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Smithsonian Institution Archives Hosts Wikipedian in Residence and Outreach Events with Wikipedia Volunteers

The Smithsonian Institution Archives is hosting Wikipedian in Residence Sarah Stierch from March to June of 2012. She will serve as an official liaison between the Archives and the Wikipedia volunteer community, working closely with the Archives staff to expand archival content available on Wikimedia — a non-profit that develops and maintains various wiki-based projects, including Wikipedia, and disseminates this content to the public free of charge.

Stierch, a graduate student in Museum Studies at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a Community Fellow for the Wikimedia Foundation, has been a Wikipedia volunteer editor since 2006. The Smithsonian Institution Archives is the second Smithsonian unit after [Archives of American Art](#) to become directly involved with Wikipedia's GLAM-Wiki project, which helps galleries, libraries, archives and museums to improve content contributions to Wikipedia and related sites. In particular, Stierch's role as Wikipedian in Residence will enable the Archives to expand Smithsonian history, American history, and science related content on Wikipedia.

Stierch has a particular interest in bringing women-related content to Wikipedia, and so to aid in this activity, the Archives will be hosting a Women in Science Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon on Friday, March 30, 2012. Facilitated by Stierch, this activity will bring Wikipedians together to work on documenting content related to women in science found in the Archives' collections. This event will be the third hosted by Stierch and the Smithsonian—the first two focused on improving content related to American art history.

Stierch and Archives staff will be writing about her residency on the Smithsonian Institution Archives' blog, [The Bigger Picture](#).

[Learn more about the Smithsonian Institution Archives partnership on Wikipedia.](#)

About the Smithsonian Institution Archives

The Smithsonian Institution Archives captures, preserves, and makes available to the public the history of Smithsonian. From its inception in 1846 to the present, the records of the history of the Institution—its people, its programs, its research, and its stories—have been gathered, organized, and disseminated so that everyone can learn about the Smithsonian. The history of the Smithsonian is a vital part of American history, of scientific exploration, and of international cultural understanding. Learn more about the Archives at siarchives.si.edu.