

CRRA Board Agenda
Monday, March 23, 2009

1. Welcome, review of agenda
 2. Approve agenda minutes for February 12, 2009
 3. Discussion about creating strategic goals and objectives, determine next steps
 4. Review of membership dues proposal
 5. Discuss request from Catholic Peacebuilding Network participants at Notre Dame for collaboration (<http://cpn.nd.edu/>)
 6. Update on Team Catholic Portal work and implementation of VuFind, particularly the implications for portal functionality, structure, etc.
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CRRA Board Agenda and Minutes
Monday, March 23, 2009
Compiled by Jennifer Younger
April 6, 2009

Members present: Ed Starkey, Tom Wall, Janice Welburn, Jennifer Younger

1. Welcome, review of agenda
2. Approve agenda minutes for February 12, 2009
The minutes were approved. After the vote was taken, the four members discussed whether a quorum was needed for an official vote. All agreed that once the question is raised, a quorum is needed. According to the Bylaws, a quorum is a simple majority. The Board has 10 members. A quorum requires six. For future minutes, we agreed the minutes should record who is present. Also, we agreed to incorporate the minutes into the meeting agenda to create a single document with the meeting agenda and minutes. Also, the meeting agendas and, subsequently, the meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the web site under Board documents.
3. Discussion about creating strategic goals and objectives; determine next steps
Only a couple of suggestions have been sent. Jennifer agreed to put the very preliminary strategic objectives coming from Team Catholic Portal and invite other CRRA participants to add, revise, etc. This will give a head start for the July meeting in Chicago.
4. Review of membership dues proposal
The proposal is from Artemis, Kim, and Kelley and previous discussion is in the 2-12-09 Board Agenda and Minutes. We discussed whether all participants have to be members and the options of one or two membership categories.
The following observations were made:
 - The bylaws permit two categories of membership: full and limited.
 - Membership responsibilities include contributing content, paying fees to sustain the CRRA and the Portal, and participating in governance (full only).

- A sliding fee scale is capacity-based. It could allow some to pay more than \$4,000 while others might pay less than \$2,000. This flexibility could lead to more affordability. A tiered approach with multiple levels of fees might be easier than a sliding scale but retain the advantages of a sliding scale.
- Others would still prefer one membership category with governance for all.
- Limited members could be defined as “content contributors” who would agree to certain obligations in maintaining their data and pay an affordable fee (tiered? nominal ? none in hardship cases?) for “participating.”
- All participants – including content contributors – should pay something.
The need for sustainability is recognized as is the concept that all participants should pay something. What can the CRRA/Catholic Portal do in enabling smaller entities with few financial resources but with unique and important content to participate?
- The CRRA mission is to benefit Catholic researchers everywhere. Take a page from the publishers: identify big, medium, small, or gold, silver, bronze, etc. to create a tiered approach for membership and dues.
- We need to decide in the near future so as to be able to offer membership to Villanova.

5. Discuss request from Catholic Peacebuilding Network participants at Notre Dame for collaboration (<http://cpn.nd.edu/>)

Jennifer referred the Board to the background on the CPN and the discussion points for the Board (at the end of the agenda). See especially “implications for the Catholic Portal.” First, Board approval of adding a peacebuilding theme with terminology to be determined by the CRRA Collections Committee. Second, Board discussion and approval (she hopes) of the request for the ND librarians to work with CPN faculty at ND to develop a funding proposal under the auspices of the CRRA, which would then need the approval of the Board.

Ed noted that peacebuilding has long been a general field of Catholic studies and is now a growing phenomenon. Janice noted that there is a Center for Peacemaking at Marquette and she would like, at an appropriate time, to initiate contact with it. We all agreed that adding the concept of “peacebuilding” is appropriate.

1) We agreed it is good to pursue a funding opportunity with the CPN at ND to seek funds for the research and staff work needed to develop the Portal's peacebuilding site. For the CRRA, our interest would likely be in developing the means to provide access to these resources on peacebuilding. It would be possible to do this with the CPN peacebuilding materials as a separate database accessed via the Portal with the CPN taking the lead role on developing their content. Our involvement with the CPN would broaden the scope of the Portal. Tom noted that while philosophically, working with the CPN is very sound, that we will have to ensure this work fits into the Portal, e.g., direct access to the documents or to the metadata records, to be sure we know what people are finding so we will add value to our efforts. Everyone agreed this is an exciting opportunity and we should pursue it, being careful in the process to ensure it fits appropriately into the Portal.

6. Update on Team Catholic Portal work and implementation of VuFind, particularly the implications for portal functionality, structure, etc.

