Catholic Research Resources Alliance

http://www.catholicresearch.net

CRRA Five year Strategic Planning Task Force

Agenda and Minutes

Thursday December 15, 2011
Noon – 1 p.m. Eastern and 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: Stephanie Clark, Ann Hanlon, Pat Lawton, Lorraine Olley, Diane Parr Walker, Tom Wall, Jennifer Younger.   Regrets: Jonathan Bengtson, Terry Ehling, Ingrid Hsieh-Yee

2. **Minutes approved unanimously of December 1, 2011 meeting** (distributed to elist; accessible at https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/ under "Five Year Strategic Plan Task Force"

3. **Update from Board members (Joe, Tom, Jennifer) on Board discussions on December 13-14 meeting**
Q1. Board will send a draft vision statement to TF in late January. Preliminary points are:
   - Board agrees on "Leading provider of access to Catholic resources"
   - Likes "global enduring access."
   - "Rare, unique, uncommon" is descriptive but too wordy for vision statement.
   - Advance Catholic studies for new and deeper understanding of Catholic historical and social experience
   - Facilitate sharing of resources, direct access (beyond finding aids)
   - Become digital repository
Q2. Infrastructure needs
   - Align technical and social architecture with general frameworks, Digital Public Library of America
   - Articulate underlying principles around which to build such as principles emerging from DPLA
   - Commit to open principles around the knowledge commons
   - Support members' ability to participate in multiple repositories
   - Explore options for growth in content on Catholic portal beyond that of members. Explore use of linked (structured) data and semantic web for this purpose.
   - Develop portal: four key steps to 2016: identify and provide access through metadata, transform from analog to digital, present in complete form to users, preserve resources in digital form for future
Q3. Partnerships and collaboration.
   - "Radical collaboration" is the future: it means building a shared vision.
   - Radical collaboration requires money but even more importantly strong mission alignment and integration of activities of CRRA's mission with and among CRRA members. Need CRRA milestones (Dec. 1. minutes) so that members can align their activities and resources to meeting these goals.
   - Partner with other organizations to achieve our mission and become an agent in accomplishing vision of CRRA and vision of other organizations such as DPLA, CLIR (Hidden Collections Grants).

Q4. Agree five years is a long time. Write broad initiatives so that as technology evolves or environment changes, CRRA can adapt within these broad directions.

Q5. Other factors. Board affirmed mission and directions sent by TF. Board endorses focus on content for next two years, metadata and/or full text. The Board supports "beyond discovery to access." Moving beyond discovery to access, might require additional resource. CRRA has some cash reserves. The Board would be willing to look at how it might assist member libraries in experimenting with and carrying forward strategic projects coming from our plan. It would be very good if CRRA member institutions would actively participate in carrying these projects forward.

TF members asked if Board discussed community. Board did not but recognized that mentoring and supporting members in their active participation and contributing to the Catholic portal is an important CRRA responsibility. One aspect of participation is contributing metadata. Nineteen of 30 members have contributed metadata records; 11 have not. TF can describe what "community" is, how to explore and possible avenues for "community building."

4. **Discussion of member survey results (sent by Ann Hanlon and Pat Lawton prior to meeting)**

Lorraine thanked Pat and Ann for an incredible job in compiling and interpreting the survey results.

Q1. Encouraging to learn people were using and /or referring others to the portal. Struck by greatest responses from people who use the portal, good to see that it is not primarily meeting-goers but actual users.

Q2. Interesting to see strong interest in rare and unique materials. Some respondents find it distracting to find commonly held materials in using the portal. There is tension between this and adding special collections that may not contain items not individually rare or unique, but which are part of a "rare and unique collection." Collections Committee has addressed this issue in favor of including "overall rare and unique" collections. Need to be clearer in rare, unique items and collections so people know what to expect. Not clear there is anything in the metadata that indicates rare or unique; could there be? Perhaps part of value added of discovery? Possible to "tag" this in value-added metadata as part of a collection? Pursue extent to which non-rare items are distracting; DAC is discussing options for putting on one record with holdings. Metadata issue might be important for issue of what is unique and rare. Guidelines for metadata may need to be more prescriptive to enhance search results in portal.

Q3. Surprised at gap between continue with discovery via metadata and full digital content. Question may not have distinguished between metadata/discovery and metadata/discovery/full text/access. Discovery may be an assumption so less of a gap. Takeaway is that 93% want the thing itself. Discovery has to include access. Respondents want to be in one place doing their research. Survey responses confirmed sense of task force and takeaway is yes to discovery and yes to digital content on portal.

Q4. Beyond discovery, content is still king. Nothing else was as highly ranked as making content accessible. Have to prototype and demonstrate value of other services; basic need is getting the content. Surprised at low rating for fellowships, perhaps because library staff responding would not be the "users" of the fellowship, but may also have been due to perceived strong need for content. Fellowships would be a good new service and a key step in building demand and use. Use is our next issue. People need to see what a collaboratory, visualization tools and so on mean. Full text is what they want, then discuss tools and enhanced needs.

Q5. This was a new area of discussion for respondents. Idea of anything other than free access is not yet on the radar screen. However, confirms that members value our commitment to free and open access to end users. Make other arrangements for sustaining the portal. Again, a mix of options not always directly related to raising

revenue such as collaboration with other professional associations, which could be done to achieve a result bigger than we could achieve on our own.

5. Goals for in-person TF meeting in January 2012 (now moved to February 3)
   Outcomes:
   - **Poll results show 8 people available on February 3.**
   - **Hold meeting in two hub locations: DC and Chicago.**
   - **Connect hubs via conference call.**
   - **Lorraine and Jennifer will organize.**

6. **Wrap up, suggestions for agenda for next meeting on Thursday January 12, 2012** – Lorraine (5 minutes)
   Outcomes:
   - **Review survey results for implications on plan on Jan. 12.**
   - **Added proposed area: "Grow collections accessible via the portal systematically and collaboratively.**
   - **Ask TF members to add directions and goals to the draft for January 26 meeting.**

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