

CRRA Collections Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010 at 1:00pm EDT, 12:00 CST

Present: Emily Asch, Matt Blessing, John Buchtel, Alan DeLozier, Alan Krieger, Jean McManus, Bob O'Neill (Chair), Pat Lawton

Agenda and Minutes

1. Review Topics 1 and 2 (stated below) of the CRRA Plan Draft and discuss how to implement the stated goals.

1.1. Focus on three themes: Catholic social action, Catholic intellectual life, Women religious. Communicate to members that highlighting these themes is not prescriptive but suggestive. Encourage members to think about their own holdings in these areas and to add to the portal what they may have in these areas, thereby supporting the CRRA's goal to build collections.

Matt questioned the need to emphasize themes since it is now so simple for members to submit records to the portal and the "pilot" phase of ingesting records was past. John noted that in highlighting key themes each year, CRRA would move more closely toward the goal of exposing collections within the portal. Highlighting collections helps the portal to become something other than simply Worldcat for Catholic resources.

Focus on themes may help members to process in these areas and build portal collections. Themes are not meant to be limiting. Welcome content on all themes, year by year focus on one to three, with an emphasis on manuscripts.

Discussion shifted to the portal's emphasis on "Catholic." For example, if an institution has a collection of Maria Montessori works - is this Catholic enough? The Committee agreed that the contributing institution can best answer this. They welcome including anyone Catholic, whether faith was influential or not.

1.2. Investigate and evaluate appropriate method(s) for associating portal records with themes. Preliminarily, investigate three suggested approaches: 1) create dynamic links to records, 2) add themes to records, 3) designate editor(s) to assign themes. (Digital Access Committee, Collections Committee, Scholars Advisory, Pat, Eric) March 2011 Annual meeting

The Digital Access Committee will investigate methods to associate records with themes.

1.3. Create a demonstration digitization project in collaboration with a subset of members. Focus the project on resources relating to one of three themes (see 1.1.). (Collections Committee, Scholars Advisory, Working Group, Pat) March 2011 Annual meeting

Jean described a current project at Notre Dame to digitize late 19th, early 20th century Catholic pamphlets. Bob suggested that Boston could work with ND on this. The project will provide a

set of texts against which Eric may experiment with text mining and visualization techniques, such as graphs, timelines, etc.

2.1. Affirm focus on rare, unique and uncommon materials; communicate to members. Clarify Collection Policy and Metadata Guidelines to communicate effectively with current and prospective members. (Collections Committee, Digital Access, Metadata Guidelines Working Group, Pat) October 2010

The Committee affirmed the collecting focus and policy.

10-20 records in Worldcat was suggested as a measure for “uncommon.” Collections coming from “Special” Collections are decidedly uncommon.

2. Discuss "Making your content available in the Catholic portal (attached). This serves as a guide for new members to expose their records in the portal, and suggests a process for how content from the institution might be continually updated. How feasible might this be within your local institutions?"

The Committee would like to see one document for MARC and one for EAD, or separated out within the document.

3. Duquesne has a Spiritan collection <http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-spiritan/> which, as a collection, is rare and unique. The resources within the collection, however, are not necessarily rare and unique. With the CRRA's renewed emphasis on rare and unique, what is the committee's response?

If a resource is included in a collection and it is not rare, one suggestion is to assign a term to it. Add a note to the record indicating why the resource is there – point to the collection of which it is a part. Point from the item to the collection.