

SNAC March 2020 Newsletter

News from the Operations Committee

Announcements

-SNAC is offering a workshop **open to all staff from member institutions** on how to create instructional videos. Instructors are Josh Thorud and Bethany Mickel, Multimedia Teaching & Learning Librarians at University of Virginia Library. The workshop has two parts: an online tutorial, found here (<http://bit.ly/SNACuvalib>) to be completed at your leisure; followed by a live videoconference with both instructors on March 24 from 9-10am EST, which will include a brief introduction followed by Q&A. You can participate in the videoconference here: <https://virginia.zoom.us/j/924616641>. The videoconference will be recorded for anyone who cannot attend. If possible, if you cannot attend, please send any questions or topics you have to Josh (jdt8zh@virginia.edu) and Bethany (bethanym@virginia.edu) before the videoconference so questions and responses can be included in the session. An email with this information was sent out to the Cooperative listserv.

-The California Digital Library (CDL) has been invited to submit a full proposal to IMLS to establish the foundations for a national-level archival finding aid network -- working in close collaboration with regional/statewide finding aid aggregators, and with community engagement and input from the broader library, archive, and museum community. Core project partners will include: OCLC (end-user and contributor research); LYRISIS (advising on ArchivesSpace integrations); and UVa (technical research and prototyping of systems to support comprehensive and persistent aggregation of finding aids at scale -- which, when fully realized, could serve as a solution for existing regional/statewide aggregators, and electively, local individual institutions). The UVa component will involve exploring integrations with SNAC as well as testing aggregation of EAD and other finding aid data from many sources (including Virginia Heritage, the commonwealth-wide archival access consortium). The proposal is due in late March, and if approved by IMLS, the project would begin in Fall 2020.

-Mellon Foundation Board will meet March 3, 2020 to consider the most recent SNAC proposal, among others. See the February 2020 Newsletter for details on the proposed work.

-SNAC has been working with Dan Johnson (Iowa) on preliminary work to ingest data on 3,302 persons interviewed by The HistoryMakers (THM) into SNAC. Each THM interviewed person

will be linked to a description of the interview. This work is funded by a THM-specific grant to UVa from the Mellon Foundation.

-As a reminder, the SNAC Cooperative listserv is open to anyone interested in SNAC. Thus, if you have colleagues at your institution or other institutions who are interested in SNAC and subscribing to the listserv, please share the following link: <http://lists.village.virginia.edu/mailman/listinfo/snac-coopmembers>. One of the listserv administrators will have to approve the subscription, but we promise to be generous in granting approval!

SNAC Stats

The SNAC Operations Committee will begin periodically including some general statistical information about SNAC's research portal.

As of reporting time (February 26, 2020), there were 3,737,472 constellations and 2,089,027 resource descriptions in SNAC. There were 114 edits this week, and our most active editor currently is John Dunning, our partner at East Carolina University's Joyner Library.

Last month SNAC had 43,600 users and referred over 4,000 visitors to holding institutions sites.

Working Group Updates

Communications:

The working group plans to look into adding PDF versions of past SNAC Cooperative newsletters to the website for anyone with interest to access.

Also, we would love to add more members to the group! If you're interested in joining, please email faithc@princeton.edu.

Developer's Update:

The SNAC OpenRefine Extension team is working on enabling batch inserts for simple Constellations. Requests for testing will go out to Beta Testers when the feature is live. Anyone interested in seeing the extension in its current state can download it by following the instructions on the [Install Page](#). Any issues or bugs found can be reported on the SNAC slack channel or the extension's [Github Repo](#).

SNACSchool:

Two SNACSchool events are set for the month of March. The first event is on March 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. East Coast Time. The second event is on March 26, from 1 p.m to 7 p.m. East Coast

Time. Though this second event is scheduled for the afternoon and evening in order to accommodate trainee editors in West Coast and Pacific time zones, anyone interested in SNAC training is welcome to register. Please contact [Jerry Simmons](#) or [Dina Herbert](#) to register for this event.

National Archives SNAC Liaisons Team:

Dina Herbert continues as NARA's chief collaborator in the new Anthropological Collections Consortium working with Katherine Satriano (Peabody Museum) and Irene Gates (Harvard Law Library). There are 65 participants of the editathon from about 50 institutions, not to mention students, recent graduates, and independent scholars. Participants come from all over the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and even Abu Dhabi. The editathon will take place April 23-25 mostly virtually with some in person events in Washington DC and Boston.

Technology Infrastructure:

The capstone project group from University of Virginia demonstrated the OpenRefine plugin to the Technology Infrastructure Working Group. The plugin currently supports mapping a CSV file to the SNAC Resource schema, provides basic validation of records before import, and publishing Resources to SNAC. The development version is available for testing on GitHub: <https://github.com/snac-cooperative/OpenRefine> with instructions for installation: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_NoEIDr_4GyCaeaszkiX-J7-8GXnHsXRbhBamVz2FE/edit

The second half of the project will focus on mapping, editing, and importing Identity Constellations via OpenRefine. Please join the TIWG slack group on slack to keep informed of issues and bugs: <https://snac-coop.slack.com> Feel free to email Iris (ilee@amnh.org) or Alex (alexanderduryee@nypl.org) for an invite.

The SNAC Cooperative monthly newsletter provides news about SNAC activities and is sent to our Cooperative Members listserv, which is open to anyone interested in SNAC. Those interested in subscribing to the listserv can do so here: <http://lists.village.virginia.edu/mailman/listinfo/snac-coopmembers>.

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>.



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