

## **Social Networks and Archival Context: Towards a Social Network of History**

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In this paper we describe the second phase development of the Social Networks and Archival Context project. The project is building a database of merged Encoded Archival Context - Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) records derived from MARC Archival Format record, Encoded Archival Description (EAD), and original EAC-CPF records held dozens of libraries, consortia and national archives, including, e.g., the Library of Congress, the British Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, OCLC WorldCat, the California Digital Library, the Northwest Digital Archives, and Virginia Heritage, combined with information from name authority files from the Library of Congress (Library of Congress Name Authority File), OCLC Research (The Virtual International Authority File), and the Getty Vocabulary Program (Union List of Artist Names). The database merges information from each instance of an individual name found in the EAD resources, along with variant names, biographical notes and their topical descriptions. The archival context of the EAC records also includes the people that the person described was associated with or corresponded with (based on the archival contents). The SNAC prototype interface makes this information searchable and browsable, including a visualization enabling interactive exploration of the social network while retaining links to the various data sources.

The paper will examine the issues and problems in merging information across disparate collections, describe the architecture developed for the merging process and show how the user interface for the collection enables exploration of historical connections between persons, organizations and families.