ArchivesSpace Agent Module Redesign

ArchivesSpace 3.0 Release Webinar

Cory Nimer
Background

- ArchivesSpace 1.0 released with Agents module
  - Sept. 2013
- Specification for Agent revisions released
  - Aug. 2015
- Small working group established to review agent functionality
  - Aug. 2017
- ArchivesSpace 3.0 with improved Agent module to be released
  - Jan. 2021
Redesign Goals and Methods

- **Goals**
  - Standards compliance
  - Provenance-based search support
  - Integration with authority services

- **Methods**
  - Expanded metadata fields
  - Updated imports and exports
  - Improved record merging
  - Public interface updates
Standards Compliance
Provenance-based Search Support

- Increases connections and allows centering of Agents
  - Supports search and faceting based on characteristics of Agents
  - Allows browsing and discovery
Expanded Metadata Fields

- Control
- Identity
- Description
- Relations
Expanded Metadata Fields

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- **Description**
- Relations
Expanded Metadata Fields

- Control
- Identity
- Description
- Relations
Updated Imports and Exports

- Import maps
- Record merging
- Export maps
Public Displays

- Element Presentation
- Search Facets
Public Displays

- Element Presentation
- Search Facets
Future Development

- Finalization of public interface
- Greater specificity for recording Agent relationships
- External authority file synchronization
Benefits of Implementation

- Improved data portability
- Expanded search options for patrons and staff
- Support of institutional workflows
Thank you!

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ANW-429 ticket available at
https://archivesspace.atlassian.net/browse/ANW-429

Development instance of application at
http://aspace-anw-429.lyrtech.org/
Agents Module and SNAC

Alexander Duryee
New York Public Library
2021-01-13
What is SNAC?

SNAC is a cooperatively maintained resource for the description of corporate bodies, persons and families (CPF) interrelated to one another and to the historical resources that provide evidence of their lives and work. As a cooperatively maintained resource, SNAC serves interrelated functions that benefit both curators and research users of cultural heritage resources.
So Why SNAC?

- Resource of archival entities, beyond traditional authorities
- Participating in international network of archival discovery
So Why Not SNAC?

- No way to associate multiple identifiers to Agents
- No “official” support for SNAC in ArchivesSpace
- ArchivesSpace did not fully support the EAC-CPF standard
Agents + SNAC

- How could the module be used for EAC-CPF maintenance?
- How could the module be used for SNAC integration?
- What would the SNAC Cooperative like to see from the module before release?
- What would the SNAC Cooperative like to see from the module over time?
EAC-CPF

- More comprehensive data model
- Imports and exports are no longer lossy
ArchivesSpace + SNAC

- Multiple identifiers per record
- Potential for very exciting future development

Record IDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record ID</th>
<th>Is Primary Identifier</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Identifier Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n79142790</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oca00374012</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6kf2mxw">http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6kf2mxw</a></td>
<td>False</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
<td>SNAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WG Recommendations

- Light Mode
- Linking from PUI to SNAC

Larsen, Nella, 1891-1964

Biography

Nella Larsen, Harlem Renaissance writer, librarian and nurse. She was born in Denmark. Educated in Chicago, she then worked in Denmark and in the United States where she graduated from the Lincoln Hospital Training Program in nursing in Harlem, known as the Harlem Renaissance. From 1921-1925 she worked as a nurse.

Larsen's first short story was published in 1926, and her two novels quickly became best sellers. Her books are autobiographical in nature, dealing with the struggle between black and white, and her suicide in 1933 ended Larsen's career as one of the Harlem Renaissance's leading writers.

From the guide to the Nella Larsen Letters, 1928, (The New York Public Library)

Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Identifier

- http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6kh2mwx
Future Wishes

- Importing from SNAC to ArchivesSpace
- Exporting from ArchivesSpace to SNAC
- Feedback from SNAC and ArchivesSpace users

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Other things to know

- This is the first overhaul of a major record type since the original release of ArchivesSpace – it has been a complex process to get here!
- Thanks to everyone who wrote or reviewed the specification, wrote or reviewed code, provided ideas and feedback, and did testing for the many steps along the way.
- We will need more testing once a release candidate comes out. Please respond to the call if you are at all interested/available.
  - It’s always better to catch a bug before a production release than after.
Other things to know

• “Light” mode
  • The underlying data schema will be the same for everyone, but the view a particular user sees will be dependent on permissions and choice.
  • Even once you upgrade, if want only some of your users to work with these new fields, or only want to work with them on some records, you will have a choice
Other things to know

• Once this has been released and people are working with this for real, we expect some changes will be requested.
  • Different or additional choices for imports or exports
  • Different or additional choices for views, including light mode
  • Refinement of linking or more reuse of data between agents and material description records like resources

• As always, any additional work on agents would need to be balanced with the many other requests the community has for improvement of ArchivesSpace.
Questions?

Alex Duryee  
New York Public Library

Christine Di Bella  
ArchivesSpace

Cory Nimer  
Brigham Young University

Test server: http://aspace-anw-429.lyrtech.org/staff/username admin/password admin