By the end of Spring, Eric Morgan hopes to have VUFind up and running. This means ingesting MARC records, ingesting EAD files, and giving it the look & feel of the catholicresearch.net site. More specifically, he has been able to index four different (yet similar) sets of files:

1. 4582 MARC records from the Notre Dame catalog
2. 1005 MARC records from the Marquette catalog
3. 12 EAD files from Notre Dame turned into MARC records
4. 6 EAD files from Marquette turned into MARC records

He is well on his way to accomplishing this goal of a spring implementation. You can read more at: <http://zoia.library.nd.edu/vufind/>

Please keep in mind as you look at this site, that this is a test site. It is not the site that we see in logging into www.catholicresearch.net

New business

New topic for April – Planning for July meeting in Chicago.

Meet at downtown Loyola campus or in Evanston? Items for Agendas? Etc.

Update on Team Catholic Portal work and implementation of VuFind, particularly the implications for portal functionality, structure, etc.

Background information on agenda item 5:

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) exists as a cooperative entity involving several of our institutions – Georgetown (Tom Banchoff, Berkley Center), San Diego (Fr. William Headley, Peace Studies Institute) and Notre Dame. The CPN was developed over two years, starting in 2002, through a series of consultations spearheaded by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Relief Services, with the active involvement of Maryknoll, the Office of International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Center for International Social Development at the Catholic University of America, and the Sant' Egidio Community in the United States. While originating within the United States, the CPN is networking and collaborating with Catholic peacebuilders around the world.

The CPN is coordinated by the Kroc Institute which is at Notre Dame. Its work is guided by a steering committee of a dozen members. The ND faculty participants have taken responsibility for creating & maintaining the CPN site. They have also approached our Peace Studies Librarian with a request to work with them on advancing a database in support of peace studies. While their overall objectives are slightly different from those of the CRRA and the Catholic Research Portal, there is also some clear similarity in making Catholic resources and expertise known and accessible.

In regard to the CPN website, this is what they would like to do with the involvement of other CPN participants. They see two related efforts for the CPN site:

1. Developing a proposed peacebuilding site of openly accessible resources, which they would then like to make accessible via the Catholic Research Portal. Originally, the CPN faculty thought they would develop their own portal for access, but they would like to work with us. This portal would make a wide variety of non-copyrighted materials on Catholic peacebuilding available to anyone with internet access. The CPN website would be linked to this portal.

2. Developing an E-Library on Catholic peacebuilding designed for university library search engines. The E-Library would make it easier for faculty and students to find and use copyrighted materials that are available on the various academic search engines. Once it is developed, it could be shared with other interested university libraries.

What are some of the implications for the Catholic Research Portal and the CRRA?

We would need to add a “Peacebuilding” theme to the Portal. I asked Alan Krieger who indicated such a theme would be a good addition. He also thinks there was some discussion about such a theme earlier although under different terminology.

1. If a peacebuilding theme (under this or other wording) can be added to the Catholic Research Portal, then the CPN would propose submitting a joint grant request, under the auspices of CPN and CRRA, that would fund the research and staff work needed to develop the Portal's peacebuilding site. We assume that each entity involved would have a role based on their existing strengths and interests.

For the CRRA, our interest would likely be in developing the means to provide access to these resources on peacebuilding. It would be possible to do this with the CPN peacebuilding materials as a separate database accessed via the Portal. At Notre Dame, we – meaning the Hesburgh Libraries – have said we are prepared to provide the technical support needed to develop access to the peacebuilding content through the Portal. It would be up to the CPN to develop the content to be accessed via the Portal.

2. Then, there is the question of what they envision for an E-Library, which they would like to develop with collection development librarians at Notre Dame and other interested university libraries. This might or might not need to be a formal CRRA effort – perhaps it is a smaller group, a subset of libraries and librarians working with the CPN faculty.

I am bringing this to the CRRA Board for discussion. This represents a new opportunity which is in the early stages of discussion among CPN participants and ND librarians, including Team Catholic Portal. The CPN faculty at ND think the Portal seems to be the best way to offer an easily-accessible, substantive internet site on Catholic peacebuilding. We have discussed this in our Team Catholic Portal meetings at ND. While we certainly don't have all of the answers as to how this all would work, we believe there would be positive synergies in working with them.

What would I like to see from the Board meeting? First, Approval of adding a peacebuilding theme with terminology to be determined by the CRRA Collections Committee. Second, discussion and approval (or not) of the request for the ND librarians to work with CPN faculty at ND to develop a funding proposal, which if to be done officially under the auspices of CRRA, needs the approval of the Board.