Catholic Research Resources Alliance

http://www.catholicresearch.net

CRRA Five year Strategic Planning Task Force
Agenda and Minutes

Thursday November 3, 2011
Noon – 1 p.m. Eastern, 11:00 a.m. – Noon Central
Audio call-in: 1-866-469-3239   Attendee access code: 216 605 75

1. Welcome – Lorraine Olley, chair
   Present: Jonathan Bengtson, Stephanie Clark, Ann Hanlon, Pat Lawton, Lorraine Olley, Diane Walker, Tom Wall, Ingrid Hsieh-Yee, Jennifer Younger

2. Approve minutes of October 20, 2011 meeting (distributed to elist; accessible at https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/ ;
   1. Select "Five Year Strategic Plan Task Force"
   2. The Task Force folder includes agendas, minutes, the timeline, and other documents related to setting up the task force. The *Strategic Plan: Goals for 2011-2012* is in the folder labeled Strategic Objectives and Planning Documents in the subfolder *2011-12 SJU Philadelphia/*

   Approved by acclamation with agreement on putting in full names in bullets under discussion.

3. Round robin discussion on what the CRRA and the portal should be doing in five years – Lorraine (40 minutes)

Discussion of individual visions for the CRRA and the portal in the framework of content and community

Content

- True access to content, not just discovery, not much future otherwise
    o through hard copy or e-document delivery such as scanned images on request
    o links to full digital content
    o Clicking through EAD's for services, access to content
    o "Thumbnails" of audio, visual content on the portal
    o Create a full digital content repository hospitable to all formats of resources
    o Host full content on the portal centrally if/as needed by individual institutions
    o Other institutions might host their full content locally; also put their full content on the portal?
- Continuing emphasis on identifying at-risk rare, unique or archival Catholic materials and enable/support preservation of such materials
    o through individual or collaborative initiatives
    o preserve digital copies on the portal
- Make it easy and attractive to contribute content. Demonstrate value to scholars with 3 "critical mass" collections relevant to scholars as demonstration projects
- If go in direction of full content repository, retain focus on rare, unique and archival Catholic sources
- Need clear collection development policy for explaining scope to members and scholars

Community - Members

- Providing rich discovery service for Catholic materials that includes context, relationship
- Providing targeted support to members to improve metadata, make more full text resources available
- Provide tools to members to help them create rich metadata, pursue grant opportunities, and collaborate on digitization and description efforts

- Targeted support to membership for enhancing their metadata
    - Make it easy and attractive to contribute content. Begin with a major "call to contribute" content (metadata and/or full content) around specified themes to create critical mass collections to make portal as "go to place" for scholars"
- Alliances

Community - Scholars

For scholars – tools, in augural or biennial conference on tools, repository
- Access to archivists, librarians for assistance on exploring extent of collections, opportunities
- Tools for pedagogy, which could include aggregated "libguides" for how to research key topics from lots of institutions, a way to open up the content
- Data mining, text mining tools for analysis across aggregation of sources
- The starting place for scholars to find out what has been done, links to other researchers
- Opportunities to enhance the resource with additional descriptions, links, etc.
- Showcase examples, such as how University of Virginia E-Text Center (1992, now in Scholars Lab) encouraged graduate students and professors to create digital projects for their classes, Walt Whitman Project which was done in tandem with a research support entity for Advanced Technology in the Humanities – for the portal, could consider using some projects as a model to inspire others ; also a support structure for scholars or students to use various tools for doing such projects
- Fellowships, or perhaps support through models, for scholarship using rare, unique or archival Catholic sources

Scholars:

1. Providing scholars a place to interact, discuss, collaborate (collaborator)
2. Sponsoring at least an inaugural annual or biannual conference
3. Providing tool kit to scholars to further analyze and use resources in portal

4. Review and complete the survey (Revised version of October 20, 2011 discussion attached) - Lorraine (15 minutes)
    1. Do questions highlight the right areas?
    2. Will member responses to proposed survey questions (agenda topic below) help inform the development of a five year plan?
    3. Suggestions on piloting the survey

5. Wrap up, suggestions for agenda for next meeting on Thursday November 17   – Lorraine (5 minutes)
    1. Continue with discussion on what the CRRA and the portal should be doing in five years
    2. Develop directions and questions for reporting to the Board in December
    3. Identify other topics or questions for TF discussion

Five Year Strategic Planning TF roster
1. Jonathan Bengtson, University of St. Michael's College and member, Scholars Advisory Committee
2. Stephanie Clark, Georgetown University and member-at-large
3. Terry Ehling, CRRA Strategic Consultant
4. Ann Hanlon, Marquette University, member of Digital Access Committee
5. Pat Lawton, CRRA Digital Projects Librarian
6. Joe Lucia, Villanova University and Board member
7. Lorraine Olley, University of Saint Mary at the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and member, Collections Committee
8. Diane Parr Walker, University of Notre Dame and member-at-large
9. Tom Wall, Boston College and Board member
10. Ingrid Hsieh-Yee, The Catholic University of America and member-at-large
11. Jennifer Younger, CRRA Executive Director