



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

CRRA Collections Committee

Agenda and Minutes for:

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2011 1:00 PM-2:00 PM. (UTC-06:00) Central Time

Agenda

Present: Matt Blessing (Chair), John Buchtel, Alan Krieger, Diane Maher, Noel McFerran, Jean McManus, Lorraine Olley, Pat Lawton, Jennifer Younger

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for our conference call will be straightforward:

1. I've asked CRRA executive director Jennifer Younger to participate in the conference call and review plans for a Catholic newspaper digitization project (item 1.4 in the CRRA strategic plan.) Q & A. 20 minutes.
2. I'd ask that you review the updated CRRA Strategic Plan, concentrating on the goals for 2011-2012 (in the middle column) that directly involve the Collections Committee. In particular, I'd like to discuss:
 - a. Establishing a schedule about collection articles within the CRRA's membership newsletter (item 1.3)
 - b. Discuss member needs for identifying, flagging, and submitting content to the Portal (item 1.2) 25-30 minutes.

Minutes

Matt welcomed members and asked them to briefly report on their portal collections.

DM: USD Special Collections have been researching the number of holdings at other institutions for our collection of rare books (classified BR-BX) to determine which records we should be contributing to the portal. The first phase is finished—checking OCLC for the particular bibliographic record that we used. We are now checking to see if there are multiple bibliographic records for the same work (which would increase the number of holdings and probably disqualify the work for inclusion).

NM: UT is working with Internet Archive and contributing pre-1923 philosophy and theology.

LO: USMLS is the Roman Catholic Seminary for the Chicago Archdiocese. In the queue is a link to the archive of the 1926 Eucharistic Congress (Chicago) with many photos, also 17th and 18th century sacred letters including letters of Saints.

AK: ND has contributed rare books and archival finding aids and are in process of digitizing Catholic pamphlets.

JM: ND is conducting a pilot project to digitize Catholic pamphlets. ND has about ~5,000 pamphlets and of those, about 3,400 are in the public domain. We are continuing to check copyright, and tracking steps involved in the workflow to make them available locally and in portal.

MB: Marquette has approximately 9,000 bib records in the portal for various Catholic materials in Special Collections, including Catholic social action books, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker manuscript collection, Hopkins, Tolkien, Joyce. We have a grant to create catalog records for 800 audio recordings in the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker archives, have reformatted and are creating 65 EAD records.

JB: Georgetown has EADs for John Thatcher Collection of Women Saints; nearly finished with data migration from a DOS-based application of manuscript descriptions into Archivist's Toolkit.

1. Review plans for a Catholic newspaper digitization project (item 1.4 in the CRRA strategic plan.)

Pat provided an [overview of the project](#) and invited member discussion.

MB: supports the idea of the task force, suggesting there are collections committee members who have an awareness of funding agencies and grant support.

JY: indicated that Terry Ehling, the CRRA Consultant had advised us of the opportunity to submit a prospectus to Mellon.

JY: explained the timeline with Mellon: Mellon would indicate a response within a couple of months, and ask for us to develop a full proposal. [Terry has indicated, too, that if Mellon asks for a proposal, this pretty much means they will fund the project.] We would need other targets if Mellon says no. Jennifer indicated that Mellon was identified as having funded similar projects. [Please see: <http://www.acaweb.org/about/history/>, <http://www.cjh.org/>].

MB: asked about the 2-3 page prospectus. Jennifer replied that it would be brief and would include the value proposition, overview of scope, and back-of-envelope budget. When asked for a fuller proposal, we would include details on the how.

In regards to the digitizing: Noel asked about the indexing, noting that it is more difficult with

journals and newspapers; a humongous amount of metadata must be created. It is a huge project, even for a single newspaper it is a huge project.

JY: No answer at this moment, something to explore in terms of scope. As you indicate, this is huge. Need to determine what exists where and in digital content, then set priorities.

LO: was on the editorial board of the CPLI, CPLI something to consider. There is another proposed project looking to convert CPLI pre-1981 to digital format.

JY: CLA Board has asked CRRA to make CPLI pre-1981 accessible; Demian Katz (DAC chair, VU) is pursuing. We need to bring this back to committees to discuss whether and how to proceed.

MB: looking at 1.1 on the strategic plan, see lots of overlap but could include Catholic newspapers. There have been no conversations about Catholic serials to date. With so many new members that may not have books but Catholic newspapers/serials to contribute. Perhaps this year we could direct more attention to Catholic newspaper collections?

DM Glad to see this proposal, we have Southern Cross, a diocesan paper; we would like to start working with the San Diego diocese to get this digitized.

JB: pre-1876 American Antiquarian Society worked with Proquest. For that that period, look there. If we see gaps, get their advice.

AK: It's a political issue - at some point, do we approach publishers? Is this part of the plan?

JY: Right on target, copyright is an issue in digitizing. It is a process of determining where, how and opportunities. What's been done is very important. To what extent have Catholic newspapers been included? Look at state and region too.

JM: In checking the title list of 19th c. newspaper collection, did not find a lot. Not sure if it included biggies like Boston Pilot, need fuller assessment of those collections. Scholars cited interested in geographic coverage, with major national or regional papers to start. This may have been done in major collections.

MB: Back to metadata issues—Noel's comments on the complexity of metadata for newspapers are very important. Boston Pilot might be too daunting. Marquette has three years of the Chicago Catholic Worker (newspaper only ran three years. We may want to conduct the environmental scan with eye toward the unique that have not been touched.

JY: Rob Behary at Duquesne University received an LSTA grant to do Pittsburgh Catholic through 1900 (avoids copyright issues). Cait Kokolus is working with Demian and Darren at Villanova to do Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

NM: At Toronto, we are talking with Toronto Catholic, a major newspaper.

DM: Include members or beyond? Orders would have interesting newsletters, newspapers etc.

JY: Collaborating with CLA, ATLA, have person on Task Force. ATLA has significant microfilm collections, have not talked about orders.

MB: Motion to approve memoranda of Sept. 5 "[Proposal to establish a task force to develop a project in support of CRRA 2011/2011 goal 1.4](#)" comprised of at least one member of collections and reaching out to CLA and ATLA.

The motion passed.

JY: Asked members to send nominations to Pat, Jennifer, or Collections Committee.

2. a. Establishing a schedule about collection articles within the CRRA's membership newsletter (item 1.3)

1.3. Increase member awareness of collection scope and themes. Include 3-4 paragraphs about collections in the CRRA monthly newsletter.

MB: CRRA has Hopkins collection, Dorothy Day. This is an opportunity to educate new members about CRRA collection strengths and why materials were added to the portal.

Propose to schedule for next 5-6 months, and people can plan schedules around that.

JM: Considered big genres for digitization – Catholic pamphlets, parish histories, newspapers, can talk about that process and review.

MB: Asked Pat about the timeframe.

PL: Would like articles the 15th of the month.

The following schedule was outlined:

October 2011 – UND's Catholic pamphlets

November 2011 – Marquette's Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker recordings, CLIR grant, collaboration

December 2011 – Georgetown's Lives of Women Saints Collection

January 2012 – Matt will ask Bob O’Neill at BC about a topic of his choice

February 2012 – University of San Diego’s Thomas More collection

March 2012 – Marquette’s Tolkien collection (describing both the collection and as a way to explain that there can be unique collections containing items that are not rare or unique)

MB: Are there days of the week to avoid for future scheduling?

LO: Tuesday impossible, Friday morning no good. Other members concurred.