November 2017 Update

News from the Operations Committee

Update on Grant Proposal

The University of Virginia Library is pleased to announce that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the University of Virginia $750,000 to complete the work of establishing the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Cooperative. For this final phase of establishing the Cooperative, the University of Virginia Library is collaborating with the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and 27 other Cooperative members.

The second and final phase of establishing the Cooperative has both social and technological objectives. The social objectives include developing a business model that will ensure long term sustainability, further developing editorial policies and standards, and being able to offer three forms of training for editors: on-site and remote as well as online self-guided. There will be many technological objectives, but chief among them will be the following: developing "cooperative ingest tools" that will enable data-contributing institutions to collaborate in refining and ingesting data into SNAC, and in return to receive persistent identifiers to enhance their descriptive data; refining and enhancing the History Research Tool for researchers; completing development of the key components of the technical infrastructure; and performing computational refinement and enrichment of existing SNAC data.

A major focus will be expanding capacity in training editors and ingesting new batches of data. Progress in these two areas will enable the Cooperative to vastly expand membership and the global social-document network represented in SNAC.

For additional information, please contact Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu) or Ivey Glendon (img7u@virginia.edu).

Press Releases for SNAC Phase 2

If you would like to distribute a full or shortened version of the above announcement to a professional or local listerv to which you belong, please feel free to do so and add your submission to the following spreadsheet https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SuFR3v4oSuIdGqQtEl8xI8Ua8LCvQLXG-DoRV5Z5feg/edit?usp=drive_web.

Each member institution is encouraged to distribute a tailored announcement within their respective communication channels. These announcements may be modified in the heading and first sentence to read something like:

"University of California, Irvine, to participate in Social Networks and Archival Context

Cooperative Program Phase II."

"UCI is excited to join the University of Virginia, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and 26 other Cooperative members on Phase II of the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Cooperative program. This second and final phase of establishing the Cooperative (2017-2019) is generously funded by a $750 thousand grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the University of Virginia…."

Please feel free to contact Ivey Glendon (img7u@virginia.edu) or Kelly Spring (kspring@uci.edu) with any questions or for further assistance.

September Meeting

The final meeting of the SNAC Cooperative Phase 1 took place from September 27-28 at NARA in Washington DC.

Meeting notes from the Operations Committee and the Technology and Communications Groups can be found here:

Notes from the September SNAC meeting in Washington, DC have been added to the Cooperative Members Web Portal. http://portal.snaccooperative.org/user

The Technology Working Group added notes to the portal at http://portal.snaccooperative.org/node/301

(Portal pathway: Working Groups/Data Refinement and Technology/Working Documents)

The Communications Working Group added notes to the portal at

http://portal.snaccooperative.org/node/306

(Portal pathway: Library of Documents/Meeting Notes and Minutes/Pilot Phase 1 Meetings)

Cooperative Members Web Portal

The Communications Group is working with the Operations Committee to provide feedback and draft guidelines for portal content.

For now, though, all files should follow the format

[Shortened version of working group name]_[document-title]_[YYYY-MM-DD]

(See the Technology Working Group example above "TIWG_MeetingNotes_2017-09-28")

Web Portal Demo

Shayne Brandon will demonstrate how to use and navigate the SNAC portal through GoToMeeting on Thursday, November 16 from 1pm to 2pm EST. Please sign up to attend the demonstration; we aim to have a minimum of 10 participants and a maximum of 20 participants.

Ivey Glendon will send the GoToMeeting details to participants in advance of the meeting on the 16th.

At least one demo will be offered in early 2018 if you are unable to join the early November session. Please contact Ivey with any questions at img7u@virginia.edu.

General Updates from Interest Groups

Communications

- As a reminder to cooperative members, the following are instructions for how to login and search the archives of the SNAC email listservs.

    - Go to the list login screen. http://lists.village.virginia.edu/mailman/options/snac-coopmembers

    - Enter your user name (email) and password).

    - Scroll to the bottom of the next screen. Click on the name of the list (first entry).

    - Click on SNAC (list name) Archives.

    - From here you can search the list archives.

- For screenshots of the process see https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GogEdvZ6rfRF7IFYc9jST9SNzPXQaLdR696GNZs_OpI/edit#heading=h.omjg5lr6usbq

Standards and Editorial Policy

The Standards and Editorial Policy Group held a review session during the SNAC meeting held in Washington, DC. Since there has been turnover in the group since the last meeting, the following policies were reviewed and re-assigned as needed.

- Workflow, participation policy and governance for creating and editing SNAC records.

- Leveraging existing records and standards to provide guidance for SNAC editors and contributors.

- SNAC metadata (SCM) policy and guidelines (Review policy in Google Doc) https://docs.google.com/a/princeton.edu/document/d/165AfkxWKFIPH2U0hxsWObjGuap01boACNQ6oQQj49Is/edit?usp=sharing

- Create data dictionary (related to SCM policy)

- Define demographic elements

- Minimum element set for a SNAC record

In addition, the following new policies and guidelines assignments were created.

- Best practices for editing and normalizing preferred heading

- Best practices for editing and merging Bioghist

- Establish relationship vocabulary using existing EAC-CPF relationships and allowing for a sub-class of relationships as needed

The Group also met with both the SNACSchool group as well as the Technology Group to discuss overlapping issues.

A new Standards and Editorial Policy virtual meeting has been established and will commence November 14, 2017.

SNAC School

During the September 27 and 28 SNAC partners' meeting, members of the SNACSchool Working Group conducted an abbreviated SNACSchool event. Member reps from nearly all partner institutions attended the class. In the same class we also had a few new SNAC partners join in. We also marked this event as another success for an "in-class and remote" experience. In addition to the students in the classroom, we also welcomed folks via GoToMeeting. The next SNACSchool event will be held on November 15th!

On October 12, SNACSchool Working Group Chair Jerry Simmons co-presented on a session at the annual meeting of ATALM (Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums) in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, near Albuquerque. Jerry's co-presenters were Jennifer O'Neal, Historian and Archivist at University of Oregon, and Michael Pahn, Archivist, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The presentation was targeted to the gathering of archivists, librarians, curators, and exhibition professionals at the meeting, by providing examples of Native American person and corporate body entities currently found in SNAC.

Requests for Feedback

Standards and Editorial Policy

In an early UI review, the Standards and Editorial Policy Group recognized that the SNAC metadata feature (SCM) was not fully specified and could be improved with a more intuitive label and prominent placement. The following draft policy was created. Please review and apply comments as needed.

- SNAC metadata (SCM) policy and guidelines (Review policy in Google Doc) https://docs.google.com/a/princeton.edu/document/d/165AfkxWKFIPH2U0hxsWObjGuap01boACNQ6oQQj49Is/edit?usp=sharing

Technical Development

We have moved the development and issue tracking into GitHub (https://github.com/snac-cooperative/snac) and request community engagement there. Please comment on bugs or feature requests currently listed there, create your own, and help test new features (see those needing feedback at https://github.com/snac-cooperative/snac/projects/1).

Other Announcements

SNAC Outreach/Presentations

October

- Project update for the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums. Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. October 12. Presenter: Jerry Simmons.

November

- "Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Cooperative: Representing the Global Social-document Network." International Council on Archives Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. November 27-29. Presenters: Daniel Pitti, Kelly Spring, Jimmy Zavala (UCI).