



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

CRRRA Five year Strategic Planning Task Force Agenda and Minutes

Thursday November 17, 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 – Tom Wall (for Lorraine Olley, chair)
Present: Jonathan Bengtson, Terry Ehling, Ann Hanlon, Joe Lucia, Tom Wall, Jennifer Younger
Regrets: Stephanie Clark, Pat Lawton, Lorraine Olley, Diane Parr Walker
2. Approve minutes of November 3, 2011 meeting (distributed to elist; accessible at <https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/>. Minutes approved by acclamation.
3. Update from Advancing Catholic Scholarly Research Symposium on session on strategic planning and what CRRRA and the portal should be doing in five years - Jonathan Bengtson

Discussion

- Jonathan and Joe reported on discussion at Duquesne Symposium
- Broad membership to include diocesan and religious archives for access to their collections and for supporting CRRRA. Smaller institutions would benefit from assistance in describing and digitizing.
- Current members already engaged in collaborative digitizing. Create access via portal.
- Proofreading effort for Gutenberg Project set off discussion for crowd sourcing and collaborative work options
- Finding aids are low-hanging fruit and a good thing to do
- Wide support for full-text in the portal
- One person spoke to great need for discovery but mediated access due to not being able to offer direct access to local database (IT firewall, sensitive content). Speaks to range of post-discovery access – direct link to local materials, referral to local collections for mediated access, creation of central full content on portal (hospital to
- Creative thinking for including formats beyond text – audio-visual, glass slides, artifacts, the Web
- Focus on types of records – genealogical, sacramental, institutions, *Official Catholic Directory*, room to go beyond strictly rare books to include other books related to Catholicism and Catholic experience, and building collections around important figures
- Develop general strategies for addressing these kinds of media within the portal, such as creating a sacramental record database, a newspaper directory and database
- Point raised on preservation of physical materials pre-1876 (AAS) or post-1876 more challenging
- Should the portal be an aggregator or trusted digital repository? DPLA an exemplar
- Need to build tools around use of full text did not come up directly although question prompted on scholars' collaborator – what is it?

4. What should CRRA and the portal should be doing in five years – Tom Wall
 - i. Review and add to previous discussion on November 3
 - ii. Identify other factors that may have an impact on future directions and development of CRRA and the portal
 - iii. Identify implications of suggested directions and developments

Discussion

- Broaden financial support with institutional support from presidential level. Might be willing to do with clear picture of what is possible. Not sure enough growth possible even through expanded membership outreach and dues. A timing issue as to when have we done enough to merit a request for \$50K from institutions. Have done much with limited means, e.g., operational portal, extending membership to diocesan and religious archives
 - Villanova doing digitizing for *Philadelphia Catholic*.
 - Paula Kane or Leslie Tentler made clear what kind of materials are needed for their students' research. Make this a priority for action. Find some scholars who have used the content in their research for recognition. Offer research scholarships to graduate students for use of portal.
 - Build collections in Catholic newspapers, religious archival materials especially from women's religious archives because Catholic Church made it possible for education; Catholic pamphlets – ND, Catholic, Georgetown; parish histories. Develop large, critical mass of materials. Jennifer will take this to the Collections Committee and report back to the TF.
 - On structure of five year plan, identify long term goals but also mid-term goals and timelines, and assessment opportunities.
 - Need output beyond discovery. Two year timeline toward rich full document content in one or two unique areas. 18,000 full text digital files for pre-1923 rare books on Catholicism, not a focused collection but generally "Catholic" in nature, developed via work with Internet Archive.
 - Develop immediate initiative to focus on getting content in one or two key areas.
 - Highlight ways in which members and institutions can align their activities to develop the portal and achieve the mission.
 - Digitize Newman archive of Birmingham Oratory Archive (with Crivella West) but digitization not yet started. Newman Oratory has \$600,000 to start the digitizing which is temporarily on hold. When it starts, could the CRRA be involved? Would be a major collection.
 - Partnerships and collaboration to advance our mission, short term opportunity with Crivella West, other initiatives in digital humanities.
 - Trepidation in tying infrastructure to digital tools and preference for open source and open development is a shared concern. Explore possibility of migrating proprietary software to university for "freer" use in academic environment. Challenge to get there, no one knows how. Some comfort level with this firm and worth having open discussions about concerns. Can't be licensed in manner to restrict what happens to it.
 - Infrastructure needs have to be defined –extent of aggregation and hosting are critical to develop where we want to be.
5. Develop directions and questions for reporting to the Board in December – Tom Wall
 - TF has to highlight for the Board that it needs to decide if comfortable with making some big decisions for five years out.
 - Plan structure should include early, mid and long term goals with timelines
 6. Wrap up, suggestions for agenda for next meeting on Thursday December 1 – Tom (5 minutes)

1. Complete directions and questions for reporting to the Board in December.

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; 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