



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

CRRA Collections Committee

Agenda and Minutes for:

Thursday, October 20, 2011 1:00 PM-2:00 PM. (UTC-06:00) Central Time

Agenda

The agenda is based on objectives with the CRRA strategic plan that directly involve the Collections Committee:

1. Update on the Catholic newspaper digitization initiative
2. Strategic Plan Object 1.2. and 2.1. "Facilitate continual updating of member records and content."

Questions/Discussion/Sharing of Tips:

- How are things going in terms of identifying, flagging and submitting records and content to the Portal?
- Are you experiencing barriers to updating content within institutions and assist in problem-solving?
- Do we need to form a team to work with Pat and Eric to address submission guidelines (aka "the recipe")?

Lynn Whittenberger of Marquette's technical services staff will provide an informal overview of how she's handled "the recipe" for submitting content to the Portal. I hope others will be able to share their experiences and issues they've encountered, including tips for identifying content and technical issues that you've addressed.

Minutes

Present: Matt Blessing (chair), John Buchtel, Alan Krieger, Pat Lawton, Diane Maher, Lorraine Olley, Bob O'Neill, Lynn Whittenberger (guest, Marquette)

2. Strategic Plan Object 1.2. and 2.1. "Facilitate continual updating of member records and content."

Members discussed various approaches for adding content to the portal, from identification of content to copying it from the host catalog to the portal.

John: The only project we have for adding to portal from rare books is the Thatcher Collection. We don't check whether in the portal or in OCLC.

Bob: The majority could arguably go in portal. Our Jesuitica is 70,000 vols.

Matt: Marquette utilized sources such as Alfred Hamy's *Galerie Illustrée de la Compagnie de Jésus (Jesuit Portrait Gallery)* to identify Jesuits whose work would not fit into the BXs. Also went to Wikipedia and looked at "Catholic writers." Came up with 60+ authors whose works are represented in our modest rare book collection. s.

Also used Parson's *Early Catholic Americana* compiled at Georgetown, added "Parson's" to MARC record. Could find all those in that field and pull out all in Parson's.

GZQ for new requests, put "CRRA."

"The recipe" <http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/content.pdf> for adding content to the portal:

Lynn Whittenberger described how Marquette follows these directions.

Consistency in cataloging is helpful in initial harvesting. First, identified collections and call number ranges. Followed recommendation to flag as "CRRA." The directions asked to rebuild each time, it just replaces the previous batch. You must have a unique identifier field. Have note to myself to create a dummy ID if not there. Have had troubles with UTF-8. We use MARCedit after we harvest. Workflow is working well now.

Matt: Eric's original idea was for contributors to provide daily or weekly access to http. Marquette updates set of records less frequently. 200 additional "rare and unique" titles in the past three months.

Lorraine: Small library, no tech support so put the recipe aside, too confusing.

Pat: Explained that Pat and Eric work with new members to help them understand the process, they schedule a call when all can meet together to walk through and then provide follow-up support.

Duplicates? – Pat will talk to Demian to understand how VuFind handles duplicates. Currently, if two or more institutions own an item, it displays in the portal as a list. Is a collapsed display possible or in the works?

Diane: St. Thomas More Collection from USD has two records, one with scans, the other without. Pat suggests this is something to talk with Eric about, ideally this should be just one complete record.

Matt: Marquette places "CRRA" in the 599, This field is suppressed from public view, because for now it's meaningless to the user at MU.

The Collections Committee agreed that the directions needed to be more user-friendly, with the idea of mentoring for new members by collection or technical services librarians.

Pat reported that DAC is planning to revise the stylesheet for EAD. The first step is to communicate to members what the current portal stylesheet looks like, how it maps to EAD fields, and what is indexed. Will then solicit information from members about their EAD practices, and committee will then develop recommendations for a firm stylesheet.

Matt: Two things about EAD in the Portal. First, Marquette is intentionally delaying work on EADs as they await hard and fast directions on a uniform stylesheet. Second, the count of number of items in the portal may be somewhat misleading. Currently it counts all items in a finding aid as individual pieces so for example, a finding aid with collection level description and 3 folders is counted as 4 items. A large collection may contains several thousand folders/items.

The Collections Committee recommends that “the recipe” separate procedures for MARC and EAD into two separate but linked documents.

1. Update on the Catholic newspaper digitization initiative

Pat reported on the progress of the newspaper digitization initiative. The Task Force is chaired by Noel McFerran of St. Mike’s at the University of Toronto. For a list of members, please see: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/About/Contact>. CRRA members may also view meeting minutes in the CRRA Admin area:

<https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/Newspapers%20Task%20Force/>

Task Force members have met three times and have made key decisions on the scope and value proposition for the project.

The prospectus will describe a two-part project:

Part 1: Conduct an environmental scan and create an online directory: develops a product that will be helpful to scholars. Will also identify the location of already digitized papers.

- Include all North American newspapers, broadly defined Catholicity, to the present day. Formats include print, digital and film.
- Directory will include full records using national standards.
- The process will begin by identifying newspapers using key sources (such as NDNF, Williging) and a survey of members and archives to determine where materials are located.
- In past, would publish in print, now, the scan does not stop. CRRA will continually update.

Part 2: Digitize: Focus on two phases: pre-1923 initially.

- Identify priorities
- Scan top five priorities
- Implement a plan to involve other organizations and individuals to collaboratively scan, preserve, and make freely accessible.

Committee recommends that CRRA not outsource the digitization or metadata creation, but find ways to collaboratively do this.

Pat asked committee members to pass on suggested scholars who may have pithy quotes related to the value of the project. How might scholars use the newspapers? What is the potential for new discovery of knowledge?

Bob: Referred Pat to Jim O'Toole who uses newspapers.

Diane: Recommends outsource digitization, insource metadata. Look into what others think.

Matt supports the idea, and asks whether we could build a re-grant to identify dollars for a CRRA member to do the scanning in-house.

John: Recommends speaking with Vincent Golden, Curator of Newspapers and Periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS). Note they are also updating old bibliography, Clarence Brigham's *Bibliography and History of American Newspapers*.

See also *History of the Book in America* series for chapters on newspapers.

Bob: Suggests we do smaller collections locally, BC doing *Boston Pilot* and still getting quotes from outsourcers. Bulk of is materials outsourced.

Next meeting date: Friday, Nov. 18 at 1:00 pm Central/2:00 Eastern

Phone number and conference ID number for the November 18th call from Matt:

Join online meeting

<https://meet.marquette.edu/matt.blessing/RGT8W1PW>

Join by Phone

1.877.835.9174

Find a local number

Conference ID: 24 919 06