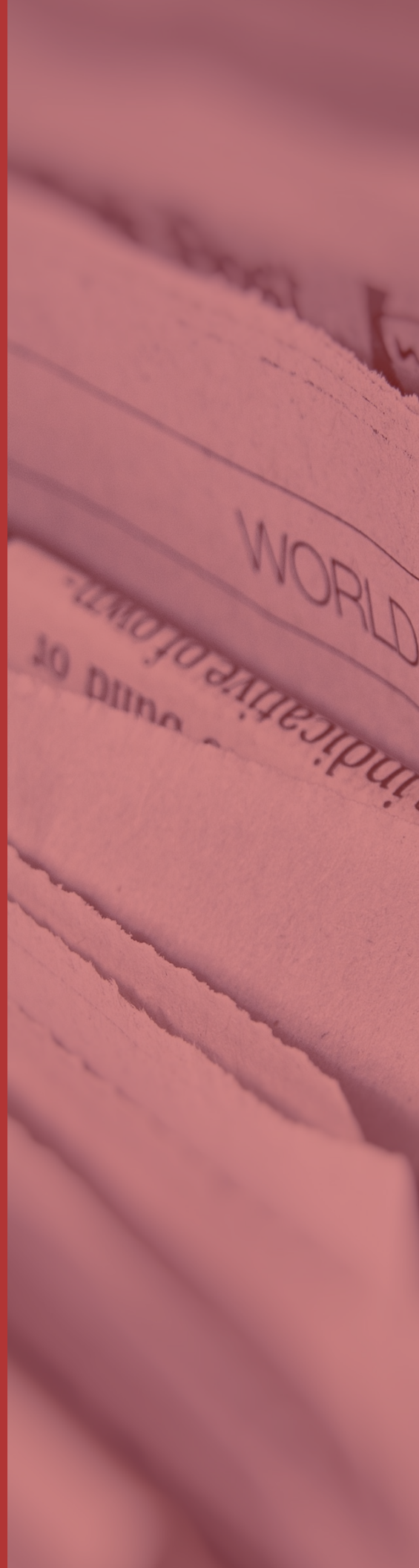
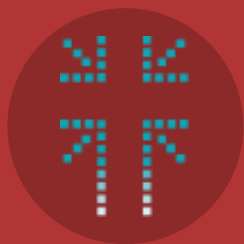


# Annual Report 2019–2020

**Catholic Research  
Resources Alliance**





Providing enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas.

## Message from the Chair

Despite the many challenges we've faced this past year, as the Board Chair, it is my great honor and pleasure to highlight all that CRRA has done and is currently doing, recognizing that almost all of our successes have been the result of collaborations accomplished remotely. We are scattered across the country yet we come together to achieve so much.

The Board is continuing to work through our strategic objectives to make sure we keep growing and evolving, particularly looking at our leadership structure and the roles we play. And along the way, we are taking a deep dive into our financial picture to help secure the stable resources we need to continue to build CRRA and support our projects that make a difference in the work of so many scholars.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing support of CRRA and your commitment to our mission!

**MARK E. SHELTON, MLS, ED.D.**

*Director of Library Services, College of the Holy Cross*

# CRRA by the Numbers



**USE**



**16,011**

**CATHOLIC NEWS ARCHIVE  
USERS IN Q1 2020**

**11,134**

**TOTAL SITE VISITS TO  
CRRA.ORG AND CATHOLIC  
PORTAL IN Q1 2020**

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

**50**

**MEMBER  
INSTITUTIONS**

**132**

**VOLUNTEERS**



**34**

**CATHOLIC PORTAL  
CONTRIBUTORS**

**17**

**RESOURCE  
SHARING  
PARTICIPANTS**

## COLLABORATION

25 Digitizing Partners  
10 Grant & Partner Projects  
9 Digital Exhibits  
27 Subject Guides



# Board Accomplishments

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall direction and administration of CRRA. The Board ensures the mission is maintained and approves strategic directions, annual goals, and budget. The Board determines the needs of CRRA, establishes the criteria, rights, and responsibilities of members, partners, and other participants, and ensures support sufficient to carry out the mission.*



