SNAC May 2020 Newsletter

The Operations Committee hopes everyone is well and doing all you can to keep yourselves, your families, and your neighbors safe and well in these uncertain times.

News from the Operations Committee

Announcements

Director, Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu)

SNAC welcomed three new members:

- Western Carolina University
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington

Derik Jacob Ramirez Cabrera has joined the SNAC technology development team. Derik will work remotely with Joseph Glass from his home in Guatemala. Welcome Derik!

SNAC Stats

As of reporting time (April 24, 2020), there were 3,737,173 constellations and 2,089,038 resource descriptions in SNAC. There were 260 edits in the last week of April, and our most active editor currently was Kit Messick at the Getty Research Institute.

In the past month SNAC had over 48,000 users and referred over 4,300 visitors to holding institutions sites.

Working Group Updates

Communications:
Faith Charlton, Chair (faithc@princeton.edu)

The Communications Working Group sent out a brief survey to the Cooperative listserv to gather feedback about the monthly newsletter; it will review the results of the survey, which

closed April 28th. Thanks to all those who took the time to provide feedback! The group is also doing some work in terms of management of the SNAC website, including adding past newsletters for anyone to access and updating the About section with additional content.
We would love to add more members to our group! If you're interested in joining, please email faithc@princeton.edu.

Developer's Update:
Joseph Glass, Lead Developer (jhg2v@virginia.edu)

The OpenRefine Capstone Team have finished their last semester of work on the SNAC OpenRefine Extension. It currently supports Resource Description insertion and editing, and a basic version of Constellation insertion. SNAC developers will pick up the project and continue building out support for more comprehensive Constellation and relationship support, as well as an improved user interface. A draft users manual including installation instructions is open for comments.

SNACSchool and the NARA Liaisons Team:

Jerry Simmons (jerry.simmons@nara.gov) and Dina Herbert (dina.herbert@nara.gov), Co-chairs

In response to increased need for telework friendly projects during the COVID-19 quarantines, the SNACSchool Team hosted two training events aimed at equipping new SNAC editors to work from home. On April 7th, the Team trained 37 editors. Among this group were large contingencies from the Getty Research Institute, NYU Archives and the Folger Shakespeare Library. On April 15, Jerry Simmons and Dina Herbert hosted an abbreviated, NARA-focused SNACSchool for 17 staff representing the agency's satellite facilities and presidential libraries.

The next SNACSchool will be another NARA-focused event on May 20, and will again be geared to integrating more NARA staff into online-based projects while NARA facilities are closed for the COVID-19 pandemic. As with the previous two "all-NARA" SNACSchools, linking SNAC records to NARA online catalog description resources will be the emphasis.

The SNACSchool Team met on April 8th to discuss and plan for training events until the end of 2020. Due to a number of changes by professional conference organizers, SNACSchool events for the duration of 2020 will be entirely remote unless otherwise specified. Though an official list of training dates is anticipated in the coming weeks, there is a confirmed, full SNACSchool event set for Wednesday, June 24. Please contact Dina Herbert to register.

Finally, in cooperation with Harvard Law Library (Irene Gates) and Peabody Museum (Katherine Satriano) partners, the NARA SNAC Liaisons Team hosted the very first SNAC Editathon April 23-25. The editathon was the culmination of planning by a new consortium of archivists, librarians and museum professionals who share interest in the description and discovery of cultural heritage materials by and about archaeologists, anthropologists, and curators who

studied indigenous peoples of the Americas. The event was co-hosted via GoToMeeting where participant editors could chat and ask questions. Statistical data covering the event is forthcoming.

Technology Infrastructure:
Alex Duryee (alexanderduryee@nypl.org) and Iris Lee (ilee@amnh.org), Co-chairs

Alex's video tutorial on the SNAC API, created for Iris's class, is now available on the SNAC YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qssJ_HQL_C8

TIWG is preparing feedback for the ArchivesSpace Agent module redesign, with a focus on its implementation/adherence to EAC-CPF and the SNAC data model.

Editorial Standards:
Susan Pyzynski, Chair (pyzynski@fas.harvard.edu)

The Editorial Standards Working Group (ESWG) held their monthly meeting on March 24, minutes can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GIr8yKS0Z26LGYZMHFtWqk-iyOcIB_YKdwBqM1hKy-l/edit
The group is continuing work on the Data Dictionary, the proposal to remove the Nationality element, and started discussing developing a standard to formulate enslaved person's names, led by Bernetiae Reed.

Social Networks and Archival Context

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