



Wikimedia Endowment
Annual Report
2022-23

Knowledge is Human

Table of Contents

President’s Message..... 3	Foundation Staff 10	Giving..... 18
Special Milestone..... 4	Leadership 12	
Knowledge Seekers 6	Financials 13	
Benevolent Donors..... 8	Thank You to Donors 14	



cover: © Jorge Royan / <http://www.royan.com.ar>

Yare zaman2000,
CC BY-SA 4.0,
via Wikimedia Commons



President's Message

Since its founding in 2001, Wikipedia has grown into the largest collection of human knowledge in history. Wikipedia is invaluable, and we are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring its future.

Every day, thousands of volunteers around the world dedicate their time and effort to create a vast repository of freely accessible, neutral, and reliable information. They work in over 300 languages and have written over 63 million articles on Wikipedia that are read 15 billion times every month.

At the heart of sustaining Wikipedia lies the Wikimedia Endowment. Access to knowledge is a fundamental human right, and the Wikimedia Endowment's mission is to provide enduring support for Wikipedia and related Wikimedia projects, ensuring their vitality for years to come.

Over the last few years, we have seen a rapid change in the way people are consuming knowledge on the Internet and through their devices. This is accompanied by an accelerated increase in misinformation both through unverified AI-generated content and deliberate efforts to deceive by bad actors. The human-curated, human-verified knowledge that Wikipedia provides is more important than ever. We believe that technology that is harnessed in the right way can make Wikipedia editors more efficient, help make the encyclopedia even more accurate, and deliver Wikipedia to more people in more languages. One condition: People have to remain in the knowledge creation loop.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will discover stories of the impactful projects funded by the Endowment, the generous donors and board members who support our mission, and the talented people who work tirelessly to innovate the technology behind the Wikimedia projects.

As we celebrate another year of collaboration, impact, and progress, I want to thank all members of our community—donors, editors, readers—for your support. Together, we are helping to ensure the world has access to high quality encyclopedic knowledge for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Lisa Seitz Gruwell
President, Wikimedia Endowment

Funding Wikipedia's technological future

How the world receives information is rapidly changing. It is critical that the Wikimedia Foundation continues to evolve their technology to meet the world's changing needs and seize opportunities to bring Wikipedia to more people in more languages. In a series of interviews with Endowment donors, we consistently heard a strong desire to use the Endowment to help Wikipedia not only remain relevant, but also thrive in a world of rapid technological innovation. Human curated, human verified information is more important than ever. Technology that is leveraged in the right way can make our editors more efficient and deliver Wikipedia to more people in more places.

Special Milestone

In FY 2022-23, the Wikimedia Endowment funded four projects that do just that:

Kiwix, \$250,000:

Kiwix, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing offline access to Wikipedia content, plays a crucial role in making knowledge more accessible worldwide, especially in regions with limited internet connectivity. With over 10-12 million users spanning across 200 countries, Kiwix has become an indispensable tool for individuals seeking information regardless of their online access. Notably, over 80% of Kiwix users reside outside Europe and North America, highlighting the organization's impact on bridging digital divides and ensuring equitable access to knowledge for diverse communities globally.

Abstract Wikipedia and Wikifunctions, \$1 million:

Abstract Wikipedia aims to build a knowledge base independent of language, making it easier to share, add, translate, and improve knowledge across languages on Wikipedia. Wikifunctions is the underlying technical infrastructure that supports the project. Abstract Wikipedia's technical development is led by the Wikimedia Foundation.

Machine Learning, \$950,000:

Led by the Wikimedia Foundation's Machine Learning team, this programmatic area of Wikimedia work focuses on building and strengthening AI and machine learning infrastructure on Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects. The Wikimedia Foundation believes that while all knowledge on Wikipedia must be human-verified, human editors can use AI to support and simplify their work. Machine learning tools make the work of volunteer editors more efficient, enabling them to focus time on edits that require complex human judgment. This work includes the development of algorithms to measure the quality of Wikipedia articles and machine learning models that catch incidents of vandalism on Wikimedia projects.

