



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

**CRRA All-Members Meeting
Georgetown University
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
8:30-12:00**

Present: Emily Asch (St. Catherine), Matt Blessing (Marquette), Kris Brancolini (Loyola Marymount), John Buchtel (Georgetown), Theresa Byrd (U San Diego), Steve Connaghan (Catholic U), Marta Deyrup (Seton Hall), Ann Hanlon (Marquette), Demian Katz (Villanova), Artemis Kirk (Georgetown), Pat Lawton (CRRA), Susan Leister (Georgetown), Joe Lucia (Villanova), Diane Maher (U San Diego), Maria Mazzenga (Catholic U), Jean McManus (Notre Dame), Tim Meagher (Catholic U), Eric Morgan (Notre Dame), Bob O'Neill (Boston), Bob Seal (Loyola U Chicago), Ed Starkey (U San Diego), Janice Welburn (Marquette), Jennifer Younger (Notre Dame), Wei Zhang (Georgetown)

Guests on Monday June 28: Jonathan Bengston (U St. Michael's College, Toronto), Tyrone Cannon (U San Francisco), Janet Fore (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN); from Crivella West: Zakkiyya Asad, Art Crivella, Monty Crivella, Rich Ekstrom, Mary Geever, and Bob Maloney

Jennifer welcomed all to the Tuesday morning session, noting the special guests from prospective member libraries and Crivella West who attended on Monday or Tuesday. She also thanked the Monday afternoon presenters: Demian Katz, Villanova for his demonstration of VuFind functionality and Art Crivella (Crivella West), for his presentation on the Humanities Knowledge Kiosk.

Pat Lawton led the discussion on the 2009/10 Strategic Plan, which was adopted at the July 2009 meeting at Loyola University, and is the basis of the 2010/11 planning document.

- The 2009/10 strategic plan is posted on the CRRA administrative site.
- The 2009/10 plan has been updated to show achievements and ongoing activities.
- The accomplishments of 2009/10 are also shown on the planning document for the 2010/2011 CRRA Strategic Plan distributed via email to the CRRA e-list.
- Focus group results are posted under Focus Groups 2009 with the results also shown in a word cloud
- The goal of 20,000+ records was exceeded as the portal now has about 60,000 records. Also, in the last year, Pat and Eric identified the process of identifying and ingesting records for an initial load and have identified a process for identifying and ingesting records in subsequent, ongoing record loads.

Eric Morgan reported on developments and the current functionality of the Catholic portal.

- The emphasis now is on searching capabilities. In the future, the portal will offer text analysis services for scholars to analyze texts through word frequency counts or patterns.
- Eric conducted an experiment to determine to what extent the metadata and digital documents exist in both the portal and the Internet Archive. Using author/title data extracted from the portal, he searched the Internet Archive (IA) and sorted the results into three categories:
 - Zero hits
 - One hit – 225 records in Portal each match 1 record in Internet archives; added IA URL to MARC record in Portal so can get record from CRRA member or IA
 - More than one hit – 400 records in Portal match more than one hit in Internet Archive
 - Learned that – if search algorithm is working well – there is a lot of unique content in the Portal but don't know if some of the hits are false matches/hits, also only searched for freely available content in IA so might be full texts are available in other repositories
- Find will retrieve all 60,000+ records with narrowing options shown (facets): subject headings, institutions, library, format, genre, era, call number, topic (from LC subject headings), language, region
- A search on Graham Greene retrieved records from BC, Georgetown, ND, and San Diego.
- Question: as records/collections are harvested, are themes associated with records? Some themes will be explicitly visible because they are the same as or similar to subject headings but in other cases, this will not be the case. It would be challenging, e.g., to find authors in religious orders, which is a theme, or authors in a particular order such as Jesuits. Answer: No, themes are not added to individual metadata records.
- Question: should Portal serve that function? A: If yes, would it be possible to add metadata to record prior to ingesting. Doing so would be labor intensive. Worthwhile? Pat suggested that one could construct searches to bring out themes as a device to illustrate what is in portal, which would show that the portal contains focused content, that it is not just a collection of discrete records, and that these searches could then be used by individuals in their work. Eric offered another way to do this in adding metadata elements. John pursued: aren't we then just stuck with a subset of WorldCat? Artemis asked what if we had an editor for assigning themes who could do this at the point of ingestion in a consistent, systematic manner? No conclusion was reached but this is a question needing to be addressed in the near future. (See suggestions below regarding objectives for coming year.)
- Eric responded to a request to review how EAD files are currently handled by the portal. Eric first showed a Georgetown record for Graham Greene papers to show that EAD files are indexed in the portal and when someone clicks on that record, the resulting display comes from the local institution finding aid in its full EAD version. On the whiteboard, he used pictures to show that in the portal there are "piles of EAD files" and "piles of MARC records" each in separate containers. The MARC records go easily into SOLR index which works well for MARC records. However, currently, the EAD files must be converted into MARC records for indexing in SOLR. Metadata is lost in this conversion because the MARC record has a size limit. The MARC record is likely to include only collection-level descriptive information, and not the series, box, and folder

