

Grants report for December 2015 board meeting

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The below report reflects the state of projects grants as of 2nd December 2015. The Grants Committee has been transformed to constitute the Evaluation Panel, with a broader remit relating to assessing projects. The membership consists of Christopher Cooper, Josie Fraser (replacing Simon Knight as board liaison), Hera Hussain, Theresa Knott, and Raya Sharbain after active recruitment to grow the committee.

Background

The grants process has been showcased in the revived newsletter, with the intention of generating interest. Wikimedians in Residence are also being asked to suggest the grants system to volunteers who might be able to make use of Wikimedia UK's support.

A volunteer, Harry Burt, has created a new tool available for measuring impact of writing projects. It can be found here: <https://tools.wmflabs.org/bytesadded>. Previously it was done manually, usually taking a start point and an end point and taking one away from the other, effectively under-reporting as it does not take into account improvement which involve removing text. Where mentioned bytes added or taken away is given as an absolute figure, reflecting how global metrics are reported.

Overview of all applications

Grants pending approval

- Hampshire towns and cities (not yet on the wiki) - £20-£25 for buying source material to improve articles related to Hampshire.

Grants approved since the last report to the board (11th September 2015)

- [Golden Hollywood](#) - £156.52 for buying source material to improve articles on classic American cinema. Began as a project to improve Frank Sinatra's article in time for his 100th birthday and has grown in scope to include Maureen O'Hara and Cary Grant. Excellent progress has already been made with both the page on Sinatra (expanded from 7,614 words to 15,199) and Maureen O'Hara (1,901 words to 11,051) are now both recognised as Good Articles, putting them the top 0.6% of Wikipedia's best articles according to the quality scale.

Grants concluded since the last board meeting

- [Stub Contest](#) - £250 for prizes supporting a writing competition improving the English Wikipedia's shortest articles. The competition ran through August, with 36 people submitting and improving 2,936 articles with 8,440,292 bytes or deleted, making it one of the most successful projects we have supported.
 - For context, the new tool has made it easier to measure the impact on articles. With the 2014 competition it was only possible to broadly estimate how many bytes were added or taken away with a lower bound of 148,500 bytes.

Ongoing grants which have been previously approved

- [Take the Lead!](#) - £250 for prizes supporting a writing competition improving the lead (summary) section of articles on the English Wikipedia. It will take place throughout January 2016. The organiser also ran the recently concluded Stub Contest.
- [UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry](#) - £22 for the purchase of a book to improve Wikipedia's coverage of UFOs; work ongoing.
- [Railway architecture](#) - £48 for a book to improve articles related to the built heritage of Britain's rail infrastructure; work ongoing.
- [Elections in Europe](#) - £129.54 for a book to improve coverage on Europeans elections; work ongoing from 2011.
- [Wikimedia Commons advertisement business cards](#) - £97.90 for the production of cards to hand out to photographers to inform them about Wikimedia Commons.

Update on previous project

In the previous board report it was mentioned that the Hotels and Cinema project grant had resulted in the seven articles being improved with 240,000 bytes added or deleted since the start of this activity year. The new tool mentioned in the background section has allowed this to be re-assessed and the revised value is 430,000 bytes added or deleted to ten articles. The overall figure for the project is 866,794 bytes added or deleted to 24 articles

The committee members are thanked for their role in reviewing the grants, as are the grantees for their valuable work.