

SNAC June 2019 Newsletter

News from the Operations Committee

General Updates

Directors:

Joseph Glass and Daniel Pitti met in Madrid, Spain in early May with the technology lead (Kerstin Arnold), lead developer, and two members of the board of Archives Portal Europe (APE) to discuss potential collaboration with SNAC. Though APE aspires to begin aggregating CPF descriptions, it currently has only a small number. But it does have over 5,000 descriptions of archival repositories in Europe linked to over 275 million descriptions of “archival units.” (“Archival units” are the “leaf nodes” in EAD encoded finding aids). As a pilot project, we will explore ingesting descriptions of repositories and related descriptions of archival resources.

Following the meeting in Madrid, Daniel visited Luxembourg to meet with archivists, librarians, and museum curators. Led by the Archives nationales de Luxembourg and the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (BnL), the cultural heritage community is contemplating a cooperative similar to SNAC. They are interested in both the SNAC technology platform as well as the community building. Down the road, there is the prospect of developing a data exchange partnership with Luxembourg.

Sue Perdue met with Lisa Gee and Georgina Doji at the Fitzwilliam Museum during a family visit to Cambridge in the UK earlier this month. Lisa completed her doctorate last year on the writings of William Hayley (<https://snaccooperative.org/view/36431199>) She sang the praises of SNAC for her work--a wonderful testimony to the usefulness of SNAC for archival discovery by scholars. The Fitzwilliam is very interested in joining SNAC as a part of a larger effort to share its data institution-wide and eliminate silos. They are part of the much larger ecosystem that is Cambridge University and not surprisingly there are political hurdles. Along with their colleague Daniel Pett, who wasn't able to join us, they seem very keen on membership.

Communications:

A new section on the [public website](#) titled “Editorial Policy” was created for the Standards and Editorial Policy working group to add finalized documentation.

Review of the public website resulted in the inclusion of additional information such as a list of member institutions and forthcoming membership information.

The Communications working group is also considering the SNAC website audience. Through the comment feature, an average of 24 messages per month are received and reflect a wide range of users. Comments vary from factual observations to complex observations, and, at times, are simply a lost web traveler.

As the Operations Committee brainstorms SNAC promotional material, the copy for brochures is under review. The Communications working group is assisting and aims to make the brochures generic enough to fit all potentially interested parties.

Developer’s Update (Joseph and Jason):

The draft Concept Vocabulary system is being tested on SNAC-dev. While still in development, if you’d like to check out the interface or give feedback, go to https://snac-dev.iath.virginia.edu/vocab_administrator/concepts and explore the vocabulary terms added so far.

SNACSchool and NARA Liaisons Team:

The SNACSchool team reports a successful SNACSchool event on May 14th. This was an ad hoc event (abbreviated and accelerated) to accommodate new SNAC editing partners who have plans for SNAC implementation in upcoming summer projects. This event included two new SNAC editor-partners at the University of California, Irvine, and three new SNAC editor-partners with MITRE Corporation.

The SNACSchool Team has its next gathering on June 10, when we will give our new Train-the-Trainer program a test run. This program, as the name suggests, is designed to prepare new instructors for planning and executing training events without the immediate involvement of lead instructors (Jerry Simmons and Dina Herbert). Our goal is to have all members of the SNACSchool team trained for full leadership duties by the end of the calendar year. Our new instructors are Kit Messick (Getty), Melanie Yolles (NYPL), Jodi Berkowitz (UNC-Chapel Hill), Alan Mark (GWU) and Glen Wiley (Univ. Miami).

See the **Other Announcements** section below for details on upcoming SNACSchool events.

Standards and Editorial Policy:

Technology Infrastructure:

Other Announcements

Partners Meeting

Please save the date for the September Partners Meeting at the National Archives in Washington, DC on **Sept. 19-20**. SNACSchool is scheduled for September 18 in D.C. See announcement below.

Upcoming SNACSchool events:

Upcoming training opportunities include ...

Friday, August 2, 2019, Austin, Texas, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., during the Society of American Archivists annual conference in Austin, Texas.

September 18, 2019, Washington, D.C., Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Please note this is the day before the SNAC all-partners meeting at the National Archives Innovation Hub on September 19 and 20.

If you wish to attend, please contact [Jerry Simmons](#) for registration and other details.

Congratulations!

To Dina Herbert, Ben Cooper and big sister, Gila, on the arrival of our newest SNAC partner, Shai Michael Cooper, born May 2, 2019!