

Wikipedia Editathon: Native American Women Activists

These tips were compiled from those shared during the training by Lily Murray, Julie Reed, and Cathleen Cahill.

Wikipedia 101

- [Create an account](#) in order to edit.
- Visit the [Editathon's Meetup Page](#) to find info on any aspect of the event.
- Log in through the [Dashboard](#) so we can keep track of progress.
- Decide how much work you want to put in and choose a page to match. Edit the Meetup Page to indicate that you're working on a particular page so others don't edit it at the same time and overwrite your changes.
- To edit, click "Edit source" on the top right of the page. Using visual editing omits the need for coding.

Best Practices for Writing About Indigenous Women

1. Make the Indigenous person you are writing about the primary subject of most of your sentences.
2. Be specific. The details matter.
 - a. What is his/her/their name? When did they live? Where did they live?
 - b. Name the tribal communities they come from.
3. Avoid defining women solely through their action or relationships to men, husbands, and children.
4. Avoid the passive voice. Use active verbs.
 - a. Passive: "Returning to Oklahoma in the fall of 1976, Mankiller was hired by the Cherokee Nation as an economic stimulus coordinator."
 - b. Active: "When Mankiller returned to Oklahoma in 1976, the Cherokee Nation hired her as an economic stimulus coordinator."
5. Make Indigenous women's Wikipedia pages parallel to those of their male counterparts.
 - a. Aim to provide the same sections and types of information.
6. Include ways the Indigenous women contributed to their communities and explain how this would be understood within their communities. Don't focus only on the actions that seemingly aided or abetted settler society.

Sources for Writing About Indigenous Women

Wikipedia articles should be based on **reliable, published sources**. Read [Wikipedia's Reliable Sources policy](#) to learn more.

Be aware of the possibility of bias in any resource, including scholarly materials and existing Wikipedia articles. Read with a critical eye. What do you know about the author? What is their affiliation with this information? Does the resource use demeaning terms? Use information when it is reliable, but do not include bias in your own writing.

Online Resources Requiring Penn State Authentication

Ebooks (access via Libraries catalog; links below)

- [Bataille, Gretchen M.; Lisa, Laurie, eds. \(2001\). *Native American women : a biographical dictionary* \(2nd ed.\). New York: Routledge.](#)
- [Bloom, Harold, ed. \(1998\). *Native American women writers*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers.](#)

Databases

- [Penn State Libraries Databases A to Z List](#)
- Major databases of scholarly journals
 - [JSTOR](#) provides an archive of important scholarly journals and a selection of scholarly books. JSTOR includes *American Indian Quarterly*, *Wičazo Ša Review*, *Studies in American Indian Literature*, and *Cultural Anthropology*. It does not include the most recent years of most journals.
 - [Project MUSE](#) provides full text of recent issues of humanities, arts, and social sciences journals from scholarly publishers, including *American Indian Quarterly*, *Wičazo Ša Review*, *Studies in American Indian Literature*, and *Native American and Indigenous Studies*.
- [America: History & Life with Full Text](#) covers all aspects of the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present.
- [American Indian Newspapers](#) contains 45 titles including bi-lingual and indigenous language publications from the United States and Canada. Includes some key 19th century titles, but most publications were founded in the 1970s.
- [Ethnic NewsWatch](#) is a comprehensive full text database of the newspapers, magazines and journals of the ethnic, minority and native press. It includes *News from Native California*.
- [Gale Virtual Reference Library \(GVRL\)](#) is a collection of over 2000 reference resources.
- [Gale Literary Sources](#) is a good source for biographical information about authors.
- [New York Times Historical \(available from 1851\)](#) includes a digitized image of every backfile issue of The New York Times from cover to cover, including news stories, editorials, photos, graphics, and advertisements.

- [Oxford Reference Online](#) contains reference works with biographical information. NOTE: PSU does not have access to all of the content so limit to “unlocked and/or free content” under “availability.”
- [Women's Studies International](#) provides access to over 232,000 records drawn from ten important Women's Studies databases.

Online Open Access Resources (Authentication Not Required)

- ["Chickasaw Hall of Fame"](#). *The Chickasaw Nation*.
- [Cultural Anthropology](#): Issues published since 2014 are available for free on the journal's website. Earlier issues are in JSTOR.
- ["The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture"](#). www.okhistory.org.
- ["Independent Voices"](#). www.jstor.org. is an open access digital collection of alternative press newspapers, magazines and journals, drawn from the special collections of participating libraries. These periodicals were produced by feminists, dissident GLs, campus radicals, Native Americans, anti-war activists, Black Power advocates, Hispanics, LGBT activists, the extreme right-wing press and alternative literary magazines during the latter half of the 20th century.
- ["Native American Women: National Museum of the American Indian"](#). americanindian.si.edu.
- ["Oklahoma Hall of Fame Member Archives"](#). oklahomahof.com.

Print Resources

These print resources are available from the Penn State University Libraries. (Links below go to the Libraries' catalog.)

- [Bataille, Gretchen M.; Sands, Kathleen Mullen \(1984\). *American Indian women, telling their lives*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.](#)
- [Perdue, Theda, ed. \(2001\). *Sifters : Native American women's lives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.](#)
- [Sonneborn, Liz \(1998\). *A to Z of Native American women*. New York, New York.](#)