#IndiginizeSNAC:
Recapping the Indigenous SNAC Editathon (2021)
Indigenous Description Group and IMLS Grant

SNAC Annual Meeting 2022
Thursday September 9, 2022

Presenters:
Diana Marsh (PhD, Asst. Professor UMD iSchool)
Ia Bull (PhD Student, UMD iSchool, Natchez Nation & ᎦᏚᏩᎩ)
Lydia Curliss (PhD Student, UMD iSchool Nipmuc Hassanamisco Band)
Land Acknowledgement

Today we are beaming in from College Park, which is located on the ancestral territories of the Piscataway, Nacoshtonk, and their Indigenous kin and neighbors. As members of the University of Maryland, We acknowledge, as a land-grant university, the 202,000 acres of stolen Indigenous land taken and distributed to the university under the Morrill Act in 1862 (https://www.landgrabu.org).

We want to acknowledge the separation— that these and many other acts of colonialism, assimilation, and genocide —which included archival collecting —generated between Indigenous peoples and their homelands.

We further acknowledge the continued power and resilience of Indigenous communities and nations, and celebrate the collaborative and decolonizing work now taking place in our collections and institutions, and in our archival work.
Edit-a-thon 2021

Core Team

Lydia Curliss (University of Maryland iSchool, Nipmuc) | Irene Gates (New School) | Dina Herbert (NARA) | Diana Marsh (University of Maryland iSchool) | Katherine Meyers Satriano (Peabody Museum at Harvard) | Jerry Simmons (NARA)

Indigenous Advisory Board

Margaret Bruchac (Abenaki), University of Pennsylvania | Stephen Curley (Diné), National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition | Taylor Gibson (Cayuga), Gāhsronih | Eric Hemenway (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians) | Keahiahi Long, University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa | Melissa Stoner (Diné), University of California at Berkeley
In total, we had **18 Indigenous participants** who represented the following Indigenous Nations and Communities:

Over the two days, **around 64 participants** (out of 137 initial registrants) **18 of whom were Indigenous** worked on at least **50 entities**

- Increased # of Indigenous records and Editor (and Editor Allies)
- Greater awareness of SNAC for Indigenous communities across the US
- Creation of **Editorial Guide for describing Indigenous Entities in SNAC**  
  - This was the most self-reported used document by Participants
- **Concerns around describing Indigenous entities** and greater awareness of the issues around Indigenous description in archival record  
  - Participant feedback showed concerns over adding things like “location”, “nationality” to records; Challenges around describing Indigenous languages
Editorial Guide was created as a collaborative effort between the project team, advisory board and Indigenous edit-a-thon participants.

Post edit-a-thon, the guide was standardized and is currently on the SNAC platform for feedback: https://portal.snaccooperative.org/node/595.

“This editorial guide was originally created for participants in the SNAC Indigenous edit-a-thon and for future editors when considering Indigenous records. This editorial guide considers best practices in the field as they apply to the Social Networks and Archival Context (abbreviated as SNAC) platform but we hope that this may lead to changes in other databases, platforms, and practices.” – From the Editorial Guide
1. Connecting disparate and geographically separated records
   a. Communities want access to all of their materials
   b. Mukurtu and community archives creating Indigenous spaces/digital solutions for holding material
   c. Limitations of current move in institutions to subject or lib guides

2. Accommodates descriptive flexibility
   a. Editors create their own authority records that fit Indigenous needs
   b. Using culturally-appropriate descriptive terminologies

3. May allow for the focus on Indigenous people, communities, or entities represented in collections (rather than white collector or creator)

4. Cooperative model: Indigenous community members and allies as editors
**Indigenous Advisory Board**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Bruchac</td>
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<td>Angie Bain</td>
<td>Lower Nicola Indian Band, Nicola Watershed Governance Project</td>
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<td>Selena Ortega-Chiolero</td>
<td>Chickaloon Village Traditional Council</td>
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<td>Tiffany Chavis</td>
<td>Lumbee, Health Literacy Librarian, University of Maryland, Baltimore</td>
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**UMD Team**

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<td>Natchez, PhD Student, UMD iSchool</td>
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<td>Amanda Sorenson</td>
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<td>Lydia Curliss</td>
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**Partners**

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<td>Jerry Simmons</td>
<td>Nara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dina Herbert</td>
<td>NARA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Satriano</td>
<td>Peabody Museum, Harvard</td>
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<td>Smithsonian OCIO, NAA, NMNH</td>
<td>&amp; Many more!</td>
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1. **IMLS grant - Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program**
   (https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/re-252311-ols-22)
   
a. Expanded Indigenous Advisory Board

b. Focus groups/ testing SNAC with Indigenous users from range of perspectives
   
   i. Indigenous participants in the 2021 Edit-a-thon (who know SNAC well);
   
   ii. Indigenous LAM professionals
   
   iii. Indigenous students within MLIS and other related disciplines
   
   iv. Indigenous community members (who have never used SNAC)

c. Indigenous SNAC Training, SNACSchool and/or other educational modules/webinars/training material

d. Community outreach:
   
   i. Emphasize role SNAC can play in facilitating repatriation by helping to locate relevant archival records
   
   ii. Community-based presentations
1. Formation of a Indigenous Description Group (IDG)

   a. Update the Editorial Guide iteratively

   b. Work on controlled vocabularies + wider array of cultural-technical upgrades

   e.g. Indigenous thesauri, subjects, placenames, languages/orthographies

   c. Ways to describe & link communities (e.g. Mohawk)
1. IDG - let us know if you’re interested
2. Hiring 4 Tribal Archival Consultants ($2500/yr)
3. Hiring Indigenous MLIS student (20hrs/week)- focus on developer/metadata work
4. New website
5. Twitter: @IndigenizeSNAC
6. Email: IndigenizeSNAC@umd.edu
We want to thank the following people for without their labor, time and effort our edit-a-thon and subsequent work would not be possible.

*We’d like to thank:*

**All of our volunteer editors who participated in the event** (approx. 18 hours of their time!)

**Project Team:** Irene Gates, Dina Herbert, Katherine Meyers Satriano, Jerry Simmons

**Indigenous Advisory Board:** Margaret Bruchac, Stephen Curley, Taylor Gibson, Eric Hemenway, Keahiahi Long, Melissa Stoner.

**Dr. Daniel Pitti** (Director of the Social Networks and Archival Context Cooperative)

**Event Day SNAC Editor Support/ Peer Reviewers:** Jodi Berkowitz, Kit Messick, Becca Morgan, Betts Coup

**Volunteer Indigenous Peer Reviewers**

**Smithsonian & local colleagues who offered invaluable feedback:** Eden Orelove, Nancy Kennedy, Rachel Menyuk, Nathan Sowry, Emily Moazami, Michael Pahn, Joshua Bell, Gina Rappaport, Katherine Christensen, Katherine Crowe, Katie Duvall, Adam Gray, Caitlin Haynes, Kate Madison, Daisy Njoku, Mark White, Gabrielle Sanchez, Pam Wintle