

Women in Religion – Wikipedia User group meeting

Minutes—Meeting of August 22, 2024

Members participating: CM, HWS, CA, RH, CS, CH, WW.

1. WiR editing session – (Second Monday)

The August 12 session went well. CM coached a new member through creating a Wikipedia editing account and selecting her Wikimedia username. Other participants edited their own projects. HWS acted on a suggestion from JO from last month's meeting to create an info box for Barbara Newman's Wikipedia page.

The next editing session will be Monday, September 9 at 4 pm CST. CM is not available to facilitate that session but will still send out the reminder beforehand.

2. AAR panel presentation video – What to do with?

CS has already added closed captions and posted it on YouTube. It can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzZcasHzvqw>. As this meeting was underway, CS worked on uploading it to Wiki Commons. She faced challenges in downloading it from YouTube and had to use an MP4 converter. In the end, after WC's tool kept failing, she had to pay an online service to convert the file to .webm format. She then sought guidance from the group to identify a contact at the AAR who could give permission for her to put a Creative Commons license on it. CH provided a contact.

3. African Circle group update

RH provided an update from the road. They are wrapping up their grant and she has an extension until August 31, 2024 to write a narrative with learning outcomes. That group is also meeting to determine how to go forward. She has found the group to be enthusiastic and they have learned to embrace critique of their work. She reminded this group that all are welcome to join the African Circle's weekly meetings. She hopes to diminish the frequency of their meetings, now that they have a well-established working routine. They work in small teams to create pages or stubs. As a group, they recently created a banner template for them to use on talk pages to identify the group's involvement in the creation of the Wikipedia entry. CH observed that a small investment by Wikimedia did a lot to diversify current and future English Wikipedia entries. She hopes that they will write for another \$5K grant. WW asked how the funds are used. RH said that the most significant grant expenditure is for data packages that enable the African Circle editors to work online. The cost of staff support is modest.

4. 2nd PoWR volume update

The Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR) has sent an announcement to all of their members that they will again work with us on a volume of biographies of women in religion. They have shared the call for submission of proposed chapters. CH is not yet home from her daughter's wedding, travel being delayed because her mother caught COVID at the wedding. Once she is home, she will access the email account that the PoWR established within their domain to receive submissions and will monitor progress. She will also send an email to each author who contributed to one of the first three volumes to encourage them to contribute to this one.

CA put the announcement on H-NET (the Humanities and Social Science Online Network). It can be accessed at <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20040278/women-challenging-dominant-religious-practices-and-expectations>

HWS shared it with a colleague who has published a biography and who has recently trained as a spiritual director. That person expressed some interest in this group and in the book project, but they have not yet been able to connect by phone.

CH asked RH if *CrossCurrents* publishes such announcements. They do not, but RH will see if they will publish something on their website.

CH asked DF to share the announcement with the women's caucus of the AAR. CM will put in on the Women in Red page. CH noted that Rosie Stephenson-Goodnight contacted her to request that they meet at the WCNA to discuss a potential book project on temperance women.

5. AI project

CA reported that the team recently had a productive meeting and will work on fine-tuning the AI model. He noted that work on AI models usually progresses from prompt engineering to retrieval augmentation to in-context learning (i.e., giving the AI model examples to follow) to fine-tuning (i.e., adjusting the weights of the output layer so that it learns how to write stubs). CM made a spreadsheet of stubs to train it to produce a model of a stub. Someone asked whether those who create bots get credit for each edit done by the bot. Often they do but some bots have their own accounts. CH asked whether we can make this our bot.

CH recently sent out email announcing that the next AI group meeting would be on September 19 at 4 pm CST. There was some concern that this conflicted with the next meeting of this group but that was then determined to be on September 26.

HWS shared a link to an article that she thought might be of interest, a faculty member's account of involving students in a discussion of how AI should be used in their course:

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/artificial-intelligence/2024/08/22/professor-asks-students-creat-e-ai-policy?utm_source=Inside+Higher+Ed&utm_campaign=16d13f564b-DNU_2021_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcbc04421-16d13f564b-197430121&mc_cid=16d13f564b&mc_eid=b9452ddf3b

6. WCNA (Indianapolis, October 3-6, 2024)

CM had just that day been notified that our proposal had been accepted and that we had two slots. One would focus on a general Wikiproject Women in Religion update (Friday, October 4, 12:15 to 1 pm; https://wikiconference.org/wiki/Submissions:2024/WikiProject_Report:_Women_in_Religion) and the other on the rapid grant for the African Circle (Sunday, October 6, 10 – 11 am; https://wikiconference.org/wiki/Submissions:2024/Women_in_Religion:_Expanding_the_Crossroads_Across_Continents_using_Rapid_Grants,_the_Case_of_Kenya). See the full conference schedule at <https://wikiconference.org/wiki/2024/Schedule>.

The group decided that the general session should highlight the AI project. CH will convene a meeting (probably in the first half of September) to develop the presentation. The group can review that recent AAR

presentation and remember the twenty-minute introduction to the project that we recently provided to CA's new colleagues.

There was then discussion of who would attend. CH, HWS, CA, and CS planned to attend and they know that JO will be there. WW, CM, and RH were maybes. RH knew that one of the Kenya Circle had applied for a full scholarship but RH had not yet heard if she received it. The group can explore whether they could also record video by some of the Kenyan group to enable their voices to be heard. CH wondered if JE would attend and if EU could be interested in attending as part of the AI project.

CS offered to explore renting an AirBnB and splitting the cost among the group's attendees. CH, RH, CM and WW expressed interest. CA plans to stay at his family's farm and HWS plans to bring her husband and they will stay in the hotel.

7. Go round/check-in

Because the meeting ran long, there was not time for this item aside from CA noting that the Wikimedia + Libraries International Convention will be in Mexico City January 15 – 17, 2025, and they issued a call for papers that closes September 15. See

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia%2BLibraries_International_Convention_2025/Call_for_Papers_WikiLib_Con_2025

That might be a good place to present on the AI project. He will begin an email discussion of that possibility.

Next meeting September 26, 4 pm CST

HWS reminded the group of prior discussion of occasionally meeting at 10 am CST to enable the Kenyan circle to participate in this project meeting. RH thought that would be good to consider once the Kenyan Circle has ratcheted down their current schedule of meeting weekly.