Wikidata, \$1 million:

Wikidata is the multilingual, structured knowledge base that powers knowledge on Wikipedia. Wikidata more easily connects knowledge from Wikimedia projects with machines, including voice assistants, websites, and other platforms that leverage Wikimedia content.

Together, these projects make achieving our goals feel even closer. As Abstract Wikipedia endeavors to transcend linguistic barriers and Kiwix extends the reach of knowledge to the farthest parts of the globe, we witness how transformative it is when knowledge can be shared and created by everyone. The Machine Learning initiative scales the work of volunteer editors and improves efficiency and accuracy on Wikimedia projects. Finally, Wikidata extends the reach and relevance of Wikimedia content to other platforms, allowing more people to access free knowledge than ever before.

The selected projects align with ongoing efforts to improve and innovate Wikimedia projects through collaboration with volunteers. These initial Endowment grants support current priorities outlined in the Wikimedia Foundation's annual plan and technical roadmap. Sustained technical development forms the backbone infrastructure of the Wikimedia projects, now and into the future, and continued development in these areas will help ensure that the projects remain stable and innovative, in line with the Endowment's mission of supporting the Wikimedia projects in perpetuity.

Empowering Offline Access with Kiwix

While internet connectivity has become commonplace for many, billions of people around the world still face challenges accessing online resources due to cost, limited infrastructure, and censorship. Approximately 2.6 billion individuals—representing about 33% of the global population—remain offline, with significant disparities based on geographic and economic factors. There is a critical need for innovative solutions that bridge the digital divide between online and offline access to knowledge.



Knowledge Seekers

Enter Kiwix, a groundbreaking offline reader and nonprofit organization dedicated to democratizing access to educational content, particularly Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. Kiwix's mission is deeply intertwined with Wikipedia's own, aiming to make vast repositories of knowledge accessible to everyone, regardless of their internet connectivity status. The name "Kiwix" symbolizes this commitment, formed from an anagram of "Wiki", as Wikipedia was the first piece of internet content they made accessible offline.

As a recipient of a Wikimedia Endowment grant, Kiwix is an example of how the Endowment can support initiatives that promote knowledge accessibility and sharing. Kiwix's innovative approach revolves around creating highly compressed copies of entire websites, including Wikipedia, encapsulated in single (.zim) files. These compact files can be stored on a range of devices, from mobile phones to computers and inexpensive Hotspot devices, enabling users with limited or no internet access to explore a treasure trove of educational content.

The impact of Kiwix's initiatives is palpable, such as in the Kiwix4Schools Project implemented by Open Foundation West Africa in Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This project brings Kiwix to students in junior and senior high schools, providing invaluable access to educational resources in regions with unreliable internet connectivity.

Kiwix co-founder Stephane Coillet-Matillon said, "We started with rural African schools in mind, and quickly found out that we had users in refugee camps, Himalayan villages, polar bases and even prisons. The number of use cases for offline access is endless".

Since its inception in 2007, Kiwix has gained significant traction, with over 10-12 million users worldwide in 212 territories and over 100 languages supported. Remarkably, 80% of its downloads originate from users outside Europe and North America, underscoring its relevance and effectiveness in regions with limited internet infrastructure. The availability of Kiwix on preloaded flash drives further extends its accessibility, allowing users to enjoy a browsing experience akin to a regular web browser, even without an internet connection.

Through collaborative initiatives like Kiwix, the Wikimedia Foundation and the Wikimedia Endowment continue to pave the way for a future where knowledge knows no digital boundaries.

Lisa Lewin and Strengthening the Wikimedia Endowment

“There used to be this old model of a professional life well-lived—which is you’d spend the first part of it learning, and then the second part of it earning, and then the third part of it serving,” says Wikimedia Endowment Board Member, Lisa Lewin. “That model has given way to one that speaks more to the realities of all the opportunities and real challenges that we face in society—which is, you can’t actually have people with talent waiting until they retire to give it.”



