Project-based learning with Wikipedia

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This is what we are going to do today

- Discuss the PBLL and its essential elements
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of Wikipedia
- Present our project
- Brainstorm and discuss your own ideas regarding potential project in language classes and integrating PBLL into language program curriculum
Discussion (1):

What is Project-based learning?

Please give us examples of your projects.
What is PBL?

“Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge”

http://www.bie.org/about/what_pbl
What is PBL?

- Students work on a project over an extended period of time
- They are engaged in solving a real-world problem/performing a real-world task
- They apply their skills and develop new ones by creating a socially meaningful project

http://www.bie.org/about/what_pbl
Institutions

- The Buck Institute for Education
- National Foreign Language Resource Center
Gold Standard PBL: Essential Project Design Elements

- Challenging problem or question
- Sustained inquiry
- Authenticity
- Students’ voice and choice
- Reflection
- Critique and revision
- Public product

http://www.bie.org/about/what_pbl
Benefits of PBL

- improving language skills and motivation for studies (Beckett & Miller, 2006)
- improving communication and problem solving skills (Moss, 1998)
- increasing job satisfaction (Hixson, Ravitz, & Whisman, 2012)
BACKSTORY
Q: What is a **LibGuide**?

A: **LibGuides** (library guides), or subject guides, pull together all types of information about a particular subject or course of study. LibGuides can contain information about both library resources (books, databases, multimedia, etc.) and online resources that are relevant to the subject.
Robert Robinson (1906-1994)

Born in Jamaica, Robinson was trained in Cuba as a mechanical engineer before his emigration to the United States in 1930. In the same year at the plant where Robinson was employed, a visiting Soviet delegation engaged in the study of Ford assembly-line production techniques invited Robinson to work in a tractor factory in Stalingrad, offering him various perquisites. Robinson lived in the Soviet Union for 44 years and returned to the United States only in 1978.

In 1988 he wrote an autobiography *Black on Red: my 44 years inside the Soviet Union*, which was translated into Russian in 2012. *Чёрный в красных: 44 года в Советском Союзе: автобиография черного американца*.

The writer Claude McKay (1889 - 1948) visited Russia in 1922-1923. McKay arrived just in time for the fifth anniversary of the Revolution and spoke as an unofficial representative of the “American Negro” at the Fourth Congress of the Communist International in Moscow. His warm reception in the Soviet Union included introductions to Soviet leaders Grigory Zinoviev and Nikolai Bukharin as well as the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky and
Why Wikipedia?
Discussion (2):

What are some advantages and disadvantages of Wikipedia, in your opinion?

Have you ever used Wikipedia in class/for teaching?
Wikipedia: advantages and disadvantages

- Largest source of information
- Free
- Constantly updated
- Anybody can edit it

- Anybody can edit it
- Not scholarly
- Quality of the articles vary significantly
- Information is not always verified
Teach with Wikipedia
Wikipedia Education Program

Wikipedia is an opportunity to teach students essential 21st century skills that most will use in their careers and personal lives. Wikipedia is a valuable public resource, and in a classroom environment, students learn how to contribute to it and how to use it properly. Curricula can and should include Wikipedia. Wikipedia belongs in education.

Benefits [edit]

When using Wikipedia in education, student motivations and learning outcomes can vary widely. However, most students are more engaged in a Wikipedia assignment than a traditional assignment. They also learn many skills.

Student engagement [edit]

These are some of the reasons that using Wikipedia in the classroom is so engaging, according to students:

- **The global audience** — students appreciate that their work could be viewed by thousands of people.
- **The usefulness of the assignment** — students like that their work serves a purpose; it isn't just graded and forgotten.
- **The résumé builder** — students add a new skill to their professional portfolio.
- **The "cool" factor** — students like showing their work to family and friends.
- **The feedback** — students like getting input from the broader world.
- **The different experience** — students appreciate an alternative assignment format and learning new things.

Student learning [edit]

Students learn a variety of skills by using Wikipedia in the classroom. Some of the main ones are:

- **Critical thinking** — students learn to evaluate information and develop their own opinions.
- **Collaboration** — students work together to produce a quality assignment.
- **Research** — students learn to use various sources of information.

Students use Wikipedia. It is very critical that we, meaning academia, get on board with this, because it is going to happen if we like it or not.

Words Matter

WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ROOM 2A

Celebrate Black History Month

Wikipedia is one of the most visited websites in
the world, and it depends on its users to contribute
content. This drop-in event will improve Wikipedia
articles related to black history.

• No previous Wikipedia editing experience needed.
• Refreshments provided.
• Use a library computer, or bring your laptop.
• Who else will be there? Archivists and librarians
to help you make Wikipedia better.

Questions?
DeLaise Holiday, IU Libraries Multicultural Outreach Librarian, Head of NABCC Library, dwholiday@indiana.edu
Meg Meeman, IU Libraries, Head of Teaching & Learning, mmeeman@indiana.edu
Matt Neen, Monroe County Public Library, Community Engagement Librarian, mneen@monroelibrary.in

Marcellus Neal, IU’s first African American graduate, does not have a photo connected to his Wikipedia page.

