

CRRA Collections Committee
Feb. 22, 2012

Agenda and Minutes

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 216 605 75

Host code (Diane): 216 794 44

Documents

1. Discuss April 2012-August / Schedule for Articles for CRRA Update
<https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/Collections%20Committee/Schedule%20for%20Articles%20on%20Portal%20Collections%20for%20the%20CRRA%20Newsletter.pdf> (login: **catholic**; password: **portal**)
2. Review the committee's "communications" document which gives you call-in info, the listserv address and archive, and more. Might be worth having another look at:
https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/Collections%20Committee/Communications_Collections.pdf login: **catholic**; password: **portal**
3. **Discuss Five Year Strategic Plan draft. See the draft plan in the Feb Update at:**
<http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/Updates/CRRA%20Update%20Feb%202012.pdf>

Minutes

Welcomed Shawn Weldon from Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center (PAHRC). They have a large newspaper repository, entire US, English and Irish titles. Also pamphlets. Uses PastPerfect for describing materials. Looking for greater involvement in CRRA Newspaper initiative.

PL will bring him forward to the Newspaper TF as a participant.

- **Review the committee's "communications" document which gives you call-in info, the listserv address and archive, and more.**

Diane reviewed the communications page for the CC.

- **Discuss April 2012-August / Schedule for Articles for CRRA Update**

Update articles: PL described the scope of the articles, highlighting a collection or part of a collection, rather than the entire institution. Diane asked for volunteers. Shawn offered to do something on the newspaper collection at PAHRC for April, and will do lithographs collection at a later date. Update can include visuals. Emily from St. Catherine's will also do one for May. [The Updated schedule is available in the [Collections folder](#) in the CRRA Admin area.]

Washington Adventist U is sponsoring an event on David Jones. CRRA can also include notices about this type of event in the *Update*.

Shawn: Is there a place on the CRRRA website to put up announcements? PL said that with the next iteration of portal, there may be a way for people to do this themselves. Diane suggested that CRRRA do a page. PL has added to the website to-do list.

- **Discuss Five Year Strategic Plan draft**

3.3 Virtual collections—AK we can identify collections, but how do we make it happen, especially for institutions that may not have digitizing resources?

3.5 place greater emphasis on unique items and collections. Perhaps a cut-off date is best? Larger groups do cut-off dates. Larger institutions have an easy time. It needs to be easy to contribute.

PL there may be regional nodes to help smaller places do digitization. The goal for digital content is important but finding aids are a great place to start. AK—we still need to encourage metadata. Shawn: Brian Gomez at PastPerfect is working with Eric to convert records. Archives do not use bib databases. Have exported 2,000 records so far, but there are problems. Many places cannot afford to digitize. Many cooperate with Villanova; create agreements with repositories to do their records. Wants CRRRA to be a vehicle to help institutions collaborate on group grants. CARLI has an avenue to do this.

Diane: let's research the available avenues to digitize and catalog materials that are not listed in WorldCat.

Intersection between need for metadata and image comes up especially in area of ephemera, things that don't respond well to traditional cataloging but do respond to other ways of arrangement and discovery. Make the digitization the cataloging; may be an approach that would attract grant funding. Ephemera such as programs from events, tickets, bulletins.

In a discussion of resources to emphasize for inclusion in the portal (in order to help members focus), JB suggested including ephemera – prayer cards, postcards, playbills, etc. These are items that don't catalog well and are significant.

AK: archives have content that is of interest to scholars and unique to the institution. Will be helpful to at least put up finding aids to these materials.

Diane suggested we include a "resource page" describing ongoing projects so members could piggyback on existing foci, such as Catholic pamphlets, Catholic social action, to name two. This is something we can easily add to the new website interface, if and when we migrate to Concrete5.

Is CRRRA still focusing on themes? AK: the themes are meant as points of emphasis, as guidance, but not prescriptive.

Shawn: What is CRRRA policy for smaller institutions? What about high schools? hospitals? Religious order archives?

PL: there are 244 Catholic colleges and universities in the US. Smaller places are where the hidden collections are, so they are very important to CRRRA.

AK: To the board—digitized content is nice, but submission of metadata is what should be encouraged as a priority.

Group agreed that submitting records is top priority.