

SNAC December 2020 Newsletter

From the Operations Committee

Announcements

Director, Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu)

The SNAC Cooperative has established a new governance working group: Reference & Research, which will focus on SNAC as a public historical research tool.

The Reference & Research Working Group will oversee the following activities:

- Increase awareness of SNAC as a research resource to reference professionals and researchers.
- Collaborate in developing a SNACSchool to teach users how to use SNAC for reference and research.
- Develop and maintain Using SNAC for Research in the About section of the SNAC website.
- Provide evaluation and feedback to inform ongoing functional development of the research interface.
- Collaborate with other working groups when interests and issues overlap or intersect.
- Assist with monitoring and responding to user comments that are managed using "help desk" software.

The twelve members of the working group represent the following institutions:

- Archives of American Art (Smithsonian Institution)
- Brigham Young University
- Corning Museum of Glass
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- MIT Libraries
- National Baseball Hall of Fame
- Princeton University
- The New York Public Library
- University of California, Santa Cruz, Special Collections & Archives
- University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
- Utah State Archives

Thank you to our volunteers!

SNACSchool

The last training event of the year will take place on December 16-17, from 1-4 PM Eastern (10 AM-1 PM Pacific); training is over 2 days. Please email [Dina Herbert](mailto:Dina.Herbert@snac.org) to reserve a space. The class will be capped at 25 participants.

The SNACSchool Team also announces three training events for 2021! The events are as follows: January 13-14, February 16-17, and March 16-17. Please email [Dina Herbert](mailto:Dina.Herbert@snac.org) to reserve a space. Classes are capped at 25 participants.

SNAC Stats

The following includes some general statistical information about SNAC's research portal. The Operations Committee began providing this information in March 2020 and plans to continue to do so monthly.

As of reporting time (December 7, 2020), there were 3,731,550 identity constellations and 2,099,119 resource descriptions in SNAC. In the past month, SNAC had over 79,400 users and referred over 4,660 visitors to holding institutions' sites.

Member News

The Technical Services Department at Houghton Library (Harvard University) has made available two documents related to their SNAC work. One document outlines their policy for when to create or update an entity record in SNAC and three different levels of description, the other document is a workflows document describing the process of creating and updating SNAC records.

Houghton Library SNAC Policy:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17-RI079X5Oy5reW1R44M68kLcQ9F4Y95V_kNHKoXzjk/edit?usp=sharing

Houghton Library SNAC Workflow:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rTYAlq6_Ef74EwuY9Z6UVirrTHVg5MUkls5H1UC8n2w/edit?usp=sharing

Working Group Updates

Developer's Update:

Joseph Glass, Lead Developer (ihq2v@virginia.edu)

The complete revision of vocabulary maintenance will soon be released for testing by editors. While the ESPWG will be developing policies covering scope and procedures, the vocabulary maintenance will initially focus on subjects, occupations, and functions. Vocabulary maintenance will also include demographic classification, though, again, scope and policies are

still under discussion. When completed, editors will be able to add and revise vocabulary terms. Also included are semantics for CPF to CPF, CPF to Place, and CPF to Resource relations, though additions or revisions of the semantics will be vetted by the ESPWG.

Development of OpenRefine+SNAC continues, with the latest work focusing on more tightly integrating the extension into OpenRefine to make the revision and interaction with SNAC via the API synchronize with the OpenRefine spreadsheets. We have also been collaborating with Paloma Graciani Picardo at the Humanities Research Center (HRC) and Terry Catapano at the Mark Twain Papers (MTP) in this phase of development. HRC will be contributing correspondents of P.E.N. International and MTP will be contributing correspondents of Mark Twain.

Technology Infrastructure:

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

TIWG members met on November 18, 2020. Minutes can be read [here](#). Our next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 4 PM (EDT).

We are gathering documentation for installation of the OpenRefine Plugin in an effort to provide guidelines for members. Currently we are using Lead Developer, Joseph Glass's [installation instructions](#) -- please note that new developments have been added and will need to be updated if you have already installed the plugin. WG member Lorain Wang, digital archivist for the Getty's Institutional Records and Archives, has also provided [steps for installing the OpenRefine Plugin for Windows](#).

Members of TIWG and the Editorial Standards Working Group (ESWG) are collaborating with developers to create a simple web-based form that can be used to onboard new institutions, especially smaller organizations with limited resources and staff. This tool will allow users to add their holding institution information, identity constellations (name records), and resources (collections) into SNAC easily, without the need for expertise in authority control, EAC-CPF, or technical wizardry. If you are interested in joining this project subteam, please contact Iris Lee, ilee@amnh.org.

Editorial Standards:

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

The ESWG held their last meeting of 2020 on November 16; minutes can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iAhNRjg-ugW_PT9oiyTMnDVS--5eOmg97B0vb4F11c/edit.

Our next meeting will be January 11, 3:00 ET.

Our focus for the 1st part of 2021 will be creating a policy on preferring fuller forms of names, use of the "fuzzy" dates, and developing a simplified form and standards for reporting repository data and the creation of a new CPF entity.

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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