Maximizing the Use and Exposure of Archival Authority Data
—SALALM 62—

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Archives, “authority,” and notability
• What’s worth archiving and preserving?
• How do we define “notability”?
• How does the metadata we create reflect our professional values?
“I’m skeptical about archives in the United States. Even more specifically, I’m skeptical about archives in the United States that adhere to the standard tradition of archives in the Western world. I’ve spent hours and hours of my time this year and last reading, thinking, tweeting, and writing about the origins of my skepticism, while also reconciling what it means that I am so very much a part of the problem that I see in this work and trying to advocate for the abolition of the archaic, anti-black, transphobic, elitist and misogynistic aspects of archival administration.”

— Jarrett M. Drake
Metadata standards
• Encoded Archival Description (EAD) for finding aids
• Encoded Archival Context—Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) for creator records
• EAC-CPF is an (XML) encoding schema…
  ■ Designed to encode standardized information about:
    ○ People and organizations associated with archival collections
    ○ The social context and networks of those people and organizations
    ○ Explicit encoding of relationships makes EAC-CPF “linked data ready.”
Dear catalogers: Language is not neutral. Cataloging is not a neutral act.

10:46 - 13 Apr 2016
Social Networks & Archival Context (SNAC)
“A vast Global reliable social-document network connecting the past to the present to the future!”

credit: Daniel V. Pitti, IATH, University of Virginia
• Pilot phase underway: 2015-2017
  ▪ Cooperative host: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
  ▪ Technology infrastructure host: Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia

credit: Daniel V. Pitti, IATH, University of Virginia
Identity constellations
Getting Started
Welcome, Mairelys, this is your dashboard. This column shows the most recently published Constellations across SNAC. The second column shows Constellations you have checked out for editing and those you are currently editing in other browser windows. It also provides a button to create a new Constellation object. The last column gives quick access to searching and other functionality depending on your permission level.

View Recently Published
Browse interesting and recently published Constellations from all of SNAC

- McLane, Louis, 1786-1857
- Dalling and Bulwer, Henry Lytton
Why a cooperative?
• Economy of sharing descriptive work: cooperatively curate the data
• Link the people descriptions to one another and to record descriptions: build the social-document network
• An international, Internet-based “linked archival authority system”
SNAC Prototype
Remixing Archival Metadata Project (RAMP)
• Open source, browser-based tool
• Developed at the University of Miami Libraries in 2013-2016
The RAMP (Remixing Archival Metadata Project) editor is a web-based tool that allows users to:

1. Generate enhanced authority records
2. Publish the content of those records as Wikipedia pages

**Remixing Archival Metadata Project**

Select or search for a record

Can’t find a record? [Import it now!](#)

- Click on a process to continue -

**How Does RAMP Work?**

The RAMP editor extracts biographical and historical data from [EAD](#) Finding Aids to create new authority records for persons, corporate bodies, and families associated with archival and special collections. Users can enhance those records with additional data from sources like [VIAF](#) and [WorldCat Identities](#) and RAMP will transform them into wiki markup suitable for publication to the English Wikipedia. New content can then be edited and added to an existing Wikipedia page or be used to start a new one from within the RAMP editor.
• Derives and enhances EAC-CPF records
• Extracts relevant data from EAD (Encoded Archival Description) finding aid files
• Pulls in data from WorldCat Identities and VIAF (Virtual International Authority File)
• Transforms EAC-CPF records into Wiki Markup for publication to the English Wikipedia
Pilot project with the UM Cuban Heritage Collection (2014)
Left to right (clockwise):

- Herberto Dumé and Eloisa Castellanos (UM Digital Collections)
- 138 East 27th St theatre (WikiMedia Commons)
- Portfolio, “Teresa María Rojas” (UM Digital Collections)
Wikipedia and notability
How does Wikipedia define notability?
If a topic has received significant coverage in reliable sources that are independent of the subject, it is presumed to be suitable for a stand-alone article or list (Wikipedia's "General notability guideline").
Questioning notability: when definitions clash
Teatro Avante
Edit-a-thons and activism
Art & Feminism
Notability and visibility
Google Knowledge Graph
Conclusion
• Questions of notability and visibility are questions of value.
• Remixing our metadata draws attention to our own gaps and biases.
Wikipedia network of RAMP pages
Thank you!