Making connections with SNAC

Have you ever wondered how to make connections between historical figures across archival collections? Where to find those collections, and how to discover if two individuals from history have ever crossed paths?

You can now find and make these connections more easily with Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC). The National Archives is a key partner in SNAC, a pilot project that is helping researchers connect the scattered archival collections of important people, places, and events.

One of the key features of SNAC is the link created between individuals in the database, allowing you to clearly make connections between related and linked individuals. Additionally, SNAC allows you to search finding aids or online catalog descriptions for archival materials across various archival collections all in one place.
For example, let's say we are conducting research on Dorothy Parker. As we can see in Dorothy Parker's authority record in the National Archives Catalog, she is related to just two descriptions at the National Archives. But the National Archives is not the only repository with archival material relating to Dorothy Parker. 83 collections in SNAC have content referencing her that could help round out our research. SNAC also connects us to individuals that are associated with Dorothy Parker, including Alexander Woollcott and Ernest Hemingway.

Ready to give SNAC a try? Explore the prototype portal.

How has SNAC helped with your research? We’d love to hear about it! Email us at catalog@nara.gov

Get the latest updates from SNAC on Twitter at @snaccooperative

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Your Mission: Polar Exploration

Feeling the summer heat? Stay cool with a Polar Exploration tagging and
transcription mission! We’re looking for your help to tag and transcribe records of Polar Explorers and their connections. Records include the diary of Robert E. Peary; age, weight, and measurements of the Northern Sledge Party; as well as paintings created by Dayton R.E. Brown and Russell W. Porter.

Woman, Child, and Baby, Canvas #37. This painting was produced while Captain Dayton Brown was on a field survey of northeastern Greenland and the east coast of Ellesmere Island. National Archives Identifier 4491060

Can you transcribe this?

We recently held a transcribe-a-thon with our colleagues here at the National Archives, where we worked in teams to help transcribe a big document together. As many of us can attest, 19th Century handwriting can indeed be a challenge!

We had some trouble determining the words in this sentence. Can you help?
Want to give this big record a try? There are plenty more pages to transcribe. 
Jump in!

New to transcription? Register and Get Started

New in the Catalog

This series consists of issues of "Newsmap" that were published from 1942 to 1946. "Newsmap", a weekly issuance of the U.S. Army, was distributed to members of the military and provided news about the progress of World War II. Each issue generally had information on obverse and reverse sides and featured texts, photographs, illustrations, and maps. The publications were designed for posting on bulletin boards or other display areas.

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.