

# SNAC May 2021 Newsletter

From the Operations Committee

## Announcements

Director, Daniel Pitti ([dpitti@virginia.edu](mailto:dpitti@virginia.edu))

The Cooperative is pleased to welcome as a new member the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

The Enslaved Description Group within the Editorial Standards Working Group is working on best practices for description of the enslaved and related entities such as slave plantations, slave ships, and other entities engaged in enslaving. The group is led by Bernetae Reed of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and has nine additional members. Among the members are representatives of other projects:

- [Enslaved.org](http://Enslaved.org) at Michigan State University
- On These Grounds: [onthesegrounds.org](http://onthesegrounds.org)
- Digital Library on American Slavery: <https://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>

The initial focus of the group is developing 1) best practices for the formation of names of the enslaved; 2) a controlled vocabulary for classifying the enslaved and related entities; and 3) a controlled vocabulary for occupations.

## SNACSchool

SNACSchool training calendar for the remainder of 2021:

- May 12-13 - SNACSchool returns with version 3.2
- June 16-17
- July / ad hoc training event for “Reclaiming Native Authority”
- August 4 - (1-day event during SAA conference week)
- September 22-3
- October 13-14
- November 17-18
- December 15-16

Classes are limited to 25 students. Please email [Dina Herbert](mailto:Dina.Herbert) to reserve your spot.

## National Archives SNAC Liaisons Team

On April 29th, The National Archives SNAC Liaisons Team participated in a working teleconference to prepare for a SNAC editathon promoting description of Indigenous peoples, in support of the developing “Reclaiming Native Authority” project. This event, hosted by project director Diana Marsh (University of Maryland iSchool) welcomed Native American community leaders from Minnesota, Michigan, New Mexico, and Hawaii for a SNAC introduction and

demonstration with the purpose of gathering support from leaders of Indigenous community archives and libraries for the cooperative's next editathon, tentatively set for October 2021. SNACSchool will offer an ad hoc training event in July for anyone wishing to train prior to the editathon.

## SNAC Stats

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

As of reporting time (Tuesday, April 27, 2021), there were 3,723,782 identity constellations and 2101848 resource descriptions in SNAC. In the past month, SNAC had over 76,300 users and referred over 5,300 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](mailto:faithc@princeton.edu).*

## Member News

*We invite Cooperative members to share news about SNAC-related projects or initiatives that they are undertaking, such as workflows and policies for creating or enhancing identity constellations, or if members want to highlight identity constellations. Please send a short (150-words max) blurb to Faith Charlton, Chair of the Communications Working Group at [faithc@princeton.edu](mailto:faithc@princeton.edu).*

## Working Group Updates

### Communications:

Faith Charlton, Chair ([faithc@princeton.edu](mailto:faithc@princeton.edu))

The Communications Working Group has formed a Twitter sub-working group, which will be jumpstarting SNAC's Twitter account (@SNACcooperative) after a period of inactivity. Please be on the lookout for more information about member involvement in future newsletters!

### Developer's Update:

Joseph Glass, Lead Developer ([jhg2v@virginia.edu](mailto:jhg2v@virginia.edu))

The development team is currently working on a simplified forms wizard for adding Holding Repositories and Resource Descriptions into SNAC. The new forms aim to guide editors or users less familiar with SNAC and lower the bar for entering high-quality archival information into SNAC.

## Technology Infrastructure:

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

The TIWG is developing documentation for using the OpenRefine plugin with SNAC. The goal is to create a workflow-based documentation portal, where users with no existing setup or knowledge of the application can walk through the process of setting up OpenRefine, working with data, and publishing it on SNAC.

## Editorial Standards:

Susan Pyzynski, Chair ([pyzynski@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:pyzynski@fas.harvard.edu))

The minutes to the April meeting can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LaqE5hLJQU0vXIB2Jhf8AiXvEDfjhRKllrbd7mAmxzo/edit>

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 3:00ET

The group is working on the Occupations element and investigating various controlled vocabularies as we consider recommendations for this element.

## Reference and Research:

Marisa Bourgoin, Chair ([BourgoinM@si.edu](mailto:BourgoinM@si.edu))

---

*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>.*

*Past issues of the newsletter are available on [SNAC's website](#).*

*To comment on or request more information about the SNAC newsletter please contact the Communications Working Group Chair, Faith Charlton, at [faithc@princeton.edu](mailto:faithc@princeton.edu) or fill out the contact form at <https://snaccooperative.org/contact>.*



<https://snaccooperative.org/>

@SNACcooperative

[YouTube](#)

