SNAC October 2019 Newsletter

Washington, DC, Members Meeting Recap

Directors

Please see email of September 24, sent to the snac-ccopmembers list for a PDF file with the member meeting agenda and presentations.

Communications Working Group

Link to full CWG meeting notes

Scope and capacity

Because much of the work is prioritized by Operations and SNACschool, the group will work less on creating content and direct focus towards reviewing, promoting, and publishing content.

Audience and communication tools

The group will revisit internal and external communication channels and identify future potential audiences. The group will also conduct another assessment of current SNAC cooperative communications methods and include links to all of these channels at the bottom of every newsletter.

Terms of service

The Communications Working Group has an opening for Chair. If interested, please contact outgoing Chair, Kelly Spring, for information regarding responsibilities and time commitment. In light of this leadership change, the CWG will work with the Operations Committee on a terms of service proposal.

Goals

- Possible project to identify who SNAC wishes to reach out to, how, and by whom.
- Support SNAC Membership Group development.
- Explore the need for an editor's group or opt-in editor's contact list.
- Work with the developer to run a report on most recent edits based on theme. For example, literary, scientific, military.
- Support data analysis on SNAC use and a SNACSchool training module for the History Research Tool for reference use.

Closing thoughts

Seeing as the Cooperative has been growing closer and more "cooperatively" over the years, is it time to harness the power of the group for project management functions? Can the group better evaluate the overall project direction / roadmap and help identify strategic direction as well as prevent scope bloat?

Editorial and Standards Working Group

Link to full EPSWG meeting notes

Status/ownership of previously proposed policies

Ownership: We reviewed this policy and agreed it was still relevant, and it is now posted publicly on the SNAC portal.

Editorial Practice: We reviewed this policy and agreed that it was not so much a policy but a recommendation of how to do our work. Two areas unaddressed in the document are establishing an Editorial Review group to handle requests for privacy concerns (personal information, entire record removal), and the ability for non-editors to feed information to SNAC via a web form.

Related Resources: The recommendations in this policy have been mostly been implemented or handled in other ways.

Repeatable Assertions: A review of the recommendations showed that all have been addressed in various ways.

Draft Gender proposal: The policy is the direction that SNAC should go in, particularly in light of privacy concerns. We discussed where the Gender element should appear in the SNAC front-end, and if so where. There was agreement that it should not be placed prominently in the record. Because the policy requires software changes to implement, Susan will bring the policy to both the SNAC Operations Committee and the TIWG.

Data dictionary: SNACSchool joined us for this part of the discussion. We agreed that the data dictionary had a lot of value, particularly for SNACSchool and editors. We agreed the final goal is to have the fields in a SNAC record online and with guidance much like the EAD Tag Library.

Goals for the coming year

- Finish recommendation for Demographic Elements.
- Provide feedback and recommendations for Controlled Vocabulary Management development.
- Data dictionary review and development.
- Create an Editorial Review team and develop a formal process.

SNACSchool

2018-2019 Highlights

From October 1, 2018, to September 18, 2019, the SNACSchool team facilitated 27 training events (includes the Fall 2018 Micro Modules series for Sources/Cite, Resource Management, Merge) and a full-day workshop at the Society of American Archivists annual in Austin, Texas, on August 2nd.

Melanie Yolles (NYPL) has stepped away from the SNACSchool Working Group/Team, and we thank her for her years of support and contribution. Please contact Jerry Simmons or Dina Herbert if you are interested in serving with the SNACSchool Team and becoming an instructor.

A special thanks to Kit Messick for her stellar leadership during the September 18th SNACSchool. And a special nod to Smithsonian partner Lesley Parilla for her role as host at the Smithsonian Library center at the National Museum of Natural History.

Planning for the next phase goals / January 2020: SNACSchool 3.0!

The SNACSchool Team evaluated the past two years of trainee evaluations and as a result, will introduce a new and curriculum moving forward into 2020. The Team will use time in Fall 2019 to revamp and rearrange training materials, then roll out a new training event in early 2020. Here's the proposed new order of training modules for a full-day SNACSchool event:

Module 1   Introduction to Archival Authority Control

Module 2   Search

Module 3   Create and Edit

Module 4   Source and Cite

Module 5   Resource Management and Resource Merge

Module 6   Entities Merge

These new modules will take a "start-to-finish" hands-on approach to training where trainees will apply all training steps using an entity example of their choosing, starting with basic archival authority control through steps to merge entities if necessary.

NARA Liaisons Team

Outreach events completed in the year include a SNAC demonstration for Presidential Libraries staff (Truman, Johnson, Kennedy), hosting a SNAC information table at SAA, and providing one-on-one support to NARA SNAC editors as requested. The Team continues to participate in

NARA's Twitter program, as well as represent during special social media events like hashtag parties.

Technology Infrastructure Working Group

[Link to full TIWG meeting notes](#)

OpenRefine plugin support

For the majority of the year, the tech working group will be providing support for the group of UVA students developing the SNAC OpenRefine plugin.

- Share various use cases for batch data clean up and ingest
- Invite students to monthly calls when needed for questions, comments and updates
- Test and offer feedback
- Slack channel: [Slack Invite Link](#), channel url: https://snac-coop.slack.com

TIWG will advise on building minimally required fields into any tools developed for the ingest of new constellations. We also plan to look into existing tools that will help automate data creation in SNAC, in particular for Sources/Citation.

Documentation and screencasts

- Throughout the year, we will continue to test the API and provide more details on the REST API doc page: https://snaccooperative.org/api_help

- We will also be adding helpful documentation to the SNAC / technology group GitHub site: https://github.com/snac-cooperative/technology-group

- Current and new features will be demoed as screencasts (Iris promises!) for public access on the SNAC YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF2wPMngxE7keSUmFM-SJFg This will cover single tasks to more in-depth editing.

Closing thoughts

In general, the SNAC interface would be greatly improved by offering different entry points for enhancing constellations besides using OpenRefine and using the API. Currently editing is entity-centric. We would like to explore the various means in which we create and edit data in our daily workflows and see those reflected in the the SNAC interface.

Other Announcements