Benevolent Donors

Lisa didn't wait. The Wikimedia Endowment is fortunate to have her decades of expertise on the Board of Trustees.

Lisa's professional journey "has been propelled and motivated by a few things — including access to knowledge and education, and leveraging technology, data, and innovation to increase that access," Lisa says. She holds a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and earned her MBA with honors from Harvard Business School in 2003.

Lisa joined McGraw Hill, the publishing house that specializes in educational content and services for users from pre-K to postgraduate, where she rose to become Vice President and General Manager. She then founded an e-learning startup and educational technology consultancy, for which she was CEO, before joining Pearson plc, a British corporation specializing in education publishing.

Eventually, Lisa became CEO of General Assembly, which offers boot camps and courses in data science, user experience design, and software engineering, and which has educated more than 1 million people. In April 2023, she became CEO in Residence at Primary Venture Partners, where she supports and mentors portfolio companies at their startup and scale-up phases.

Lisa says her professional and philanthropic life has "really been animated by the idea that knowledge should be free and that access to quality education should be universal. . . . Wikipedia and the entire Wikimedia ecosystem around it are such vital cornerstones of that core tenet of free knowledge for everyone."

At the Wikimedia Endowment, Lisa sits on our Governance Committee, which ensures that the Endowment's Board fulfills its legal and fiduciary responsibilities and that it governs effectively. Each of the Endowment's four committees plays a crucial role in steering the Endowment.

"On nonprofit boards, my interest has always been in organizational governance," Lisa says. "I am a career corporate executive. And one of the big issues that you wrestle with leading any organization is its governance. How is authority distributed? How are decisions made? How does policy get created? And that's particularly important in nonprofit environments where you have even more stakeholders who deserve a voice. . . . That notion of inclusive decision-making and integrative decision-making is such a core value for me, and also something that I'm a bit of a student of at the organizational and system level."

Lisa's philanthropy and time commitment to the Wikimedia Endowment underscore her dedication to fostering knowledge accessibility and education, highlighting the crucial role of individual support in sustaining nonprofit projects. By volunteering on the Wikimedia Endowment Board, and in her other volunteer Board positions, Lisa is a role model for a more modern approach to creating social impact.

Making Wikipedia More Expansive in Languages Around the World

In January 2001, Wikipedia made its debut with articles in English. However, everyone from founder Jimmy Wales to the initial volunteer editors aimed for it to rapidly become a multilingual repository of knowledge. Fast forward two decades, and Wikipedia now exists in 323 languages. While the English version boasts 6.8 million articles and 17 other languages have surpassed the 1 million mark, the original vision for Wikipedia remains incomplete. Over 200 Wikipedias still have fewer than 50,000 articles each, despite being in languages spoken by over 1.5 billion people.



Foundation Staff

Denny Vrandečić is leading an effort to change that reality. A prominent computer scientist who co-created the fastest-growing Wikimedia project called Wikidata, Denny is now shepherding Abstract Wikipedia, which is designed to accelerate language equality across Wikipedia by evolving Wikipedias with small article bases into full-fledged knowledge sources that benefit hundreds of millions of people. Abstract Wikipedia began in 2020, and in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Denny and his team finished a crucial part of the project: Wikifunctions is a centralized repository of code and other functions that will let contributors produce usable content across Wikipedia's language editions.

"A new community is growing around the project, and new possibilities are being opened," Denny says. "I am excited that we have already seen contributors from more than 50 countries contributing to Wikifunctions, just in the first few months."

A recent meeting with a speaker of Igbo, which millions of people speak in West and Central Africa, demonstrates the project's progress. "I was presenting Wikifunctions to one of the leaders of the Igbo community," says Denny. "Just in the days before we met, someone had created a function

on Wikifunctions that takes the base form of a verb (in Igbo), and turns it into the imperative form — the form used for ordering someone to do something. I asked (the Igbo community leader) to give me an example, she did, and Wikifunctions created the correct answer. Her eyes lit up! Never before did she see any function dealing with words in the Igbo language."

