

SNAC January 2021 Newsletter

From the Operations Committee

The Operations Committee hopes everyone had a nice holiday break and wishes everyone a safe and healthy 2021.

Director's statement: On January 6, 2021 we all witnessed a violent mob attack on national elected officials doing their legally mandated duty led by the highest national elected official betraying his legally mandated duty. It was an attack on our democratic government orchestrated by the President of the United States and abetted by a significant number of Republican members of the House and Senate as well as the rightwing media and social media. What motivated the mob was endlessly repeated lies and astonishingly insane conspiracy theories believed by a fairly large portion of the U.S. population. A poll the morning of January 7, 2021 found that a sizable plurality of Republicans find the mob assault acceptable. What is completely absent in the lies and conspiracy theories is evidence. While there are a range of antidotes needed to address the lies and our deep social divisions, archivists have had and continue to have an exceptionally important role to play. Records are evidence of human activity, witnesses to "what really happened." It is our job to preserve and make available this evidence that is the essential foundation for establishing what is true and what is false. A healthy and just reality-based society needs us. Let us do our duty with renewed resolve.

Announcements

Director, Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu)

The Cooperative is pleased to welcome the University of Maryland Libraries as our latest member.

SNACSchool

Three upcoming training events fall on the following dates: January 13-14, February 16-17, and March 16-17. Please email [Dina Herbert](mailto:Dina.Herbert@snac.org) to reserve a space. There are several seats open for these events, so please spread the word to your colleagues. Classes are capped at 25 participants.

SNAC Stats

The following includes general statistical information about use of SNAC's research portal.

Over the course of the past year, SNAC had over 732,780 users and referred over 49,500

visitors to holding institutions' sites.

As of reporting time (January 4, 2021), there were 3,725,938 identity constellations and 2,099,262 resource descriptions in SNAC. In the past month, SNAC had over 77,480 users and referred over 5,080 visitors to holding institutions' sites.

SNAC-related Publications

We invite Cooperative members to share articles, blog posts, and any other published content about SNAC and SNAC-related topics or projects. Please send citations, with links, to Faith Charlton, Chair of the Communications Working Group at faithc@princeton.edu.

Gates, Irene, and Katherine Meyers Satriano. "[Collectively Enhancing Indigenous and Anthropology Records in SNAC](#)." *Archival Outlook* (November/December 2020), page 8-9.

Lee, Iris. "[Making Connections](#) [blog post]." American Museum of Natural History. *Library News* (December 8, 2020).

Coup, Betts. "[Starting to SNAC](#)." *NEA Newsletter* (Vol. 48 No. 1) January 2020, page 14.

Working Group Updates

Communications:

Faith Charlton, Chair (faithc@princeton.edu)

The working group is developing a comprehensive communications strategy, reviewing SNAC's current internal and external communication platforms and tools in an effort to streamline and maximize the effectiveness of these resources. In conjunction, the group is also working to revamp SNAC's Twitter account, including uncoupling it from NARA, which had previously owned the account.

Developer's Update:

Joseph Glass, Lead Developer (jhg2v@virginia.edu)

The developer team is updating the site layout this month, making the Resource search page and Browse pages easier to access and more available for general researchers. A new and simplified OpenRefine install process is being rolled out as well. We are also developing a process for programmatically identifying and merging groups of duplicated CPFs.

Technology Infrastructure:

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

The first meeting of the joint TIWG/ESWG committee on smaller organizational contributors will be held this month. TIWG has begun working with the SNAC team to mark duplicate EAC-CPF records for merging, which will dramatically consolidate the number of duplicative constellations

in SNAC. TIWG's next meeting will be on January 20th at 3pm Eastern.

Alex Duryee will be presenting on [SNAC and the redesigned ArchivesSpace Agent module](#) on January 13th at 2pm EST.

Editorial Standards:

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

The group did not meet in December, our next meeting will be January 11.

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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