

WIKIPEDIA AND HEALTH: ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

On March 7, 2019 McMaster University Libraries, in collaboration with Cochrane Canada hosted the second annual “Wikipedia & Health” event at the Health Sciences Library. This year’s theme was “Engaging Our Communities” and hosted 21 attendees. The event featured a lengthy and in-depth panel discussion with five panelists:

1. Dr Alison Baker, MD
2. Dr Jennifer Dawson, PhD
3. Dr. Alim Nagji, MD
4. Megan Ogilvie, Science Journalist
5. Kimberly Silk, MLIS (Data Librarian at Hamilton Public Library)

Objectives

1. Provide a platform for lively discussion about Wikipedia and its role in the dissemination of health information online and how health experts can become more engaged with improving Wikipedia health content
2. Provide a space at McMaster University where professionals, researchers, and academics from all sectors can gain a new skill as Wikipedia editors and participate in the improvement of health information on Wikipedia with their knowledge and expertise
3. Collaborate with McMaster University Libraries and Cochrane Canada in the planning and organization of events

The event successfully met the above objectives. The panelists breadth of expertise contributed to a robust treatment of Wikipedia as a health information resource (Objective 1); attendees received training on how to edit to wikipedia articles, thereby gaining a new skill (Objective 2); Collaboration between the library and Cochrane Canada was smooth and the success of this year’s event can only be attributed to this valuable partnership (Objective 3).

Agenda

Wikipedia & Health 2019 : Engaging Our Communities		
History of Health & Medicine Room, Health Sciences Library		
March 7, 2019		
9:00-9:30	Registration & Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee Compliments: Cochrane Canada
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Denise Smith
9:40-10:20	Panel Discussion	Facilitator: Abeer Siddiqui
10:20-10:35	Q&A	Facilitator: Abeer Siddiqui
10:35-10:45	Break	Compliments: Cochrane Canada
10:45 - 12:00	Editing	Facilitator: Denise Smith / Jennifer Dawson

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