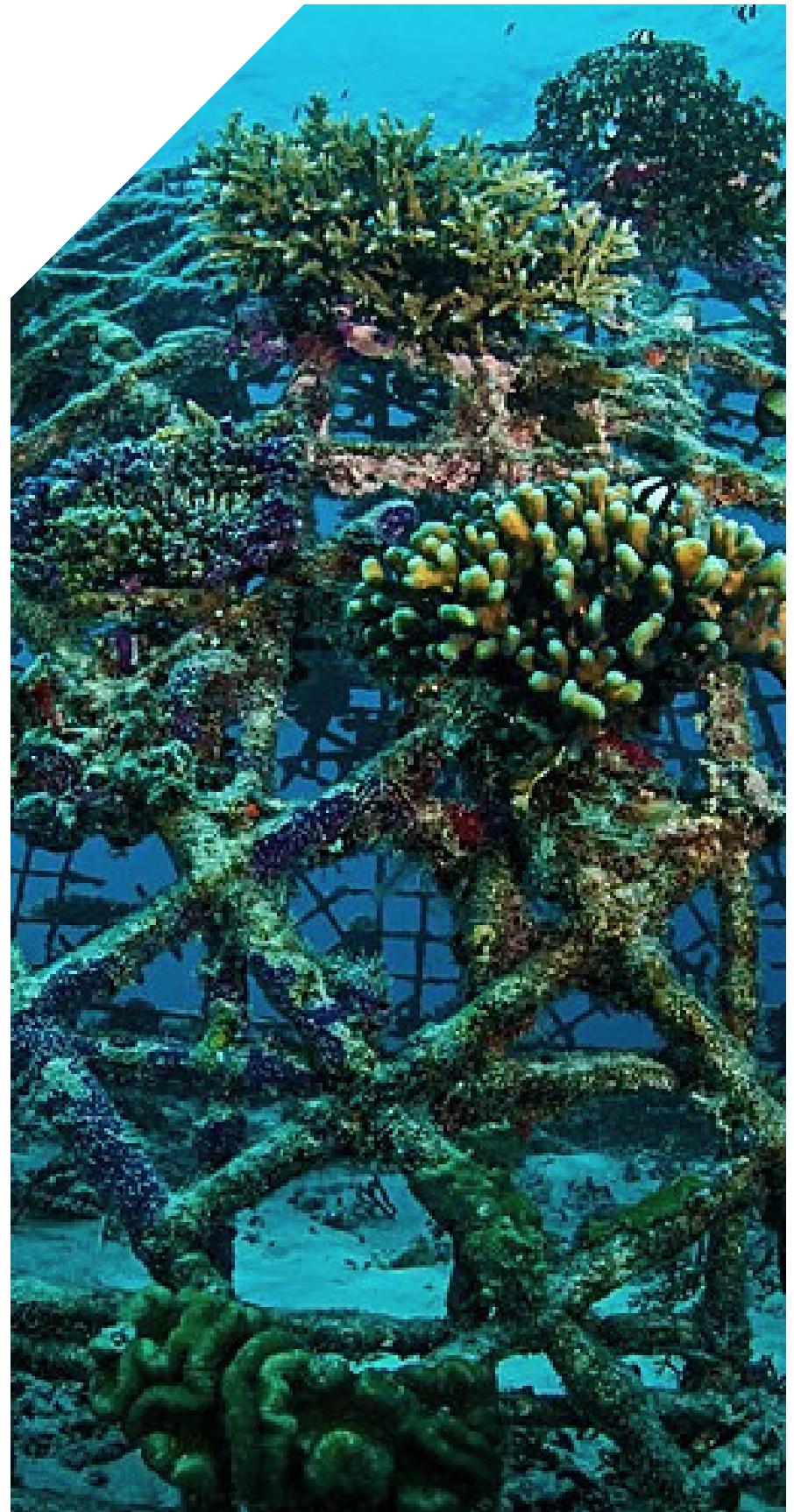
Nakate was cropped from a photo with white activists. Now she's battling for diversity in environmental activism

Most viewed

Knowledge is forged in situations of social antagonism

bell hooks, Teaching to
Trangress

Wikipedia (10 entries) edit	
ca	Vanessa Nakate
de	Vanessa Nakate
en	Vanessa Nakate
es	Vanessa Nakate
fr	Vanessa Nakate
gl	Vanessa Nakate
it	Vanessa Nakate
ja	ヴァネッサ・ナカテ
nl	Vanessa Nakate
pt	Vanessa Nakate



From "open" to "knowledge activism"

Projects like WikiWomenInRed, Black Lunch Table, WhoseKnowledge?, Wikimedians for Sustainable Development, several Global South chapters working on digitization, etc., etc., are doing an immense amount of work to dispute the common sense of knowledge. And this is how knowledge is created.

