

Report to the APA
For Small Grant Funding
The UPDirectory Project
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Throughout the past year, I have spent time on three tasks to maintain and improve The UPDirectory: 1) weekly updates of new entries and edits, 2) implementation of the Highlighted Philosopher of the Month blog series, and 3) moving forward with automatization of adding new entries and editing current ones. I will discuss each of these tasks in turn:

First, every Monday I go through all new entries or requests to edit current entries that have been submitted through the website. I take this new information and reformat it in Microsoft Excel so that it will work with the current database plugin. I then add each new entry or edited entry to each individual Area of Specialization and Self Identification pages in Microsoft Excel. After these additions and changes have been made, I upload each of the edited Excel documents into the database plugin on the website. This way, each new entry and request to edit is taken care of each week.

Second, I have been implementing the blog series that I started last year, The UPDirectory Philosopher of the Month. This series showcases the work and personality of a different philosopher of an underrepresented group in philosophy. Every month a new profile is posted up on the blog and I contact the philosopher to see if there are any changes to be made. If there are changes, I implement them. I am also putting together new posts to go up on the blog in future months.

Finally, I have been working on automatizing the first task described above, adding new entries and editing current ones. After spending a lot of time doing research and self-teaching, I began to build the back-end automatization. This is a long-term task as it involves completely revamping the website and building a new back-end from scratch. I was making quite a bit of progress but then ran into a problem which requires that I back pedal quite a bit. However, I am moving forward and am confident that the automation will be in place within the next year or so. Right now we are using a Wordpress Plugin that does all of the back-end work for us, but that also means that all of that work in Excel has to occur. I am currently researching Wordpress back end design and starting to piece together the new site on a dummy-site. I will continue to manually update the website until the automatization is complete.