

OPEN FOUNDATION WEST AFRICA

This press kit is designed for OFWA to help in communicating and will also serve as a press document for all OFWA media appearances.

Mission: Creating the awareness of all the available open resources, encouraging their use by many and sharing the benefits of contributing towards the future of education and open learning.

Vision: Getting more people to understand and use open resources as a basis for improving the quality and accessibility of educational resources.

OFWA is able to achieve its goals through advocacy campaign using the following themes:

- **GLAM (GALLERIES, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS) :** To ensure that we protect our heritage by digitalising these in order to preserve our culture
- **OPEN EDUCATION:** to ensure that open resources are made available to everyone in order to enhance the quality of education.
- **COPYRIGHT & ALTERNATIVE LICENSING (COPYLEFT):** To ensure the use of alternative licensing by fighting for freedom of panorama. Also to create awareness on the hindrance that come with copyright.
- **INTERNET AFFORDABILITY:** To ensure that the internet which is an enabler is made accessible and most importantly affordable in order to enhance sharing of open knowledge.
- **JUSTICE:** To ensure that everyone is treated fairly with it comes to access to open knowledge, by eliminating all forms of bias be it race, colour, sex etc
- **SECURITY:** To ensure that knowledge is protected and its credibility vouched for.



Open Foundation™
West Africa

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The goal is to spread the vision of OFWA through Ghana and the West Africa sub-region. Over the years we have established wiki hubs to help in advancing the open movement and most importantly to have people in these areas write about their people and culture. Also to encourage the translation of Wikipedia in local languages. This has birthed the following hubs:

HUBS:

- **KUMASI WIKI HUB**
- **TAMALE WIKI HUB**
- **HO WIKI HUB**

CLUBS:

Ashesi Wiki club is our first campus-based wiki club which has seen tremendous growth over the period. The club has its own executive and organizes regular meetups and edit-a-thon. Due to the international nature of the university, the members of the wiki club do not only edit and create an article about Ghana but other African countries.

Lancaster Wiki Club: This is another club which has been established, it will be functional in the coming year.

WHO WE WORK WITH:

Goethe Institut: The Goethe Institut is one of our partners, over the period the institut has provided its premises(library) as a venue for our training programs, edit-a-thon, meetings etc. Also, OFWA has collaborated with the institut to organise programs which is to advance the open movement.



Open Foundation™
West Africa

Ministry of Information: Recently, OFWA collaborated with the ministry in order to project Ghana to the world by providing credible information about the country and its people. This is to attract investors as well as tourists to the country.

OUR PROJECTS:

Summer Open School: This is the flagship programme of OFWA which is held annually to train young people especially tertiary students in digital skills. During this 2-day event, young people are given hands-on training in skills that are necessary for the 21st century. These skills include; editing and creating articles on Wikipedia, open street mapping, CV writing, graphic designing amongst others. We are in a digital age as such OFWA believes that the youth of Ghana and beyond should be given the right skills in order for them to excel in this age.

Monthly Edit-A-Thon: Our monthly edit-a-thons are organized once in a month. This brings together both new and old editors. New editors are welcomed and trained in open resources and old editors are required and encouraged to do more editing and creation of new articles. This programme also allows networking amongst community members and sharing of ideas on how to advance the open movement.

Africa Wikimedia Developers Program: In our bid to decolonize the internet in terms of content and human resource, we believe there is a need to train more developers from the African continent to help with the backend of Wikipedia. The targeted group for this program is computer science students in tertiary institutions and developers in general. This also exposes these young people to how the open movement thrives.

Digital Literacy Skills: This project was started recently in partnership with the US Embassy to train tertiary students in digital literacy. This training is to help students improve upon their research skills and ultimately contribute to Wikipedia by creating new articles and editing existing ones.

Women of the Wiki: This is an initiative to encourage more women to contribute to Wikipedia and ensure that more women are well represented on Wikipedia. It is



Open Foundation™
West Africa

held annually in partnership with Soronko Academy and Africa Women's Development Fund. Also it serves as an avenue to discuss and find solutions to gender-related issues.

Africa Wiki Challenge: A campaign that seeks to engage volunteers or contributors both in Africa and the diaspora to about topics relating to Africa on Wikipedia with the aim to bridge the current information gap (history, culture, personalities, etc). This campaign will happen within a period of 3 months and shared extensively to ensure massive participation from all in the continent. Participants who top the challenge will be awarded prizes

Wiki Loves Festival: This is a campaign organised to celebrate and document all festivals across the world with emphasis on Ghana and African festivals. This campaign curates or collates such information on the world's largest encyclopedia to bridge the content gaps among many other gaps that currently exist. This is achieved through photowalks, photo expeditions, edit-a-thon, etc. The goal is to project our culture and at large Africa to the world.

Ghana Educators Forum: This is a novelty project for teachers and educators to discuss the current information and representation gaps on the internet and how Ghana can take advantage of education to correct that. This is to tackle the phenom that has passed on from generation of teachers without any proper justification, “do not use Wikipedia”. The forum also seeks to educate all educators to change their misconceptions about Wikipedia and ensure that these conversations don't only end up in the classrooms of the teachers that attend the event but build momentum for a policy change around the use of platforms such as Wikipedia and general licenses around education texts. We believe this will indirectly create ambassadors for Wikimedia.

Wikimedia Educations Program (Ashesi University): The Ashesi Wikipedia Education Program is the first of its kind to be started in the West African subregion. The purpose of the program is to urge students to publish their course-



Open Foundation™
West Africa

related assignments that are encyclopedic worthy on Wikipedia. The objective is to promote the use and contribution of classroom information from students to Wikipedia. Get in touch with us if you can get us started with your university or tertiary institution.

GLAM Ghana

Ghana Media Forum:

FACTS CORNER

- **OFWA** is an NGO and non-profit organisation
- **OFWA** is an affiliate of the [Wikimedia Foundation](#)
- **OFWA** is an affiliate of [Creative Commons](#)
- **OFWA** is a community of volunteers
- **OFWA** believes in contributing to the sum of all human knowledge

CONTACT INFO:

Website: ofwafrika.org

Telephone: 0242844987/0273045042

Email: info@openfoundationwestafrica.org

Social media handles:

- Facebook: Open Foundation West Africa
- Twitter: @OFWAFRICA
- Instagram: @ofwafrika
- LinkedIn: Open Foundation West Africa
- Youtube: Open Foundation West Africa

APPENDIX

- **Creative Commons (CC)** is an American non-profit organisation devoted to expanding the range of **creative** works available for others to build upon legally and to share.



Open Foundation™
West Africa

- **Edit-a-thon-An edit-**This is an event in which people work together in person to build content on a wikipedia.
- **GLAM** in the Open source parlance is an acronym that stands for Galleriebraries, Archives and Museums. Its focus is to digitize the holdings of the Public Records and Archives Administration Department (PRAAD) and to release these contents with open licenses to allow use on Wikipedia and other sister projects.