Class One: Wikipedia for Learning Places (70-90 minutes)

Foregrounding knowledge and topic development
Introduction to learning about/researching a neighborhood via Wikipedia, library encyclopedias, and other library sources. Wikipedia represents a familiar resource. This familiarity

Class 1: In the Wikipedia exercise, the students will be introduced to domain knowledge about the neighborhood. The structure of the article will help students begin to see how a topic is structured and give them a frame for future research. The exercise will also incorporate many facets of information literacy including documentation, attribution and bibliographic references to published/library resources. The session will shift over to an activity using a worksheet comparing the Wikipedia article to some library encyclopedias. If time permits, students will learn how to find books and other materials including newspaper articles. Homework will require students to find an article in a local newspaper or magazine related to Sunset Park and write a 75-word blog post on OpenLab summarizing the article. Every article must be unique.

Teaching outline

Explain to students: Why this workshop? Preparation for the field visit. Discuss why a little basic knowledge gained from background research can inform the first field trip. Research as iterative.

Ask the class these questions to generate discussion and warm up: (5-10 minutes)

1. 1-minute journal reflection: When and why do you read articles in Wikipedia?
2. 1-minute share out of reflection
3. Is every Wikipedia page good? Circle back to that later in the workshop
4. Why do you think Wikipedia is used so much?
   a. Open access
   b. Google search partnership boxes
   c. Rich media
5. Does anyone control Wikipedia?
   a. Discuss editors and the move towards quality control
   b. Edit-a-thons to fill in knowledge gaps
   c. Discuss article stubs and "citation needed pages"
6. Can anything have a Wikipedia article?
   a. Discuss why not
   b. What is a conflict of interest? Can City Tech edit the page on City Tech?
7. What about non-English readers?
   a. Demonstrate that Wikipedia lives in many languages
   b. What language is most dominant after English?
8. Why do you think some professors find Wikipedia to be bad for schoolwork and research?
   a. Not a stable resource
   b. Lack of traditional expertise and authority
   c. Vernacular knowledge
   d. Wide range of quality for articles

Analyzing and critiquing the Wikipedia article on Sunset Park: Authority and quality (10-15 minutes)

9. Wikipedia: Who wrote this article?
    a. Look at talk page
    b. Open up Wikipedia's rating for the article
        i. Show the quality scale rubrics for the article!
    c. Sometimes Wikipedia articles are developed as class assignments / this addresses the quality question to some extent
    d. Look at history page
10. Wikipedia for topic development
    a. *what kind of information is in the introductory paragraph? Is it up to date?*
    b. How is this article classified in Wikipedia?
    c. How is the article organized?
    d. Can the introductory paragraph and table of contents help generate keywords and help move towards concept mapping?
11. Wikipedia for attribution and citation
    a. What are the numbers in the article? Why are they there?
    b. What is attribution and citation? Explain in your own words why it is important
        i. Backup your assertions
        ii. Separate your thoughts from those of others
        iii. Helps your professor or your colleagues or your audience find the original source
        iv. Gives credit to the research or creator
    c. When you paraphrase something from a source, do you need to give attribution?
12. Wikipedia: *what types of sources are used in the references?*
    a. What is your impression of the sources? Do they seem high quality? Discuss
        i. Newspaper articles, chiefly NY Times
        ii. NYC data, other demographic data including Census
        iii. A few books
        iv. Critical encyclopedia articles including Encyclopedia of NYC (Jackson, ed.)
    b. How would you find these sources?
    c. Do the links work? What would you do if the links are broken?
    d. Remind students they would approach researching any NYC neighborhood using similar resources
13. Wikipedia has encyclopedia articles.
    a. When do you use an encyclopedia?
        i. How are encyclopedia articles different from newspaper articles and why? You may not be able to answer this question yet. Put question on whiteboard. Prompt to students: *Keep this in mind as well look at the external sources found in this Wikipedia article*.

Introducing using the library (10 minutes)

After the in-class analysis of the Wikipedia article on Sunset Park and a quick introduction to finding content in the library, the students will, on laptops and tablets, work in teams of 3-4 to answer the following questions using a worksheet. Each team gets a specific book to find.

14. Wikipedia to library, known-item searching. Show students ONESEARCH and how to use it to find a book and an article. *Students will use a worksheet (see below)*
    a. Locate the call number of the book cited in the bibliography in the City Tech library
        i. Review how to physically find the book
    b. Find a newspaper or magazine article cited in the Wikipedia entry
    c. Demonstrate how the Encyclopedia of NYC article **is not online.**
        i. Pass out hard copies of the article

Time to read (5 minutes)

15. Read for foundational knowledge, read for research
    a. Newspaper or magazine article cited in Wikipedia
    b. Encyclopedia of NYC article on Sunset Park (hard copy)
16. Discuss: *How are encyclopedia articles different from newspaper articles and why?*

Library keyword searching: Compare and contrast (20 minutes)

17. Keyword searching the library's ONESEARCH search engine
    a. Construct a basic keyword search to explore SUNSET PARK (or whatever neighborhood gets picked) in the library's holdings
    b. What happens when searching "sunset park": Do you get false hits? How would you make your search more specific? (hint: add the word "Brooklyn" to the search)
    c. What kinds of results do we find without filtering or limiting?
        i. How is this different from Wikipedia?
        ii. Idea of curation or selection versus random information
        iii. Google searching would be equally difficult to work with
    d. Repeat search with Brooklyn in it
18. Filtering in ONESEARCH: importance of limiting searches
    a. Teach how to use facets to control search by date, content type, subject, etc.
    b. Filter by REFERENCE facet to see if we can find other encyclopedia articles
    c. Why are most of the results from Wikipedia?
    d. Select non-Wikipedia article to demo and explain using licensed library content
19. GALE VIRTUAL REFERENCE
    a. Search Gale Virtual Reference directly
    b. Discuss what was found (no article just on Sunset Park but a quality article on Puerto Ricans)

     c.   Discuss: why do you think you didn't find a library encyclopedia article just on Sunset Park?

Debrief, synthesize (10 minutes)

20. Group reflection activity on Wikipedia versus library (I may add more specific prompts once I teach this depending on the quality of the reflections) as a think-pair-share for each table [SEE WORKSHEET BELOW]. Students will work in threes or fours. They will take 5 minutes for the activity.
    a.   Using a simple two column worksheet, group will share out their reflections on the differences between Wikipedia versus the library, how both have good points and bad points [one student will record responses on the worksheet, one student will report out for each group].
    b.   Share out key thoughts (5 minutes), 1 minute per table

Homework

Students to find an article in a local newspaper or magazine related to Sunset Park and write a 75-word blog post on OpenLab summarizing the article. Every article must be unique.

ACTIVITY WORKSHEETS BELOW

Finding books in Wikipedia article in library worksheet

Author	Title	Call number?	Physical location in library? e.g. Reference
Jackson, Kenneth T.	The Encyclopedia of New York City (2nd ed.) (2010)		
Jackson, Kenneth T.; Manbeck, John B.	The Neighborhoods of Brooklyn (2004)		
Federal Writers' Project	New York City Guide (1976) (City Tech ed. Is 1970)		
Winnick, L.	New People in Old Neighborhoods: The Role of Immigrants in Rejuvenating New York's Communities		*At other CUNY libraries*
Hum, Tarry.	Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park (2014)		*At LaGuardia CC*

Compare and contrast worksheet

1. Using a simple two column worksheet, group will share out their reflections on the differences between Wikipedia versus the library, how both have good points and bad points [one student will report out for each group].

Wikipedia	Library resources including Encyclopedia of NY article
Positives	Positives

Negatives	Negatives