**2019/20 Board Chair**  
**Mark Shelton, Ed.D.**  
Director of Library Services  
College of the Holy Cross

### **CRRA Board of Directors 2019-20 Accomplishments**

- Created a multi-scenario dues restructuring plan to ensure the financial viability and growth of CRRA and the Catholic News Archive (CNA). This plan was tabled due to the pandemic. The Board decided to hold dues flat for 2020-21.
- Developed a plan for grant writing to provide agencies with a clearer perspective on the progress of the organization and its ability to steward its financial resources.
- Worked on designing and implementing plans for business continuity including evaluating roles and responsibilities across CRRA and aligning needs based on goals and objectives.
- Assessed CNA archiving and publishing fees as part of broader efforts to identify and pilot projects that showcase how the CNA can add revenues while supporting members and can serve as a better option for digitizing and archiving Catholic newspapers than commercial entities.
- Increased engagement by identifying more volunteer opportunities that can enhance leadership within CRRA and by expanding our collaboration and partnership opportunities with organizations with shared interests and goals.



# Committee Accomplishments

## COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

*The Collections Committee determines the scope and content to be accessible on or via the Catholic Portal and authors the CRRRA Collection Development Policy.*



### CRRRA Collections Committee 2019-20 Accomplishments

- Gave input on qualifications needed by a new Portal administrator recruited in spring 2020.
- Initiated collection policy update to add metadata records from non-members to the Portal by approving a pilot project with Claretian Missionaries. Met with archivists from religious orders to find out how we can help them use and add materials to the Portal more easily.
- Discussed ideas for cooperative digitization of resources among member institutions. Suggested ideas include newspapers, pamphlets, institutional records.
- Provided updates to the Digital Catholica research guide and CRRRA website to enhance discovery of CRRRA members' digital collections.

**Committee Chair  
Stephanie Shreffler**  
Collections Librarian/Archivist  
and Associate Professor  
University of Dayton



## DIGITAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

*The Digital Access Committee (DAC) identifies metadata guidelines, best practices, and protocols for making metadata and content accessible via the Catholic Portal.*



### CRRRA Digital Access Committee 2019-20 Accomplishments

- Helped plan and implement the Catholic Portal's hosting transition to CRRRA's new service provider, Andornot.
- Continued to support full-text content from CRRRA members through the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting and through external references in MARC records.
- As part of the transition to Andornot, DAC corrected problems with CRRRA metadata and, with the latest version of VuFind, improved searchability.
- Upgraded the Portal to the current version of VuFind, with its improved interface features.
- With Andornot we developed a system that allows CRRRA members to upload their metadata easily and efficiently.
- In response to feedback from users, we improved the presentation of search results and recommended changes, which were implemented, to the CRRRA homepage.

**Committee Chair  
Wm Kevin Cawley**  
Archivist & Curator of  
Manuscripts (retired)  
University of Notre Dame

# Committee Accomplishments

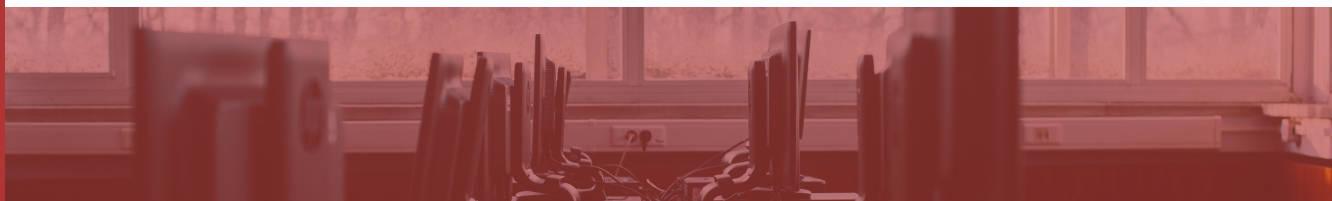
## LIAISONS COUNCIL

*The CRRA Member Liaisons serve as the point of contact for individuals at both the member and partner institutions and for CRRA. The primary role of the Liaison is to serve as the communication link between the member institution and CRRA. The Liaison acts as the local clearinghouse for CRRA information, vetting questions and disseminating information from the member institution to CRRA and from CRRA to the institution.*