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Thank you!

@scannopolis

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<https://www.canva.com/design/DAEVHTrhkBE/HxRwj5UiAx/GDROvvE03ymQ/view?>

Mind the Gap: Shifting the Gender Balance Online with Cultural Collections

Effie Kapsalis, Senior Digital Program Officer
Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative,
@digitaleffie

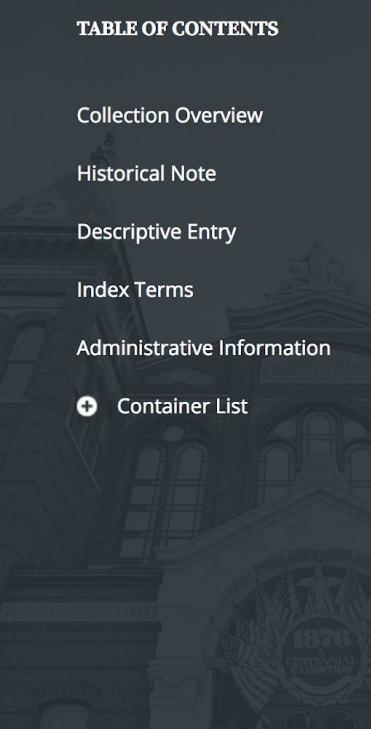
“The Worst Bird Strike in U.S. History”



Photos via AP



Roxie Collie Laybourne with National Museum of Natural History Ornithological Collection, by Chip Clark

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Project G-3.3. Geographical Variation in Canada Geese, 1961.
John Aldrich.

Box 2 of 18

Project G-3.4. Development of a color chart for field
identification of Canada geese, 1961. John Aldrich.

Box 2 of 18

Project G-3.5. Identifying characteristics of migratory game bird
carcasses, 1962. **Roxie Collie Laybourne**.

Box 2 of 18

Project G-3.6. Method of Determining Sex of Cranes, 1962.
Roxie Laybourne.

Box 2 of 18

Project G-3.7. A Taxonomic Review of the Woodpeckers, 1963.
Lester LeRoy Short, Jr.

Box 2 of 18

Project G-3.8. Variation and Hybridization in North and Central
American Flickers, 1963-1965. Lester Short.

Box 2 of 18

**Record Unit 7171, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bird and Mammal
Laboratories, Records, circa 1885-1971, Smithsonian Institution Archives**



The first African American female elevator operator and museum technician at the National Museum of Natural History, Sophie Lutterlough, tirelessly worked to restore and classify thousands of myriapoda and tick specimens. **#Groundbreaker**



Biologist **Dr. Devra Kleiman** was well-known for her research on panda & golden lion tamarin behavior and reproduction, and for almost 30 years, coordinated the Golden Lion Tamarin Conservation Program which successfully reintroduced the first GLTs into the wild. **#Groundbreaker**



Botanist and suffragette, **Mary Agnes Chase**, led the Smithsonian's Herbarium, was the eminent expert on grasses, and at the age of 93, published a 3-volume index of U.S. grasses with over 80,000 species. **#Groundbreaker**

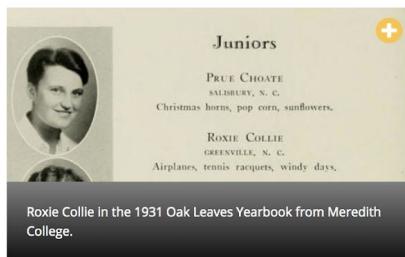


Retired geologist **Dr. Ursula Marvin**, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, studied lunar samples from the Apollo missions, and meteorites around the world. She has both an asteroid and a mountain ridge in the Antarctic ice named after her. **#Groundbreaker**



Roxie Collie Laybourne: Remembering a Groundbreaker

MARCH 26, 2013, BY LYNDA SCHMITZ FUHRIG



In 1931, Roxie Collie listed airplanes, tennis racquets, and windy days as interests under her name in her yearbook from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. The eldest in a family of 15 children, her hobbies included the outdoors, animals, engines, and model airplanes, which were considered improper for a female during that time. In college she had the opportunity to play basketball and participate in track, as well as being the first to wear blue jeans at the all-girls college. She also enjoyed mowing the college's courtyard in her coveralls. She received her B.A. from Meredith in 1932, and her M.S. in plant ecology from the George Washington University in 1951.