As Denny points out, "For speakers of high-resource languages like English, it is easy to forget how lacking the situation for many other language communities can be. But in this moment, when I saw her eyes light up, I saw a world where now everyone can contribute to the creation of a comprehensive library of functions, including for their own languages, for the topics they care about. It's an easy way to let everyone around the globe benefit from these functions. This was a personal highlight, showing me that we were on the right path."

As it progresses, Abstract Wikipedia aims to do what Wikipedia intended in 2001: Give every language Wikipedia a bona fide chance to become a comprehensive and current source of knowledge. Abstract Wikipedia is designed to make Wikipedia a truly multilingual knowledge source — not just in theory, but in practice. The

project's ultimate result will be a Wikipedia that lets people everywhere — in their preferred language — find the knowledge they need on the internet, and also contribute to that knowledge. That's the Wikipedia that Jimmy Wales envisioned from the start: A Wikipedia where the language that people speak has the knowledge that they seek.

Denny's visionary leadership, coupled with collaborative efforts through initiatives like Wikifunctions, exemplify the Wikimedia Endowment's commitment to a world of freely shared knowledge, now and in perpetuity.

"With Wikifunctions and Abstract Wikipedia, we aim to revolutionize the way that knowledge is being expressed, curated, and maintained — to make knowledge accessible to many more people, and to allow many more people to contribute to the knowledge commons of the world," Denny says. "I am driven by the vision of the Wikipedia movement: 'Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.' I am taking this vision seriously and asking myself, given my knowledge and my skills, how can I contribute to this vision?"

Leadership

Leading the Way

The Wikimedia Endowment's leadership is comprised of the Board of Trustees, the endowment's governing body that directs its strategic initiatives and supports its mission, and staff leadership, responsible for managing the endowment's operations.

Board of Trustees

Jimmy Wales, Board Chair

Phoebe Ayers

Peter Baldwin

Annette Campbell-White

Alexander Farman-Farmaian

Michael Kim

Lisa Lewin

Patricio Lorente

Doron Weber

Staff Leadership

Lisa Seitz Gruwell,
President

Stephen LaPorte,
Secretary

Dhaval Patel,
Treasurer



Financial Statement

The income statement for the Endowment ending June 30, 2023.



July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Assets

Beginning assets (market value as of July 1, 2022)	\$99,893,169
Gifts received	\$14,097,487
Investment gains\losses	\$10,757,300
Total:	\$124,747,956

Expenses

Fundraising	\$1,064,389
General & Administrative	\$925,281
Programmatic	\$3,345,588

Donors

Merci, धन्यवाद, Gracias, ありがとう,
أرکش, Danke, Asante,
շնորհակալություն, Thank you!

We thank and appreciate the generous benefactors of the Wikimedia Endowment. Your steadfast support ensures the long-term sustainability and growth of Wikimedia projects, empowering millions worldwide with access to free encyclopedic knowledge for generations.

Below is a list celebrating those who contributed \$1,000 or more during the past year:

FY22-23 Annual Report Donor List

\$5M+

Amazon
Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin
Wikipedia readers and supporters

\$2M+

Google.org
Musk Foundation
George Soros

Donors

\$1M+

Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund
Estate of David S. Starr *
Facebook
Jim Pacha *
Anonymous donors

\$100K+

Vivek Basrur
Alan Bauer
Annette Campbell-White
Dalio Philanthropies
Alex & Patricia Farman-Farmaian
Pitch and Cathie Johnson
Richard Jay Seidel and Caren Kaplan *
Nth Degree Scholarship Fund
Estate of Karl Pfenninger *
Estate of John Robert Phillips *
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Anonymous donors

\$50K+

Estate of Evan C. Bacon *
Antoine Bello
Karel Bujok
The Rothschild Foundation
Christopher Seiwald
Anonymous donors

