SNAC December 2019 Newsletter

News from the Operations Committee

General Updates

Directors:

Daniel Pitti completed and submitted the most recent grant proposal last month. We happily - and hopefully - await hearing a positive outcome. In the meantime, progress has been made in scheduling a UVa Library instructional-video making workshop for the beginning of the new year. Details to follow.

Daniel has revived the EAD extraction XSLT (stylesheet transformation) tool used during SNAC's R&D phase to produce OpenRefine-ready Tab-Delimited-Value files. Institutions will be able to use the tool to create SNAC data sets for ingest.

The ICA (International Council on Archives) will release a preview version of RiC-CM (Conceptual Model) on December 10th with a first full draft of the RiC-O (Ontology). The relations section draft will be complete and ready for review in relation to SNAC EAC-CPF and CPF-Resource Descriptions.

Communications:

Outgoing chair Kelly Spring met with Faith Charlton to discuss transition of chair responsibilities. We would love to add more members to the group. If you're interested in joining this group, please email faithc@princeton.edu.

Developer's Update:

A new Analytics page is in the works and is tentatively scheduled to go live December 9.

The team is working on Search Engine Optimization including link cleanup and identifying canonical pages. A few bugs were also squashed, such as publishing failures on missing fields, error messaging, and glitches with the place table.

The OpenRefine Team is finishing the last issues on batch Resource Description insertion and editing.

SNACSchool:

A big push to train editors via the new SNACSchool 3.0 is underway. Please spread the word re: registering for the first 3.0 event slated for **January 22, 2020**. This will be a remote-only event, and it's open to all SNAC cooperative members. If you know of colleagues who need their first training experience, please have them contact Jerry Simmons or Dina Herbert to register. This will also be a great opportunity for any SNAC editor who would like a full update on all user interface enhancements, and policy and standards changes.

On December 11th, the NARA Office of Innovation Town Hall will feature a SNAC presentation by Jerry Simmons, Dina Herbert and NARA SNAC editor Jesse Willinksi. Jerry and Dina will introduce SNAC programs and projects, and Jesse will present his recent editing project to link SNAC records of Civil War generals to their compiled military service records described on the National Archives Catalog.

Dina Herbert recently participated in a wiki editathon hosted by staff of the National Anthropological Archives to mark the 150th anniversary of John Powell exploring the Colorado River, before he worked at the Smithsonian. At least one archivist from NAA is already on the SNACSchool roster for January 22nd. This is also related to a consortial effort underway by our SNAC partners at Harvard Law and Peabody Museum.

The SNACSchool Team is looking for volunteers. There are a number of collaborative opportunities to explore as a SNACSchool Team member. Please contact Jerry Simmons with questions.

Editorial and Standards Policy:

A draft Demographics proposal will be discussed at the December Technology Infrastructure Working Group meeting. An exciting SAA proposal for a SNAC session has been submitted by Alex Duryee, John Dunning, Susan Pyzynski, with Rachael Hu acting as introducer and facilitator.

Technology Infrastructure:

Co-chair Alex Duryee gave a presentation about SNAC at the NYC Code4Lib meeting on November 13.

Robbie Hott will present at Code4Lib, March 8-11, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA.

The group has been researching various tools and methods to enhance SNAC functionality, including editing vocabularies, Oxigraph (Wikidata), and a citation generator. They are also working on documentation related to recent modifications that allow users to download a CSV of all SNAC Resources held by a Holding Repository.

SNAC Edit-a-thon for North American Anthropology and Archaeology

Katherine Meyers Satriano and Irene Gates, archivists at Harvard, are planning an edit-a-thon of SNAC records related to North American anthropology and archaeology for the spring of 2020. For more information, and to fill out a brief survey about participating, visit: https://forms.gle/m61N8CHBCJTpoLGn7. The goals of this edit-a-thon are to:

1. Facilitate access to archival material that has been dispersed to multiple repositories.

2. Create more and fuller records for Indigenous people and any other historically unrecognized individuals in these fields.

3. Facilitate knowledge sharing of related archival material through a community effort.

Please consider participating and pass along to others in your institutions, especially if you have records to highlight.