That pioneering spirit led Roxie Collie Laybourne to go on to create the important field of forensic ornithology,

Look at her now!

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roxie collie laybourne

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Roxie Collie Laybourne - Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roxie_Collie_Laybourne ▾
Roxie Collie Simpson Laybourne (September 15, 1910 – August 7, 2003) was an American ornithologist born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Her forensic techniques for identifying species of birds involved in bird strikes led to aircraft safety improvements. [Wikipedia](#)

Died: August 7, 2003 (aged 92); [Manassas, Virginia](#), United States
Institutions: [National Museum of Natural History, United States](#)
...

Roxie Collie Laybourne: Remembering a Groundbreaker ...
<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/roxie-collie-laybourne-remembering-groundbreaker> ▾
Mar 26, 2013 - Roxie Collie Laybourne pioneered the field of forensic ornithology through her study of bird feathers, which has meant improved aviation safety.

Roxie Laybourne: A Bird of Many Feathers
<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/roxie-laybourne-bird-many-feathers> ▾

Roxie Collie Laybourne

American ornithologist

Roxie Collie Simpson Laybourne was an American ornithologist born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Her forensic techniques for identifying species of birds involved in bird strikes led to aircraft safety improvements. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: September 15, 1910, Fayetteville, North Carolina, United States
Died: August 7, 2003, [Manassas, Virginia](#), United States
Alma mater: Meredith College, George Washington University
Institutions: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

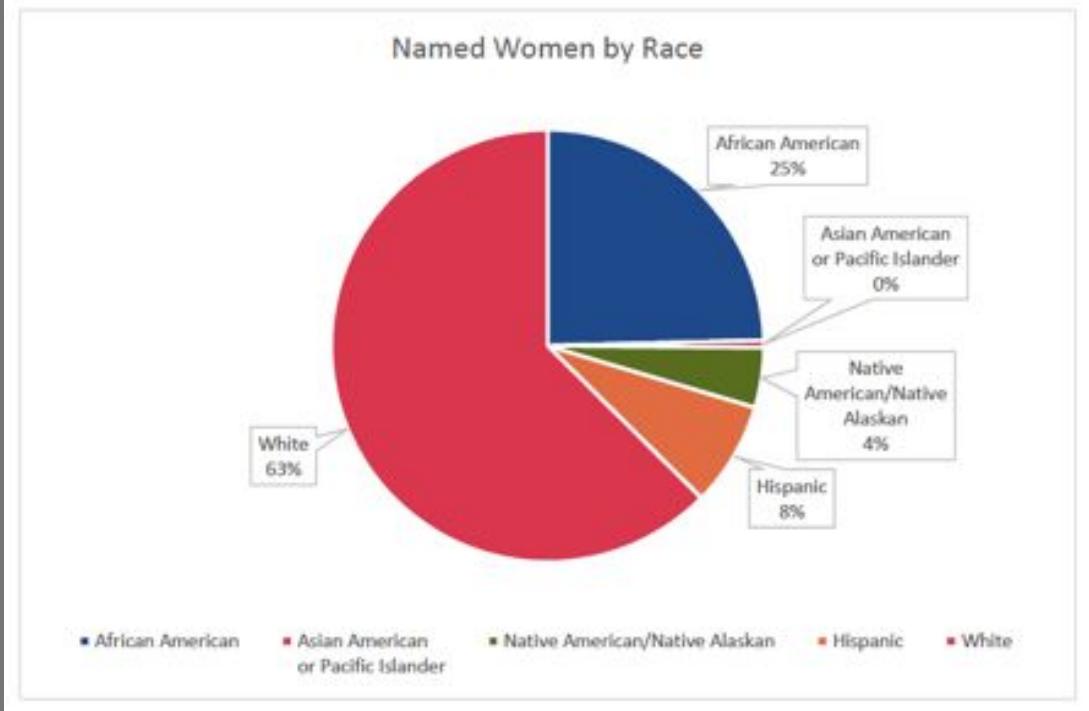
People also search for

Cornelie Annie Jump Mary Anning

“...women are excluded because the standards’ historiographical framework preferences male-oriented exceptional leadership while over-emphasizing women’s domestic roles.”



