Listing Article Authors in Frontend Pages

Hi guys,

I just implemented a new template tag for listing article authors, i will document it properly but as we are quite busy at this point and need to take care of some other stuff i am gonna tell you quickly how it works:

{{ list_article_authors order="byfirstname asc" }}

- {{ $gimme->author->name }} // this prints author's full name
- {{ $gimme->author->first_name }}
- {{ $gimme->author->last_name }}
- {{ $gimme->author->type }} // author type (author, photographer, etc)

(order might be "byfirstname" or "bylastname"

there's also available

- {{ $gimme->article->author }} which returns the first author from the authors list for the current article: use author attributes to display the author data: {{ $gimme->article->author->first_name }}

- {{ $gimme->article->authors }} is an array of $gimme->author objects and can be used in different ways as list_article_authors, as it can be handle by any smarty function basically

that's all... very simple, it will be extended in the next release and we will also provide {{ list_authors }} so that you can create something like a page of authors independent from articles, and also list articles per author using that same list.

Best,

> a) the author picture? how do we get that?
> b) can we scale the author picture?

{{ list_article_authors }}

- {{ $gimme->author->picture->imageurl }}

{{ /list_article_authors }}

$gimme->author->picture is an image object, so it can be used as a regular image like in {{ $gimme->image->[property] }}

... as such it can be scaled of course as any other image.

> c) order bytype would also be helpful

... not implemented yet...

> d) and/or: $gimme->author->text (for writers?) $gimme->author->image > (for photographers?) does that make sense?

it makes sense as they are author types... plus, and most important, we couldn't provide something like:

- $gimme->photographer->name
- $gimme->write->email

as at any moment in the admin interface those author types can be removed... and then the templates would be obsolete.

some new stuff::

{{ list_article_authors }}

- {{ $gimme->author->biography->text }}

{{ /list_article_authors }}

biography is an object... and it contains:

text
first_name
last_name
name
this is because of the localization... Author biography can be localized into any of the languages available for the article and so do the first name and last name. name behaves same as in {{ $gimme->author->name }} which is displaying the full name.

Specifications

Almost ten years ago, when we were drafting the concept of Newscoop, we've operated under the premise that each author will post her own article. Time has proven us wrong, and while Newscoop web developers have found ways around this shortcoming (e.g. with authors as dropdown topics) which hampered advanced search, list article by author or author related statistics, now is the time to fix it.

-We will thus implement the following in the 3.2 release:

1. A static Author field (static as in Article Name) for each article.
2. The field will be editable and will be filled in by default with the article owner's name (taken from registered staff users).
3. There will be a type-ahead feature that will compare the typed-in text with the registered staff users and a list of previously entered authors. The idea is that a publication would not end with three authors out of one, e.g. someone could enter Sava R. Tatic, Sava Tati, or Sava Tatic, whereas the publication's standard is Sava Tati.
4. The priority for type-ahead search would thus be: 1. registered users, 2. Authors' table, which is generated on the fly, as the publication evolves. --- (Implemented in 3.2)

In 3.4.x or later we should implement the following:

1. Admin interface part for administering the Authors table (#2774)
2. List of Authors: pagination, search, add, delete, edit (by clicking on author name)
3. Author Profile page:
   - First Name, Last Name, alias(es?)
   - Type (e.g. writer, photographer, blogger, video producer, wire service/external source): ideally make it flexible
   - Contacts (allow one of the e-mail addresses to be used for easy mailto)
   - otherwise to be used in a future commissioning component
   - photo
   - biography (solve multilinguality in the standard Newscoop way?).
4. Ability to switch between type-ahead and a dropdown (or ajax popup with authors), or limit typeahead only to the approved Authors table (I guess we should add a user right to control who has the right to manipulate the authors table). The purpose of this would be greater editorial discipline and control.
5. Customizable type-ahead priority (in system settings? We'll be using type-ahead for topics, more on that on a separate page)
6. Display author name in all article lists (alongside with creator or toggle creator/author?)
7. Author-related stats (how many articles/photos/items, how many reads, how many words published? etc.)
8. API for modules and external applications for estimating cost of an author's copy (e.g. rate per word times number of words, and sum of all)

Issues to be resolved:

1. Multiple authors:
   - how to list articles and other content by individual authors
   - and how to enter multiple authors (we have only one entry field) on the Article Edit page