### CRRA Liaisons Council 2019-20 Accomplishments

- Continued to facilitate critical communications between CRRA and its members, as well as between and among CRRA members.
- Provided access to the Catholic News Archive from member institutions' websites as one of the databases available to students. The usage statistics showed us these website referrals result in more use.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*The Membership Committee is advisory to the Board. Its major objectives are to articulate the values of membership as well as grow and support the membership.*



### CRRA Membership Committee 2019-20 Accomplishments

- Revised the Statement of Membership (replacing the Principles of Membership and Principles of Partnership).
- Revised the Membership application form.
- Discussed the value of joining CRRA and what it means for members.
- Discussed and recommended CRRA develop a ROI statement for current and potential members to demonstrate value.
- Explored and discussed what non-members want, barriers to membership in CRRA, and possibilities for reducing such barriers.
- Discussed and recommended Membership Fee restructuring to CRRA Board.

**Committee Chair**  
**Kris Veldheer**

Director, Paul Bechtold Library  
Catholic Theological Union

# Committee Accomplishments

## NEWSPAPERS COMMITTEE & DIGITIZING PARTNERS FORUM

*The Newspapers Committee is charged with establishing a program that will identify, locate, document, preserve and digitize North American Catholic newspapers, working systematically and collaboratively with CRRRA members, digitizing partners, scholars, and other associations. The Digitizing Partners Forum provides critical input and support concerning the active digitization of papers of interest.*



**Committee Chair  
Darren G. Poley**

Librarian and  
Associate Director of  
Research Services and  
Scholarly Engagement  
Villanova University

### CRRRA Newspapers Committee & Digitizing Partners Forum

#### 2019-20 Accomplishments

- Reached a new milestone of half a million pages in the Catholic News Archive.
- Revised and updated the “Catholic Newspapers Program” section of the CRRRA website.
- Supported the pilot project on developing partnerships between CRRRA and individual digitizing partners to develop and submit digitization grant proposals.
- Initiated work with the EBSCO, ProQuest and OCLC technical contacts on sending sample CNA metadata records. Once the process is established, all metadata records will be loaded and available in the vendors’ discovery services.
- Provided feedback on the positioning platform developed from the spring 2019 focus group interviews with non-member archivists and librarians at Catholic academic libraries and diocesan archives.
- Successfully promoted the Catholic News Archive in multiple newsletters, blogs, meetings and presentations.
- Set up a template for a teaching guide and learning modules. Advised a graduate student on design and completion of a teaching guide to the *Catholic Worker* newspaper now available in CRRRA guides online.



# Committee Accomplishments

## REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL

*The primary responsibilities of the CRRA Representatives are to:*

- *Know about CRRA's vision, mission, strategic directions and activities.*
- *Vote on issues submitted to the membership by the Board.*
- *Affirm membership in response to annual membership renewal letter.*
- *Appoint a CRRA member liaison and ensure support for participation.*



### **CRRA Representatives Council 2019-20 Accomplishments**

Information-sharing and collaboration are in our DNA, and CRRA's community of representatives are a great resource for our members! For example:

- Steve Connaghan, Catholic University, sent word of our successful grant proposal for digitizing more years from their newspaper holdings.
- Theresa Byrd, University of San Diego, invited all to attend the USD Digital Initiatives Symposium, although it was ultimately cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Kathy Webb, University of Dayton and chair of the Governance Committee, invited everyone to consider volunteering for Board service. Many thanks go to Xan Arch, University of Portland, for stepping forward.



## SCHOLARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*The Scholars Advisory Committee is comprised of scholars and researchers who advise on areas of content and collections that best serve the needs of scholars active in Catholic scholarly research. Its goals are to:*

- *Advise CRRA on Catholic resources of high scholarly value.*
- *Identify strategies for reaching out to scholars on the availability of CRRA tools and resources.*
- *Provide feedback on the Catholic Portal and the Catholic News Archive.*



**Committee Chair  
Jean McManus**

Catholic Studies Librarian  
University of Notre Dame

### **CRRA Scholars Advisory Committee 2019-20 Accomplishments**

- Provided input on the importance of the rich and unique materials held by religious congregations, institutional leadership, and identified conferences relevant to women religious history.
- Provided input on the 2020-21 annual meeting.
- Initiated the development and submission of a successful proposal to digitize more years of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic newspaper, funded by the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.
- Proposed seeking a grant to digitize the Notre Dame collection of American Catholic German language newspapers in 2021.