“Where are the Women? A Report on the Status of Women in the U.S. Social Studies Standards,” 2017, <http://bit.ly/349OmrL>



“Where are the Women?”

A Report on the Status of Women in the U.S. Social Studies Standards

<http://bit.ly/349OmrL>



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Our Websites

Object of the Month Declaration of Sentiments Table | Smithsonian American Women's History

... before the first woman's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York, a group of five women, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton...
<https://womenshistory.si.edu/news/2018/07/object-month-declaration-sentiments-table>

200 Years after Susan B. Anthony's Birth, Examining Her Role in the History of Women's Voting Rights

... was motivating people to share a common cause. She worked closely with her lifelong friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton to found...
<https://womenshistory.si.edu/news/2020/02/200-years-after-susan-b->

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Ad · www.womenshistory.org/ [Elizabeth Cady Stanton Bio | \(1815-1902\) | womenshistory.org](#)

Learn about this author, lecturer, chief philosopher of women's rights & suffrage movement. Sign Up For E-Newsletter. Donate Online. Highlights: Resource Library Available, Annual Reports Available, Newsroom Available.

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Elizabeth Cady Stanton | National Women's History Museum

Author, lecturer, and chief philosopher of the woman's rights and suffrage movements, Elizabeth Cady Stanton formulated the agenda for woman's rights that ...

People also ask

What is Elizabeth Cady Stanton best known for? ▾

How did Elizabeth Cady Stanton change the world? ▾

What did Elizabeth Cady Stanton do to help women's rights? ▾

How did Elizabeth Cady Stanton die? ▾

Feedback

[en.wikipedia.org](#) · [wiki](#) · [Elizabeth_Cady_Stanton](#)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton - Wikipedia

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (November 12, 1815 – October 26, 1902) was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement.

Relatives: Gerrit Smith, cousin; Col. James Livermore, uncle; Occupation: Writer, suffragist, women's rights activist; Parent(s): Daniel Cady (1773–1859); Margaret ... Spouse(s): Henry Brewster Stanton, (m. 1840); ...

Daniel Cady · Theodore Stanton · Henry Brewster Stanton · Harriot Stanton Blatch

[www.biography.com](#) · [activist](#) · [elizabeth-cady-stanton](#)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton - Children, Life & Contributions ...

Oct 16, 2019 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an early leader of the woman's rights movement, writing the Declaration of Sentiments as a call to arms for female ...

Birth Date: November 12, 1815 Death Date: October 26, 1902

Education: Troy Female Seminary , Johnstown ...

[www.history.com](#) · [topics](#) · [womens-history](#) · [elizabeth...](#)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton - HISTORY

Nov 20, 2019 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an abolitionist, human rights activist and one of the first leaders of the woman's rights movement. She came from a ...



[More images](#)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: November 12, 1815, Johnstown, NY
Died: October 26, 1902, New York, NY
Education: Emma Willard (1830–1832)
Children: Harriet Stanton Blatch, Theodore Stanton, MORE

Quotes [View 7+ more](#)

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal.

The best protection any woman can have... is courage.

Truth is the only safe ground to stand upon.

Books [View 45+ more](#)

Declaration of Sentiments 1848 · History of Woman Suffrage 1881 · The Woman's Bible 1895 · A Declaration of Sentiments 1837 · Eighty Years and More: Reminiscences 1888

People also search for [View 15+ more](#)

Susan B. Anthony · Lucretia Mott · Lucy Stone · Sojourner Truth · Alice Paul

**18% of Wikipedia
bios are about
women***

*It took 5 years to increase this number from 15.53% to 18.1% in
September 2019. Wiki Women in Red,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_in_Red



By Subhashish Panigrahi [CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>], from Wikimedia Commons



The "original Lois Lane,"
founder of the Black
Fashion Museum, 1979.
Deemed "not notable."

