

Hosting Your First Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon: How-To and Lessons Learned

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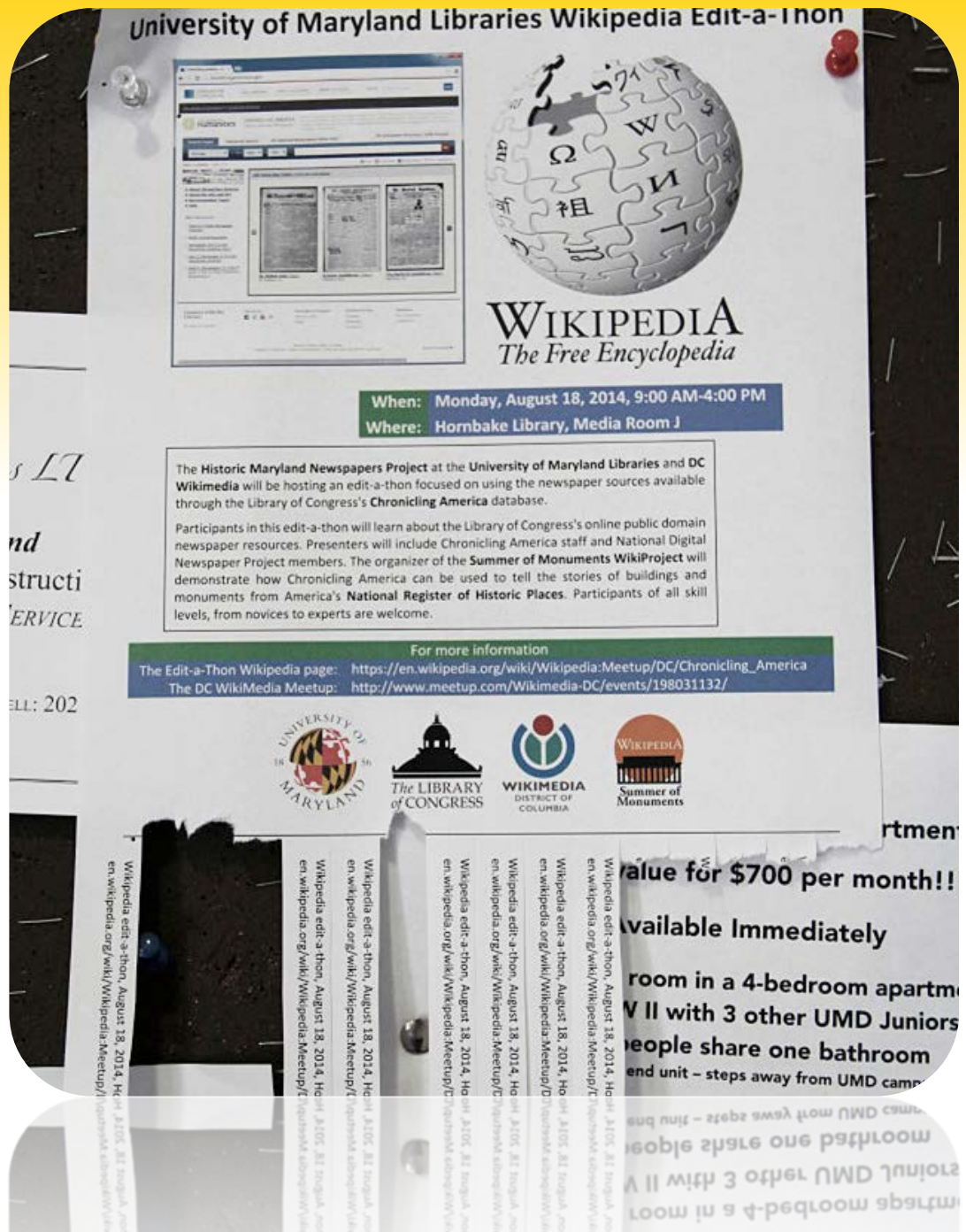
August 18, 2014

Goals:

- Introduce local Wikipedians to *Chronicling America*
- Introduce UMD Libraries staff to Wikipedia



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Planning an edit-a-thon

Location

- Plan for a group of about 20 people.
- Could take place entirely online.

Theme

- Themes can relate to a holiday or event, focus attention on a theme or organization, or revolve around a particular collection.

Publicize

- Create a page for your edit-a-thon.
- Get in touch with local Wikipedians.
- Invite people to the event on Meetup.com, Facebook, etc.



Creating an event page

- Having a page on the Wikipedia namespace serves as a resource for attendees and a record of what you accomplished
- Include:
 - Location and directions
 - RSVP
 - Agenda
 - Goals (specific articles to create and/or improve)

Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Chronicling America

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< [Wikipedia:Meetup](#) | [DC](#)

The [Historic Maryland Newspapers Project](#) at the [University of Maryland Libraries](#) and DC Wikimedia ([official page](#) | [Meetup group](#)) will be hosting an edit-a-thon on Monday, 18 August 2014 focused on using the newspaper sources available through the Library of Congress's *Chronicling America* ([official site](#) | [Wikipedia page](#)) database.

Participants in this edit-a-thon will learn about the Library of Congress's online public domain newspaper resources. Presenters will include *Chronicling America* staff and National Digital Newspaper Project members. The organizer of the [Summer of Monuments WikiProject](#) will demonstrate how *Chronicling America* can be used to tell the stories of America's [National Register Historic Places](#).

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For more examples:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup#Future_meetups



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Lessons learned

- Don't overload attendees with too many speakers or too many goals
- Timing
- Lots of electrical outlets, power strips, and extension cords!
- Participant survey



Resources

How to run an edit-a-thon

- <http://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/Edit-a-thon>
- http://outreach.wikimedia.org/wiki/GLAM/Model_projects/Edit-a-thon_How-To
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:How_to_run_an_edit-a-thon

