PCC Wikidata Pilot at Columbia University Libraries

Alex Whelan, Time Based Media Metadata Librarian
Mollie Echeverría, Metadata Operations Specialist
NACO Work at CUL

- CUL’s contributions to Name Authority Cooperative Program of the PCC (NACO)
  - Personal names / corporate names
- Staff access to NACO training - limiting factor in being able to contribute to name authority work
Mellon Audio and Moving Image (AMI) Project

- Digitize all of Columbia’s audiovisual holdings in ~7 years
  - Oral histories (MARC)
  - Archival materials (finding aids)
- Pilot Year 2018-2019
  - Digitize and describe ~10,000 physical objects / 6,500 intellectual entities
  - Focus on: Oral histories
- Mellon Foundation 2019-2021
  - Additional ~60,000 physical objects
  - Finish Oral histories
AMI Name Authorities in Oral History Collections

- Description of name authority workflow developed by Alex Whelan and David Olson during first year of project
  - Research time
  - NACO training
- Changes in AMI workflow - Mollie taking over oral history cataloging, Alex continuing NAF work
Incorporating Wikidata into our NAF Workflow

- Mollie - took over oral history cataloging for AMI in second year of project; not NACO-trained
- Wikidata - allows for contribution to name authority work with less barrier to entry
- Wikidata item creation - easy for non-NACO-trained staff to learn
- Wikidata item records can then be used by staff with NACO training to create LC name authority records
AMI Wikidata to NAF workflow

- Mollie enters uncontrolled names in tracking spreadsheet
- Wikidata item records created for names on list
- Alex then creates NAF records based on Wikidata Q-items
  - Add 024 7_ with the Q number to point to more robust record in Wikidata
- automatic conversion of Wikidata to NAF?

**Table: Wikidata to NAF Workflow**

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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description of URI (P80)</th>
<th>Occupation (P166)</th>
<th>employer (P206)</th>
<th>Affiliation (P116)</th>
<th>Field of work</th>
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**Link to tracking sheet**
Item properties for living people

- Consulting Wikidata’s Living People policy, PCC best practices, and ethics guidelines from organizations like SAA to ensure that records for oral history interviewees do not violate interviewees’ privacy

- Creation of data dictionary properties with usage guidelines for all Wikidata person properties along with MARC Authority element crosswalking

- Core properties for living people

- Application profile for corporate bodies created by Metadata Librarians Ryan Mendenhall (Columbia University) and Paul Burley (Northwestern University)

Link to full data dictionary
Listeria and P5008

- Inspired by Rob Fernandez’s LD4 Wikidata Affinity Group presentation to create a Listeria list tracking item records for oral history interviewees
- Inclusion of property P5008 in item records for oral history agents, linking them to Q-item created for oral history subproject https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q101440912

Possible Future Directions

- Creation of additional application profiles and Listeria lists for other oral history-related entities
  ○ "African-American newspapers" connected to Black Journalists oral history collection
  ○ Item records for specific interviews or interview collections

Black Journalists oral history collection, 1971-1972
Title: Black Journalists oral history collection, 1971-1972
Description: Transcripts: 3840 pages
Sound recordings: 118 sound cassettes
Summary: The Black Journalists oral history collection's ninety interviews discuss the history of the African American press from the late nineteenth century to the present. The interviews were taken in the early 1970s, with a particular focus on the 1930s-1950s. Narrators include publishers, editors, writers, sportswriters, photographers, cartoonists, businesspeople, and journalism professors. The interviews address both the broader social context in which the black press operated, as well as the practicalities of running a newspaper. Narrators discuss the relationship of the black press to the fight for civil rights, including coverage of events of the Civil Rights era, coverage of politics, school desegregation, and philosophies of journalism activists. In terms of operations, narrators discuss the economics of publishing, advertising, management strategies, printing technology, and competition with radio and television.

Interviewer Henry La Brie III conducted interviews from lists of prepared questions, so many narrators address the same themes across the collection. These topics include: assessments of the state of the black press; the future of the black press; whether a national black newspaper is necessary; the perception of the reporting of the black press as "sensational"; the idea of objectivity in media, more generally; and the successes and failures of the black press; trust of African American press and mainstream media by readership; and coverage of African American issues, particularly following the 1968 Kerner Commission report. Narrators also speak about their life histories more generally, including youth, education, other careers, and military service.