Lori K. Alexander Lane, who established the Black Fashion Museum, wearing a dress she made. (Courtesy of Susan McNeill and the estate of Robert H. McNeil)

-

American Women's History Initiative

The Smithsonian seeks to create a more just and equitable American society where the role of women in history is well-known, accurate, acknowledged, and empowering for citizens.

BECAUSE OF
HER STORY



Smithsonian

Goal: Increase Representation of American Women

Digital
Curators

Machine
Learning

Crowdsourcing

New Digital Resources on American Women's History

Wikipedian-in-Residence for Gender Equity

- Diversify crowdsourcing tasks to lower barriers to participation.
- Diversify volunteers.
- Develop micro-crowdsourcing tasks to get more people involved.



Sophie Lutterlough

Hired in 1943 as the Smithsonian's first female elevator operator, Lutterlough talked her way into a career as entomology research assistant, in the elevator.

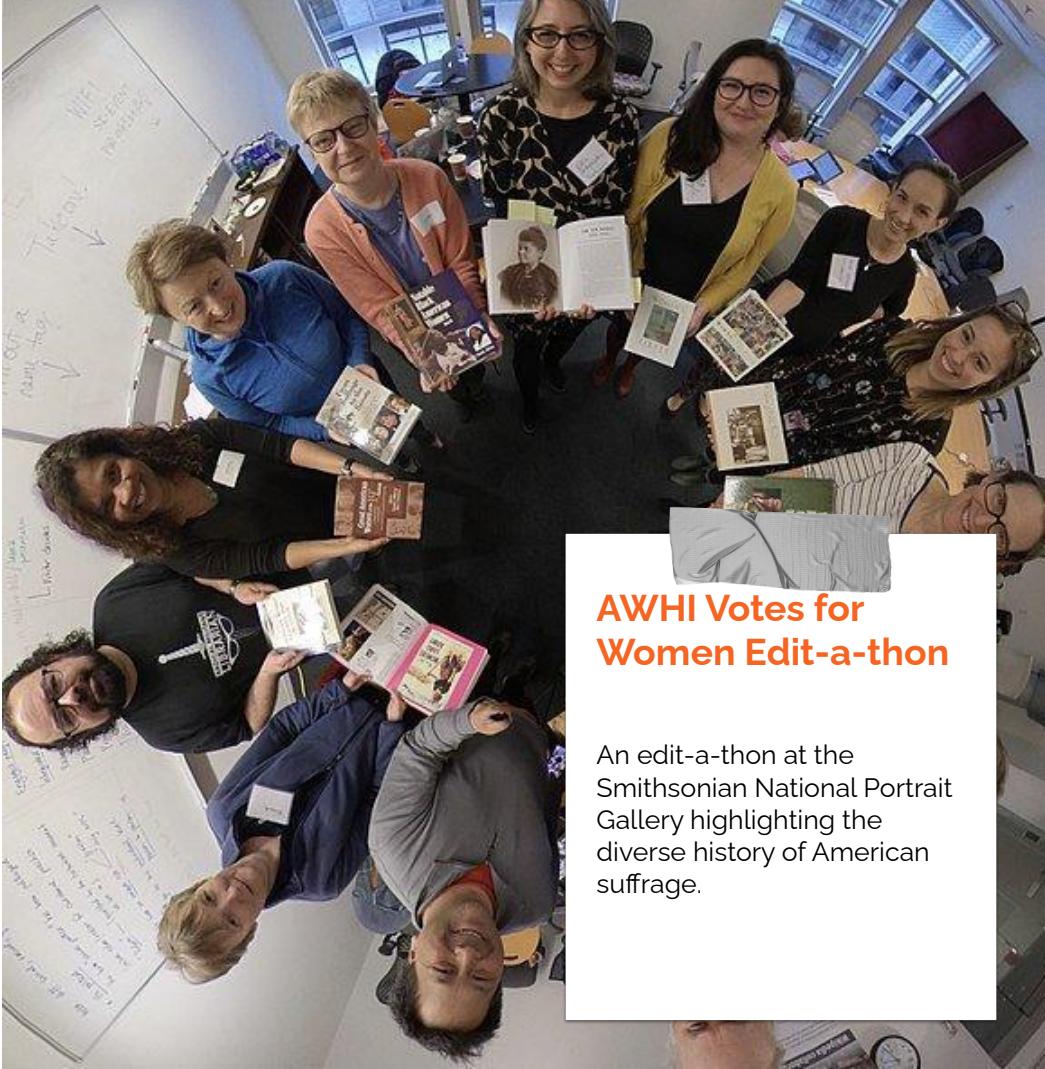
Summary

- 12 edit-a-thons, 4 training sessions,
- 5 strategic partners (Art and Feminism, Whose Knowledge, Wikimedia DC, Library of Congress, U.S. National Archives)

