

SNAC February 2020 Newsletter

Happy (belated) New Year!

News from the Operations Committee

The final SNAC Mellon Foundation funding proposal was submitted on January 15, 2020. The Foundation Board will review the proposal in early March 2020. Provided the Foundation Board approves the proposal, the grant will be for a two-year period, beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2022.

The following are the major activities proposed:

- develop tools to enable repositories to transition existing descriptive data into SNAC (Web services for extracting CPF descriptions and resource descriptions; and SNAC extension to OpenRefine to provide a means to perform identity reconciliation against and push data to SNAC)
- develop SNAC extension to ArchivesSpace
- continue to develop the editing platform to make editing more efficient
- complete maintenance editing modules for controlled vocabularies and places used in description
- computationally improve data quality
- provide simplified form-based entry of data for small and under-funded repositories
- promote awareness and use of SNAC as a valuable research resource

In developing the OpenRefine SNAC extension, SNAC will be working with the Michigan State University Enslaved Project (enslaved identities); Mark Twain Papers (correspondents); and the Harry Ransom Center (PEN International authors). In support of working with enslaved data, the Editorial Standards and Policy WG will work with Bernetiae Reed from UNC-Chapel Hill to develop rules for the formulation of enslaved persons' name entries.

If you have questions concerning the proposed work, please contact Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu)

Announcements

SNAC is offering a video training **open to all staff from member institutions** on how to create instructional videos. It will be led by Josh Thorud, Multimedia Teaching and Learning Librarian, and Bethany Mickel, Teaching and Instructional Design Librarian, of the University of Virginia's Clemons Library. SNAC will share video resources prepared by Thorud and Mickel; who following, will lead a live video conference that will include a brief presentation and ample time for discussion and Q&A. If you are interested in attending the live video conference, please

complete this doodle poll (<https://doodle.com/poll/3msacnckruprgdc2>), preferably within the next week or so, so that we can find the best day and time for folks. A separate, follow-up announcement about this offering will be forthcoming.

Working Group Updates

Communications:

The Communications WG held its first meeting of the year on January 22. The group reviewed some administrative and logistical matters, and discussed the groups' primary focus per the Mellon funding proposal of assisting with outreach for reference professionals and researchers. We would love to add more members to the group! If you're interested in joining, please email faithc@princeton.edu.

Developer's Update:

Snac-Dev will experience some downtime for maintenance on Wed Feb 12, after which it will be updated and all info replaced with the most current data from SNAC.

The SNAC OpenRefine extension under development can now upload CSVs of Resource descriptions into SNAC-dev. If you would like to be involved in testing the features under development and giving feedback, contact Joseph at [jhq2v@virginia.edu](mailto:jhg2v@virginia.edu) and visit the [Extension's Install Page](#).

SNACSchool:

The SNACSchool Team launched the newest iteration of the training program on January 22, 2020! This is the 3.0 version of the program, redesigned for a more hands-on and interactive learning experience. We hosted new trainee editors from Harvard, Drexel, Amherst, Princeton and Binghamton Universities, the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives, U.S. National Archives, Utah State Archives, Massachusetts Historical Society, the Penn Museum, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Additionally, we trained two independent researchers. After this launch, the SNACSchool Team will closely study course evaluations to see where the new training approach needs changes and improvements.

The Team will host SNACSchool events in February and March, so spread the word! Upcoming events are scheduled for **Feb. 26 AND Feb. 27 from 1-4pm eastern** (10am-1pm pacific) both days. To reserve a spot please email Dina (Dina.herbert@nara.gov)

National Archives SNAC Liaisons Team:

The NARA team continues to work with SNAC partners Irene Gates (Harvard Law) and Katherine Satriano (Peabody Museum) to develop a consortium with focus on a wide range of anthropological holdings.

Editorial Policy and Standards:

The ESWG held its first meeting of the year Jan 21. The minutes can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SYazPIJ216J3_ilzQ5H7YRN35XYwWf1tF0oKoccllw/edit

Technology Infrastructure:

The development of the SNAC OpenRefine tool is continuing apace, with TIWG providing sample data and feedback for the creation of Resources via OpenRefine.

The SNAC Cooperative monthly newsletter provides news about SNAC activities and is sent to our Cooperative Members listserv. To comment on or request more information about the SNAC newsletter please contact the Communications Working Group Chair, Faith Charlton, at faithc@princeton.edu or fill out the contact form at <https://snaccooperative.org/contact>.



<https://snaccooperative.org/>

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