

CS 121

Sit with your Group Partner!

Our Digital World

May 3, 2011

Outline

- Questions on Project?
- Presentation Grading

Homework

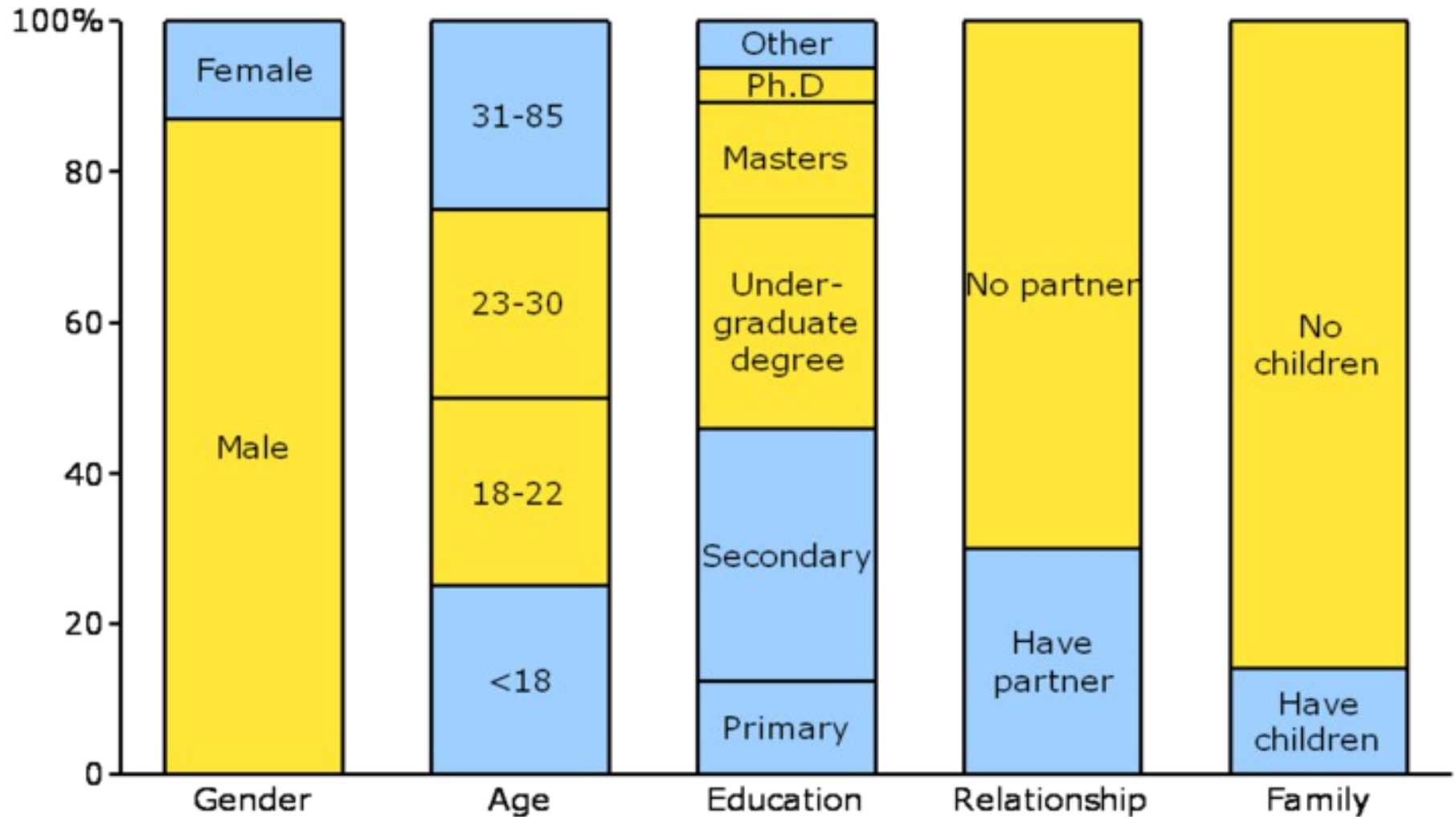
- Read by May 5
- Section 7.1 & 7.2
- Women & Wikipedia

Build a web page, etc.

Find one other source discussing female editors on Wikipedia to add to our discussion (provide a link).

- Based on the readings:
 - What reasons are given for having few female editors on Wikipedia?
 - Why is this lack of female editors a problem?
 - What are some proposed solutions?
- Do you agree or disagree with the above answers?
 - Why do you think there is a lack of female editors?
 - What solutions would you propose?
- Based on the Social Media Data, what websites have a big female user base?
 - Why? What problems might this cause?

Self-reported "occasional" or "regular" contributors to Wikipedia (n=43,793)



Note: Data for age category also includes respondents who were not contributors but who did read Wikipedia. Average age for contributors is 26.8 (vs. 25.3 for readers). "Regular" contributors include authors, editors, and administrators. "Occasional" contributors include readers who occasionally contribute as authors or editors.