\$5K+

The Aber D. Unger Foundation
Estate of Orville Michael Baggett*
Paula Begoun
William Benter
Barry Boehm
The Bommadevara family
(Vedant, Maaya, Vamseeja & Nagendra)
Chris and Jennifer Brahm
Michael Brown
In Honor of Annette Campbell-White
Elmira Choopani & Khanh Vu
Marie Griffin and Robert Coffey
Steven Dee Yeutter*
Ronald Doyle
Peter Emch
Mark Jacobson and Ilona Frieden
Kevin Kelly and Germaine Fuh-Kelly
Laurie and Thomas Fusco
Peter Gadwa
Geisel Family Foundation
Spencer Glendon and Lisa Tung
Jack Goodman
Edwin A. Goodman
Emily and Sam Glick
Steven Hamburger
In memory of Nan Harris
from her family *
Janet and Richard Hart
Helen Ingham Foundation
Jack Hetherington
Ernest Hildner
Sue Hollingsworth
Howard Gilman Foundation

In honor of
Hank and Demaris Hudspeth
Brian Jaffe
Christine & Jordan Kaplan
Khandros-Bloch Family
The Kipping Family
In memory of H. Kwan
Jerry LeClaire
Victor Linck
Leo Liu, MD
Meraj Mana
Michael Merwin
Moneta Asset Management
Carol Fryer and Bernard Moret
In memory of
Richard and Virginia Neufeld
Gregory and Kathy Nelson
In memory of Don & Joyce Neufeld
The O'Brien Family, New Jersey
Manish Pandya
Lynda & Stewart Resnick
Tim and Mary Riordan
Barbara Ryan
In memory of
Salomon (Monis) Samuelides
The Sigler Family
The Stephen Craig Moore Living Trust *
Jon Thaler
Fred Thorlin
Bonnie J. Tisch and Daniel R. Tisch
Paul von Kuster
Milan Votava
K.L. Won
Anonymous donors

*denotes deceased donor

Donors

\$1K+

Ebrahim Ahmadi, M.D.
Glenn Anders
Anyone Can Whistle Foundation of Los Angeles
Edward and Sallie Arens
Ken and Valerie Baker
Steven Barnes
Dan Batson
Charles and Jennifer Beeler
Heather Bendler
In memory of Peter Bial
Gary and Audrey Billerbeck
Will Bloch
Brent Blumenstein and Anne Ryan
Adam Bly
Roger and Helen Bohl
Artem Bolgar
Joseph Brandt
In memory of Roger Edward Broughton
Kathy and Charley Brown
Craig Campbell
Kyra and Ken Carson
Raul Carmenate
Romelle Castle
The Carter Family
Vint Cerf
Saul and Nan Chase
Anjan Chatterjee
Joseph Chen
Irene Clardy
In memory of Principal Joe Clark, who appreciated the value of knowledge and education
Lenore C Cooney
Linda D Cooley
Stone Coxhead
Meg Coyle
Michael Danahy, Ph. D.
Austin Daily
H. Andrew Decker
Michaela Depatie
L Peter Deutsch
A Sibbald Doan
James Docauer
John Dove
Greg Durrett
Douglas Durst
James Fallon
Peter Farrell
Anita and John Fiorillo
Jos van Schagen and Marjon Floris
Will Forrest
Susan Leigh Foster
In memory of Johnnie Ruth Friedman
Charles Gallant
Charles Garrett
Thomas and Elizabeth Gewecke
Safar Ghazal
Giancarlo Pallavicini Humanitarian Foundation and Cultural ONLUS
Jeremy Norman and Patricia Gilbert
Mary E. Glidden and Paul Francoeur in memory of Yves Francoeur
Thomas Goddard
Jim and the late Connie Gossett
Loretta Montanari Gottshall
Alan Gould
Terence E. Gray
In loving memory of Norman G. Greenberg
Mark Halperin
Chalmers Hardenbergh
Ronald & Peian Harness
In memory of Rosebud Smith Haywood
Thomas Hazlehurst
In memory of Professor Dr. Walter Higbee
Matthew Hill
Christopher Hinton
Tran Ho
Charles Hogan
In honor of Zach Intrater and Marc Agnifilo
Kent Janér
Rex Jaeschke
Peter and Linda Jeschofnig
Robert Johnson
In memory of Dr. James L. Julian
Chris and Steven K
Gary Kahn
Catherine Kayser
John Kiely
Brendan Kirby, P.E.
Eric Klusman
Richard Paul Krafstur
Ralph Korpman
Krebs on Security
Kurt Kufeld
Kishor Kulkarni
Sally Lawrence and David Lai
Lai-Yet Lam and Peter Lew
In memory of Robert E. Lasky
Lisa Lewin
Ken Lipper

