August 2017 Update

News from the Operations Committee

Update on Grant Proposal

The proposal "Social Networks and Archival Context Cooperative: Pilot Phase II" was formally submitted on July 7. The Mellon Foundation Board will meet on September 11, and their decision will be made by the end of the day.

The following is a link to the final proposal, mildly redacted.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/fo4uzsai90su478/SNAC-C_Pilot_II_proposal_redacted.pdf?dl=0

Given the proposal is pending approval, Daniel Pitti respectfully asks that you not share it (see Daniel's July 12 email to snac-coopmembers-bounces@lists.village.Virginia.EDU).

Current SNAC Cooperative members are encouraged to read it, paying special attention to the overall objectives and rationale, description of the working groups, and description of the working groups' future activities.

Please contact Daniel (dpitti@virginia.edu) with any questions or concerns regarding the vision of SNAC-C for the two years following November 1, 2017.

Cooperative Members Web Portal

The communications group conducted an in-depth evaluation of the Cooperative Members Portal (website) and submitted feedback on July 15. Laura Campbell and Shayne Brandon are currently reviewing the comments and will use the information to further develop the Portal. The next step will be to invite the other Chairs of the Working Groups to evaluate and comment on the Portal. An ideal timeline is to have the Portal ready in time for the September in person meeting in Washington, DC.

General Updates from Interest Groups

Communications

The Communications Working Group submitted all feedback regarding the to Cooperative Members Portal to Laura Campbell and Shayne Brandon on July 15.

The main concerns identified were

- To define the purpose of the Portal (vs. Google Docs) in order to clarify what is needed.

- Administration of the portal.

- Its scope (in terms of what documentation/content should be included).

- And functionality for documentation/content that is included (particularly in terms of dynamism and file types).

The full report is available at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JsIfDx5P3J-zvL49GFZj-BRvxwUJood5GmDMPdxAJck/edit#

SNAC School

Reporting from the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Portland, Oregon

The SNACSchool Working Group is excited to report that the first official SNACSchool event was a complete success. Thanks are due to so many for helping SNACSchool happen in Portland during the Society of American Archivists week. The Working Group would like to thank our kind host, Cristing Pachild, who helped us secure a classroom in the Millar Library on the beautiful campus of Portland State University for the day-long event. Thanks are also due to our "friend in Portland" Terry Baxter, archivist at the Multnomah County Archives, for his assistance in connecting us with Cris and PSU.

SNACSchool was realized both as an in-person experience, and as a remote experience for twenty students. The class was made up of current SNAC members and several soon-to-be members, including representatives of the Walt Whitman Archives, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the Mojave Desert Archives, Utah State Archives and Records Service, Portland State University Library and the Oregon Historical Society. Without a hitch, SNACSchool instructors moved through the five training modules … SNAC101, Introduction to Archival Authority Control, User Accounts and Profiles, Searching in SNAC, and Creating/Editing SNAC records. Instruction involved lecture presentations as well as live demonstrations in SNAC-dev. By the end of the day, all students had an opportunity to create and edit their own SNAC records, then send the new identity constellations through the review process.

Finally, special thanks to members of the SNACSchool Working Group: Glen Wiley, Dina Herbert, Barbara Aikens, Melanie Yolles and Alan Mark, for their collaboration in development of the SNACSchool curriculum. And finally, very special thanks to Dina and Glen for their work as instructors in the SNACSchool classroom. Their support is invaluable!

In addition to SNACSchool, NARA's SNAC Liaisons hosted a SNAC information table in the SAA registration hall. We welcomed many interested folks for information sharing and SNAC demonstrations. A special thanks to SNAC partner Michael Rush (Yale) for joining us at the table to help with SNAC demonstrations.

We look forward to hosting many more of our SNAC partners in our next SNACSchool event during the upcoming SNAC Partners' meeting at the National Archives Innovation Hub on September 27 and 28. SNACSchool will take place in the Hub and remotely on September 28th. Please make sure to contact Dina Herbert to register for the class!

-Jerry Simmons

SNACSchool Working Group Chair

Standards and Editorial Policy

The Standards and Editorial Policy Working Group is continuing to work on editorial policies, including discussions about workflow issues. Maureen Callahan and Alexis Antracoli are working on a draft for the Demographics policy.

SNAC Social Media

Please continue to follow SNAC on twitter at @snaccooperative. This summer the feed will focus on connections with polar explorers. Check it out! If you have any comments or suggestions please contact Dina Herbert (dina.herbert@nara.gov)

The National Archives Catalog Newsletter, July issue, contains small feature about SNAC.

http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=bfeaf03e7b0b1636c0b375892&id=517e6c7552

The National Archives AOTUS Blog post of July 21 discusses NARA's official involvement in SNAC.

https://aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2017/07/21/nara-serves-as-the-lead-federal-agency-for-snac-social-networks-and-archival-context/

(there's also an article in the Federalist newsletter from Dept. of State. Jerry Simmons has a PDF of it that I'm (Kelly again) hoping to include in the August email.)