Results

- 275 Images of American women contributed to Wikimedia Commons: **409,460** views from March 2020 - August 18, 2020
- Articles edited: 108
- New participants: 94
- Words added: 14,910
- References added: 132

<https://bit.ly/AWHiwiki>



AWHI Votes for
Women Edit-a-thon

An edit-a-thon at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery highlighting the diverse history of American suffrage.

Representation Matters



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Article Talk

Digitaleffie Talk Sandbox Preferences Beta Watchlist Contributions Log out

Read Edit View history More Search Wikipedia

Sojourner Truth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Main page

Contents

Featured content

Current events

Random article

Donate to Wikipedia

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Related changes

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sojourner truth

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Last Search

"sojourner"

Siri Knowledge

Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth was an American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Truth was born into slavery in Swartekill, N...

Wikipedia

Sojourner Truth Memorial Committee

sojournertruthmemorial.org

Google Search

Q sojourner

Q sojourner truth

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⑤

q w e r t y u i o p

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123 ☺ space .

go

🌐

🎙

; born **Isabella (Belle) Baumfree**; c. 1797 – November 26, 1883) was an African-American abolitionist and born into slavery in Swartekill, Ulster County, New York, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. In 1828, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man.

Sojourner Truth in 1843 after she became convinced that God had called her to leave the city and go into the countryside [1] Her best-known speech was delivered extemporaneously, in 1851, at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in widely known during the Civil War by the title "Ain't I a Woman?", a variation of the original speech re-written by Southern dialect; whereas Sojourner Truth was from New York and grew up speaking Dutch as her first language. recruit black troops for the Union Army; after the war, she tried unsuccessfully to secure land grants from the federal promised as the promise of "forty acres and a mule".

Smithsonian magazine's list of the "100 Most Significant Americans of All Time".[2]

Sojourner Truth



An albumen silver print from approximately 1870 by Randall Studios. It shows Sojourner Truth, an African-American woman, seated and wearing a white dress. The print is signed "Randall" and "Detroit".

An albumen silver print from approximately

1870 by Randall Studios

Born

Isabella Baumfree

c. 1797

Swartekill, New York, United States

Can we do this at-scale with Wikidata?

AWHI Science Women Spreadsheet

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

SI UNIT

	SI UNIT	WIKIPEDIA PAGE NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?	NAME	WIKIPEDIA STATEMENT OF NOTABILITY	BIRTH/DEATH DATES	HISTORICAL CONTEXT
1						
2	Castle	y	n	Walcott, Mary Vaux	Done	1860-1940 H
3	MCI	n		Beaubien, Harriet (Rae) F.	Harriet "Rae" F. Beaubien is the Head of Conservation and the Senior Conservator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
4				Grissom, Carol A.	Carol A. Grissom is a Senior Objects Conservator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
5				Johnson, Jessica S.	Jessica S. Johnson is the Head of Conservation at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
6	MCI	n		Douglas, Janet	Janet G. Douglas is the Head of Technical Studies at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
7						
8	MCI	n		Kaczkowski, Rebecca	Rebecca A. Kaczkowski is a Preventive Conservator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
9	MCI	n		Kavich, Gwénaëlle	Gwénaëlle Kavich is a Conservation Scientist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
10	MCI	n		Little, Nicole	Nicole Little is a Physical Scientist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
11	MCI	n		Rogala, Dawn V.	Dawn V. Rogala is a Paintings Conservator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	
				Solazzo, Caroline	Caroline Solazzo is a physical scientist and researcher at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.	

The “Funk List” is named after a botanist Vicki Funk from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History:
<https://bit.ly/FunkList>



From absence to presence.

#BecauseOfHerStory