Source: "Wikipedia Survey - First Results," UNU-MERIT, April 2009

Herring

- Linguistics mailing list
 - over 50% of PhDs earned are women
 - women made up close to 40% list
 - women contributed less than 15 % of content
- Why?
 - “intimidated by the tone of the discussions”
 - women said this more than men

Reagle

- “Surveys indicate females are only a fraction of Wikipedia contributors. Can one discern a similar skew in Wikipedia's encyclopedic content...?”
- “Wikipedia provides significantly better coverage and longer [biographies than online Encyclopaedia Britannica]”
 - “Wikipedia articles on females are more likely to be missing than articles on males, relative to Britannica”
- Are these statements at all related?

Cassell

- Relative length and number of articles that concern women
 - is (“friendship bracelets” and “Sex and the City”) vs. (“The Simpsons” and “Grand Theft Auto”) a good comparison?

It’s worrisome because Wikipedia is ever more powerful as the canon, the go-to source of “knowledge.” And if women aren’t contributing, then that putatively exhaustive body of knowledge is only reflecting the knowledge of some of our citizens (and I’m guessing that gender is not the only demographic that is imbalanced in Wikipedia).

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/02/02/where-are-the-women-in-wikipedia/a-culture-of-editing-wars>

Cassell (cont)

To have one's words listened to on Wikipedia, often one must have to debate, defend, and insist that one's point of view is the only valid one.

... it is still the case in American society that debate, contention, and vigorous defense of one's position is often still seen as a male stance, and women's use of these speech styles can call forth negative evaluations. Women may be negatively judged for speaking their mind in clear ways and defending their position.

Oda

Many said that they were Wikipedia contributors but they were not asked their gender or that their gender was “unassigned” on the site, which makes me wonder about the accuracy of the survey data.

... women have many strong reasons not to admit to being female if they want their contributions to be taken seriously and want to avoid harassment. Harassment or trolling is a serious problem, one that often drives women away from higher profile contributions.

North

[W]hen a site like Wikipedia, which is nominally a repository of all human knowledge, is revealed to be male-dominated, it makes sense to ask why.

According to Wikipedia itself, only a small percentage of users actually contribute or edit articles with any regularity. And according to Quantcast, the gender breakdown of Wikipedia's visitors (at least at its English-language site) is close to equal – 52 percent men, 48 percent women. So women are reading Wikipedia. They just aren't contributing to it.

...

one factor may be that solitarily editing an article on an online encyclopedia may be seen as antisocial.

Responses

Byline Survey: Aggregated Numbers October- December, 2010

	New York Times	Washington Post	Wall Street Journal	Salon	Huffington Post	Daily Beast
Percent by Women	20	19	18	25	24	31
Percent by Men	80	81	82	75	76	69

- theopedproject.org
 - why might these media outlets have higher rates of women participating?
- LibraryJournal.com
 - “I can’t say I quite understand what the problem is here. Is there anything not being represented in Wikipedia that the users of Wikipedia really want to see? If not, they can contribute it.”

Science Hall of Fame

Men

Rank	Name	Fame	Ranking	Main fields
1	John Dewey	1752.7	B	Philosophy, psychology
2	Bertrand Russell	1500.1	B	Philosophy, mathematics
3	Sigmund Freud	1292.9	B	Psychology
4	Charles Darwin	1000.0	★ FA	Biology
5	Albert Einstein	878.2	⊕ GA	Physics
6	Havelock Ellis	672.4	Start	Psychology
7	Noam Chomsky	506.6	B	Philosophy
8	G. Stanley Hall	480.5	Start	Psychology
9	Lewis Carroll	479.3	C	Literature, religion
10	Erich Fromm	466.0	B	Psychology, philosophy

Women




Rank	Name	Fame	Ranking	Main fields
1	Anna Freud	537.1	Start	Psychology
2	Julia Kristeva	444.0	Start	Philosophy, feminism
3	Ruth Benedict	314.7	Start	Anthropology
4	Melanie Klein	285.1	Start	Psychology
5	Luce Irigaray	242.9	Stub	Sociology, feminism
6	Carol Gilligan	235.3	Start	Psychology, feminism
7	Juliet Mitchell	210.2	Stub	Psychology, feminism
8	Nancy Chodorow	209.0	Stub	Sociology, feminism
9	Marie Curie	188.6	B	Physics
10	Karen Horney	158.7	Start	Psychiatry

Other possibilities than gender differences?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Signpost/2011-01-31/The_Science_Hall_of_Fame



Article Quality

Class	Criteria
 FA	The article has attained featured article status. More detailed criteria [show]
 A	The article is well-organized and essentially complete, having been reviewed by impartial reviewers from a WikiProject, like military history , or elsewhere. Good article status is not a requirement for A-Class. More detailed criteria [show]
 GA	The article has attained good article status. More detailed criteria [show]
B	The article is mostly complete and without major issues, but requires some further work to reach good article standards . More detailed criteria [show]
C	The article is substantial, but is still missing important content or contains a lot of irrelevant material. The article should have references to reliable sources, but may still have significant issues or require substantial cleanup . More detailed criteria [show]
Start	An article that is developing, but which is quite incomplete and may require further reliable sources. More detailed criteria [show]
Stub	A very basic description of the topic. More detailed criteria [show]

Your Responses

- Presentation of data
 - Facts vs Opinion
- Inertia:
 - male-centered culture on the Internet
- Most websites listed that have many women are primarily social web sites.
- “men and women will simply often pursue different interests”

Homework

- By May 8
- Post on your website one topic you would like to discuss on Tuesday
 - any topic relevant to the course
 - at least one link and a short summary