Donors

Kevin Lloyd
Robert Lonergan
Julie Pedtke and Riley MacPhee
In memory of my sister MADELEINE
Victor Mair
Dorothea Malsbary
Alexis Martinsen
Sydney McDole and Naresh Lakhanpal
Heather and Peter McHugh
Karen Meckstroth
Minassian Media
Patricia & Charles Mintz
Eric Jones and Daniel Monasterio
Jeff Morrow
Judith Morton
Mary G. Murray
Anil Nai
In memory of John C. Nelson
George Nikopoulos
Becky Norquist
Frank O. Clark, Ph.D.
Robert Ordal
Og & Ogina
Miriam and Robert Owens
Andrew Pace
Mary Patterson
Trey Parker
John Parkinson
Barbara Perreault
Steve Pittman
Jonathan Pool
Borden Putman
The Rex Flash Ministries
In memory of Charles Rich PhD

Lorraine and Gary Roberts
Dennis Rossman
Terry Rossow
In memory of Frank Rust
Rana Sadik and Samer Younis
Nathan and Nancy Sambul
David Sassen
Scott Satterwhite
Charles Schade
Paul Scharf
Steven K Schuck on behalf of
those who prefer facts to
wishful thinking
Ann Schumacher
Rasha Shehada
Bradford Sherburne
Michael Shimoide
Curtis Scribner
Steve Solomon in Josh's memory —
He loved to learn.
Bill Spindler
Sports Reference LLC
Frederick Stanton
Timothy Steinert
Elizabeth Story
Melissa & Karl Sweitzer
The Tarpenning-Schillinger Family Fund
Rabbi Rob & Lauren Thomas
In loving memory of
Dolly Marguerite Thompson
Michael Thonis
Michael Ashby and Nancy Till
Kelly Townsend
Kit Transue
Jack Triplett

Natalie and Bobby Tulsiani
Nicolas Veron
In memory of Robert Henry Walpole
Rich Warner
Beverly and Darrell Weaver
Doron Weber
Matthew Weiner
Patti White
Albert Whittlesey
Peter B. Wiley
Matt Williams
Adam Wolff
Tim and Cc Yu
Anonymous donors

Help Ensure Wikipedia's Future

GIVING TODAY

The Wikimedia Endowment ensures that Wikipedia and the related projects will continue to provide the world with high quality encyclopedic knowledge now and into the future. Making a gift today is the simplest way to ensure that Wikipedia remains strong, stable, and always there when you need it. There are many ways to make a gift, including online, through a DAF, a gift of stock, a Qualified Charitable Distribution, a Charitable Gift Annuity, and more.

To learn more, visit wikimediaendowment.org.

GIVING TOMORROW

Your love of Wikipedia can live on by including Wikimedia in your estate plans. By naming the Wikimedia Endowment in your will or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy, you can leave a legacy that will benefit the next generation of Wikipedia readers.

To learn more, email legacy@wikimedia.org.

Wikimedia Foundation

Discover the heart of the Wikimedia Foundation's impact in its [2022/2023 Annual Report](#). Explore the stories, initiatives, and achievements here.



WIKIMEDIA

ENDOWMENT

Wikimedia Endowment • 1 Montgomery Street, Suite 1600 • San Francisco, CA 94104 USA
wikimediaendowment.org • endowment@wikimedia.org

Wikimedia Endowment Tax ID# 82-3024488