La Brie interviewed individuals involved with papers that had a range of circulation numbers. Geographical scope of narrators is quite diverse, and cities where their respective newspapers are based include: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Detroit, Michigan; Durham, North Carolina; Greensboro, North Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Kansas City, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota; New Orleans, Louisiana; Newark, New Jersey; Norfolk, Virginia; Omaha, Nebraska; Orlando, Florida; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Raleigh, North Carolina; Saint Louis, Missouri; San Antonio, Texas; San Francisco, California; Shreveport, Louisiana; Tampa, Florida; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Wash., Texas.

The following narrators were interviewed for the project: C. Blyth Andrews, Jr.; U.J. Andrews; Lucius M. Austin; Eloise Bavie; Lionel C. Bancroft; Jacques A. Beauchamp; Lionel Becier; J. Reuben Benson; Lucile Bidford; Anna Bonnemps; Simon Brower; J. Lawrence Bowden Jr.; Mildred Brown; Melvin Collins; Chester Crompton; Russell J. Cowans; Thomas L. Dabney; E. A. Elbert Allen Daily; Daniel Day; Conna Dijora; Jr.; Alice Allan Dunnigan; W. Leonard Evans, Jr.; J. C. Franklin; William Fowkes; Eliscue Guy; D. Parke Gibson; Carlton B. Goodlet; E. L. Goodwin; Sr.; E. L. Goodwin, Jr.; Percy Greer; Ben Holman; William Hubbard, Emory O. Jackson; Calvin Jacobs; Paul R. Jervey, Sr.; F. M. Johnson; J.J. Johnson; John Q. Johnson; Harold L. Keigh; David Keilman; Thaddeus Lewis; Charles H. Lewis; Jack Lynn; Gilbert Maddox; Louis Martin; Ralph Matthews; Margaret E. McCulloch; George McCurdy; Charles Moore; Charlie Morris; Sr.; Howard H. Murphy; John H. Murphy; D. Cecil B. Newman; Moses J. Neverson; Albert H. Ngabu; Charles H. Parrish; "Pat" Patterson; Norman Powell; Percival Larson Pratt; Armstead S. Pride; Robert C. Quaer; Longworth Quinn; Robert M. Ratcliffe; L.J. Rhine; Eric Roberts; John E. Roueuteau, Jr.; William Reve; George Schuyler; C.A. Scott; W.A. Scott, III; John Herman Henry Sengstacke; Whitley Alexander Sengstacke; Joel Smith; Frank L. Stanley; John Stevens; Marcus C. Stewart, Sr.; A Wise; O.C.W. Taylor; Vincent Tabu; Nanett Mitchell Turner; Jussie Walker; William O. Walker; J. Hugo Warren; Chester L. Washington; Ruth Washington; Doris Weston Waster; Nathan W. Wimms; C. R. With; Florence Fields Wilt; Paul Wycho; and Andrew Sturgeon "Dat" Young. The collection is comprised of transcripts in digital and paper-based format, compact cassettes, and digital surrogate of the audio from the compact cassettes.

Biographical / Historical Notes
Henry "Hanx" G. La Brie III undertook the interviews in the Black Journalists oral history collection as research for his dissertation: "A Profile of the Black Press: Old Guard Black Journalists Reflect on the Past, Present and Future." A motivating factor for La Brie to conduct the interviews was that the subject had not been documented as much as he anticipated when he started investigating. He began his research with telephone interviews with George Schuyler, Anna Bonnemps, J. Saunders Redding, and Eric Roberts, who offered suggestions and bibliographic sources to pursue. In April of 1971, he received funding from the Ford Foundation to travel the country and conduct the collection's interviews. As he spent the summer interviewing, he gradually developed four lists of poses to pose to narrators. La Brie compiled his doctoral studies at the University of Iowa School of Journalism in April of 1972. His research also informed a published bibliography of the black press in the United States and "Perspectives of the Black Press: 1974," a collection of essays and reflections that La Brie edited and to which he contributed multiple pieces.

Access and Use
Access: Open, unless otherwise noted at interview-level catalog record.

Provenance
Henry G. LaBrie III gift, 1975
Henry G. "Hanx" LaBrie conducted the collection's ninety-three interviews from 1971-1972 to support his doctoral research at the University of Iowa. In 1975, he donated the Interviews to Columbia University's Oral History Research Office. The donation
Thank You!

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