SNAC April 2022 Newsletter

From the Operations Committee

Announcements

Director, Daniel Pitti (dpitti@virginia.edu)

SNACSchool Training

SNACSchool 4.0 rolled out on February 23rd with much success, and we welcome others to join this new training program when they can! Upcoming training events are as follows:

- April 27-28, 2022
- May 25-26, 2022
- June 22-23, 2022
- August 24, 2022 (one-day event at SAA at Simmons University; details to follow)

Classes are limited to 25 students. Please email Dina Herbert to reserve your spot.

On March 16, the Team had the successful rollout of the new SNACSchool Module 6: Using SNAC for Reference and Research. This event welcomed reference and research professionals from Northwestern University, Yale University libraries, University of Buffalo, the Public Library of Los Angeles, California, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum, and six staff from various offices of the National Archives and Records Administration. This new module highlights SNAC’s power to discover a broad variety of cultural heritage materials around the globe via linked authority records of persons, organizations, and families who are creators of records.

Upcoming sessions of Using SNAC for Reference and Research are set for: May 18, July 13, September 14, and November 16. Please contact NARA SNAC Liaison Dina Herbert to reserve a spot in one of these classes.

Join the SNACSchool Team!
The SNACSchool Team has its next big meeting on Thursday, April 21, at 1 p.m. This meeting’s focus will be setting the SNACSchool calendar for the remainder of 2022, and reviewing the newest teaching materials available for SNAC training. This will be a meeting open to anyone in the SNAC cooperative, so please do consider joining.

As always, the SNACSchool Team welcomes anyone interested in joining the SNACSchool in an advisory or instructor role. Please contact Jerry Simmons to request conferencing details for the April 21st Team meeting, and for questions in general.
SNAC Stats

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

As of reporting time (Wednesday, March 30, 2022), there were 3,538,086 identity constellations and 2,107,461 resource descriptions in SNAC. In the past month, SNAC had over 100,200 users and referred over 5,881 visitors to holding institutions’ sites.

Working Group Updates

Communications:

Faith Charlton, Chair (faithc@princeton.edu)

Seeking members

If you’re excited about SNAC and want to help spread the word, then the SNAC Communications Working Group is for you! The working group is currently looking for new members.

Work with a fantastic group to support and further develop SNAC communications goals. You need not be a member representative to serve. Anyone from a member institution is welcome, so please pass this opportunity along to those who may be interested. Members are asked to serve a two-year term if possible, and the time commitment is about 1-2 hours per month. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact outgoing chair, Faith Charlton, at faithc@princeton.edu. Information about participating in SNAC working groups can also be found on SNAC’s website.

SNAC Slack channel

SNAC has added a new “chat” channel to its Slack workspace! The intention of this channel is to provide an informal platform for Cooperative members and enthusiasts to chat about all things SNAC: projects, initiatives, workflows, tips + tricks, etc. Please note that SNAC administrators will not be monitoring the channel regularly. If you have any specific questions, please send them to snaccooperative@gmail.com. You can join SNAC’s Slack workspace using this invite link!

Technology Infrastructure:

Alex Duryee, Chair (alexanderduryee@nypl.org)

TIWG welcomes Thomas Adams, from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, to the working group.

The placename cleanup project is finishing its first phase, with one final round of large-scale programmatic review before moving on to more detailed work. This phase includes standardization to RDA-compliant place qualifiers, such as “Brisbane (Qld.)”. 
Member News and Publications

We invite Cooperative members to share news about SNAC-related projects or initiatives they are undertaking, such as workflows and policies for creating or enhancing identity constellations, or highlight identity constellations, particularly those of individuals or groups from underrepresented communities. We also invite Cooperative members to share articles, blog posts, and any other content they’ve published about SNAC and SNAC-related topics or projects. For inclusion in the newsletter, please send a short (150-words max) blurb for news, or citations with links for publications, to Faith Charlton, Communications Working Group chair at faithc@princeton.edu. If you’d like to highlight news or content on SNAC’s Twitter, please use this form to submit your request.

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. For those interested in subscribing to the listserv, please email snaccooperative@gmail.com. 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 or fill out the contact form at https://snaccooperative.org/contact.