



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

Subject: Principles, assumptions, starting points and key questions in developing a new five year strategic plan for the CRRA

File name: CRRA five year plan principles, assumptions and key questions to Board ... rev. 05-26-11

To: CRRA Board of Directors

From: Jennifer Younger and Pat Lawton

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In April 2011, the Board of Directors agreed the CRRA would benefit from drafting a new strategic plan that would build on the goals in the current strategic plan and chart a course for the next three to five years. The Board starts the process by:

- Determining and documenting the starting point, principles, assumptions and/or initial questions in the charge for the Task Force, and
- Identifying members and establishing the task force.

Principles, assumptions and starting points

- There is a robust statement of mission in the CRRA *Bylaws*. The Board anticipates a new strategic plan will align with the mission to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources, beginning with access to the rare, unique and uncommon research materials held by college, university, and seminary libraries and archives in North America.
- The Board believes the *Principles of Membership* and *Benefits to Membership* to be robust statements that will support the development of the next strategic plan. The Board will develop a statement of budget principles that will complement the development of a strategic plan.
- The CRRA was founded on the idea of providing access free of direct charge to end users, with financial support from members and other sources. The new strategic plan should begin with the year FY2012/13 and run for five years. It is anticipated that the fourth and fifth years will be sketchy and speculative.
- The strategic plan should build on the goals in the FY2011/12 strategic plan although some flexibility and review of current goals might take place in the context of the developing strategic plan.

Key questions to be addressed by the Strategic Planning Task Force

- The Catholic portal supports the discovery of unique, rare and uncommon research resources and refers scholars to the content as it is housed in print, digital and/or other formats by directing the search to the local member site. Increasingly, scholars desire direct access to the full content. How can the Catholic portal meet their needs for delivery of full text? Should the Catholic portal become a full text repository? If so, what are the implications for the portal infrastructure in terms of requirements, scalability, sustainability and/or partnerships with other repositories? What are the implications of including the full text of research resources in the portal?
- The CRRA mission is to provide enduring, global access to Catholic research resources. Although a dynamic and supportive membership is critical to carrying out the mission, there will likely always be significant resources owned by nonmembers. How can the Catholic portal provide access to non-member content? What options exist to provide access to non-member content in print, digital and/or other formats?
- How can we define “**capacity**?” That is, is there a definable target for portal content that signals “we have something of value, come and use it.”
- Currently, the Catholic portal focuses on access to rare, unique and uncommon resources, which are largely in the public domain. Should the focus remain on rare, unique and uncommon materials? To the extent that scholars want access to all Catholic resources via the portal, what are the options for creating such access? What are the possibilities for providing access to the full text of materials not in the public domain? Are there partnerships and/or linking opportunities?
- As noted above, access to the Catholic portal is free of direct charge to end users. Might the CRRA at some point charge for as yet unknown and undeveloped value-added services in the portal? What would such services be? For example, value-added services may include use of text mining and visualization tools, digitization on demand, print on demand for public domain, monograph-length works, scholar-curated “hubs of authority” - defined and personal collections drawn from the institutionally curated collections within the Catholic portal corpus.
- What opportunities exist to develop a **scholars collaboratory**? What would this look like?

Selected CRRA Resources

- Annual plans: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/Plans/2010-11.pdf>
- Benefits of Membership: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/documents/benefits.pdf>
- Bylaws: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/documents/bylaws.pdf>
- Collection Policy Statement: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/collections.pdf>
- Making Your Content Available in the Portal:
<http://www.catholicresearch.net/documents/content.pdf>
- Principles of Membership: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/documents/principles.pdf>
- Steps in Building the Portal: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/DAC/Steps.pdf>