CRRA Board Agenda

DATE: October 9, 2008

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 EDT

1. Welcome, agenda review

2. Discussion question: Do we want to build the Catholic Portal using software coming from the VUFind open source initiative being led by Villianova University Library?
Desired outcome: Board consensus on use of VUFind for the Catholic Portal

3. Do we want to invite Villanova to be member of the CRRA? If so, what level of participation in governance would we want to invite?
Desired outcomes: Board consensus on inviting Villanova University Library to join the CRRA. Board discussion to identify next considerations vis a vis participation in governance.

4. Updates and announcements

5. Confirm next conference call meeting: Thursday, Nov. 13, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT .

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BACKGROUND FOR ITEMS 2 & 3

1. Do we want to build the Catholic Portal using software coming from the VUFind open source initiative being led by Villianova University Library?
   - The primary participant would be Eric Morgan as the current Portal programmer

- Using VUFind means using the VUFind software for the discovery functions (next generation catalog software) in the Catholic portal
- Not a partnership – this is participation in the VUFind open source initiative
- The Portal needs software. We don't have funds to purchase a commerical product such as Encore or Primo.

Implications of using the VUFind open source program for the Portal

- Evolution of the software in VUFind over time will enhance the Portal operations
- Collaborative opportunities for Eric in using the VUFind. There is a transfer of knowledge to/from and Eric/we would gain.
- Eric can do this but with VUFind, we would have more ability to direct a little more of Eric's work into specific enhancements desired by the Portal, which could includes enhancements to the indexing and/or database program. Basically we would gain capactiy - Eric is using an index tool called Kino Search, VU Find uses Lycene
- No official commitment or requirements to "sign on" to VUFind. If we decided to opt out and use something else, we could do that.

2. Do we want to invite Villanova to be member of the CRRA? If so, what level of participation in governance would we want to invite?
Desired outcomes: Board consensus on inviting Villanova University Library to join the CRRA. Board discussion to identify next considerations vis a vis participation in governance.

Why a question now? VU Library is a Catholic university and wants to make their Catholic research resources accessible. VU Library has been observing this project and interested in the past in assisting. The possible use of VUFind by the Portal has rekindled interest.
Implications:
   a. Additional financial and moral support
   b. Might open the door to other requests sooner rather than later
   c. Potentially, more technical knowledge and support
   d. Villanova might be an advocate for more full text on/via the Portal
   e. What kind of governance or participation would we offer in the CRRA?

a. Board and/or other committees? Other committees only?
b. How would we respond to a request to be on the Board?
c. Board would become larger – is there an optimum size?