Namesake of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Frances Marshall Espysonc has only a "stub" page on Wikipedia.

Ada Lovelace Day Wikipedia Edit-a-thon: STEMinist Style
In honor of Ada Lovelace Day, a global celebration of women’s contributions to STEM, we are hosting an edit-a-thon to improve Wikipedia’s representation of women and LGBTQ people in STEM fields. We will work together to transform Wikipedia, one of the 5 most visited sites on the internet. Learn to edit Wikipedia and get started as an active editor. Instruction provided — no previous experience necessary.

All are welcome. Bring your laptop. Refreshments provided.

Faculty speaker:
David A. Owens
Evans Family Executive Director

DIY & CME credits • All are welcome
Project participants

9 students from the “Russian for Social Sciences” class

- 4 graduates
- 4 undergraduates
- 1 heritage speaker, high school student
Project stages

- List of sources and outline (10 points)
- 1st draft (25 points)
- First Draft Peer Review (5 points)
- Final version of the article (20 points)
- Uploading/creating the page on Wikipedia (10 points)
- Mini-conference: final oral presentation (30 points)
Article subjects:

Richard T. Greener (1844 – 1922) – the first black graduate of Harvard College, the United States Commercial Agent in Vladivostok

Frederick Bruce Thomas (1872 – 1928) – restaurateur, the main character of the book “Black Russian”/ «Черный русский» by Vladimir Alexandrov

James "Jimmy" Winkfield (1882 – 1974) – jockey and horse trainer, who lived in Russia about 15 years until the revolution

Otto E. Huiswoud (1893 – 1961) – first black member of the US Communist party and a Comintern delegate in Moscow who met with Lenin

Homer Smith (1909? – 1972) – journalist, who spent about 15 years in Russian from the 1930s and was married to a Russian

Lloyd Patterson (1911 – 1942) – artist and radio commentator, father of James Patterson, the well-known black baby from the movie «Circus»

John Oliver Golden (19?? – 1940) – agronomist, father of Lilly Golden and grandfather of Elena Khanga

Andrea Lee (born 1953) – writer, author of the “Russian Journal”

Final product

Луїза Алóун Тóмпсон Пáттерсон
Джеймс «Джимми» Винкфилд
Ричард Теодор Гринер
Фредер́к Брюс Тóмас
Óливер Джон Гóлден
Гомер Смит-младший
Ллойд Уолтон Паттерсон
Андреа Ли
Discussion (3):

What questions would you ask your students at the end of a project?

What feedback would you be interested in?
Overall, working on this project was useful for me.
Thanks to the project my Russian language skills improved in...
I learned a lot about an important and/or interesting topic
I feel that I made a valuable contribution to the Russian-language Wikipedia and hence the community in general.
It was easy to find resources for the project.
Work on the project was too time-consuming
I enjoyed uploading and formatting my article in Wikipedia
I received valuable feedback on this project from instructors.
I would recommend implementing similar projects based on Wikipedia in other language classes.
Students’ testimonials

- I thought this project was useful in enhancing my Russian language skills, my understanding of how Wikipedia works + my research skills.

- I really enjoyed learning about the topic and people.

- It was an interesting experiment.

- Learning about unknown-to-me subject.

- Learning to use technical language in Russian.

- I think it was very useful in synthesizing all the aspects of language learning (presenting, writing, translating, finding sources, adjusting to a new style, etc.).

- Learning about an otherwise fairly unknown person.

- I liked that we created a concrete project which I could show to people.

- I enjoyed doing research in Russian about a person who is not very well known.

- I really liked the Wikipedia article, which helped develop my research and technical writing skills in Russian.
Challenges

- Finding resources, especially Russian-language resources; finding my person’s connections to Russia
- I had really hard time copying the style of Russian Wiki and uploading felt very complicated. I have worked w/Wikipedia in the past but this was particularly difficult.
- Translating and finding good resources.
- Finding trustworthy Russian-language sources.
- Formatting (links)!
- Just reading real information in Russian was challenging, but thanks to this project I felt like my language level grew.
- Writing an article suitable for Wikipedia in Russian (w/o grammar mistakes, etc.)
How to improve?

- talk more explicitly in class about evaluation of quality of the resources in general;
- schedule **individual** meetings with students to discuss the resources they found and suggest additional resources if needed;
- schedule a separate class session (probably in English) on Wikipedia editing.
Discussion (4):

What projects with Wikipedia can you do in your class?
• Project based learning improves language skills and motivation for studies
• Students gain new specific knowledge through the target language
• They improve their research skills and communication skills
• They increase their satisfaction from language learning through creation of socially meaningful product
Further reading about PBL:


PBL Institutions:

- [The Buck Institute for Education](#)
- [National Foreign Language Resource Center](#)
Further reading about Wikipedia:


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Thank you!