level information.

Tim noted the potential problem for scholar is that there is another set of papers not called the Graham Greene (GG) papers at all but which has 10 folders of Graham Greene papers in another collection called "Papers of Catholic authors" and so the scholar won't find those 10 papers. Eric is starting to ingest EAD folders directly into SOLR index in the next version of VUFind but this will take some time. He gave an overview of converting MARC and EAD records for indexing in SOLR. Some data will always be lost in conversion but going from EAD to SOLR will lose less than in going EAD to MARC to SOLR. All EAD data will end up in SOLR but perhaps not in the right fields, e.g., Kim Philby (KP) example. KP and Graham Greene (GG) will end up in the SOLR index but won't capture the folder/hierarchical structure of the EAD file so user will go to locally held EAD file to see the hierarchical structure and relationships. An incremental step forward. Tim said has been done other places. Eric said two interfaces: one as is with everything, and one for EADs only. Demian indicated that one interface is possible.

- Most of the metadata records in the portal refer to content in a physical form only. Artemis Kirk expressed the desire to digitize content for even broader access to collections and the question was asked: going forward, what is our vision for digital access and research? Subsequent discussion did not reach a definitive answer although there was much agreement that we need to develop in a way that supports digital access and research.
- Question: are there use statistics? Yes, some. Since Oct. 2009, 764,000 hits. The number of hits includes those by indexing robots, such as Googlebot. Eric showed a graph of where hits come from by IP addresses which revealed that to date, the majority of hits come from Googlebot. Janice and Artemis noted that we will want to know more than just the number of hits.

Discuss, refine and adopt goals and objectives for the Strategic Plan 2010/2011 (Pat Lawton)

Participants proposed the following additions, which are listed below as put forward by individuals.

- Redo web site to be for end users and other libraries/library staff as much as for CRRRA members
- Affirm focus on rare, unique and uncommon, not on books in the general stacks.
- Implement a process for getting regular content from members. Identify local team – selectors, acquisition, cataloging, systems staff – for identifying and adding content on regular basis and to take out what is subsequently seen as "irrelevant" content contributed to the Portal, handle URL changes, etc. ND local team is one model.
- Repurpose 1.2 from Planning Document: "Add links to the portal that highlight key collections, starting with the three themes to highlight in 2010/2011 (Catholic social action, Catholic intellectual life, Women religious).
- Highlight collections and set up searches for themes, making it easy to edit, add, allow users to help grow the usability, online community, some administration for appropriate development . (These two suggestions relate to the question above of whether the Portal should serve the

function of linking themes to metadata records and collections. Identify vision for digital access and research particularly as it relates to digitizing content for broader access and research

- Facilitate collaboration on digitization.
- Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL) has a centralized rapid strike task force to process and/or digitize special collections, as well as train staff.
- How to identify candidates for digitization? What resources are in our institutions for relatively rapid digitization? Can be shared? E.g., Villanova has capacity but then how do materials get there, ensured, who handles, etc. Refer to collections committee for priorities, approach?
- What are the block buster collections in CRRRA? Around themes? What are the timely or most significant themes? Quick survey for self identification by institution special collections, archivists and scholars? Seek CRRRA grant then for digitizing the blockbusters? Ask Pat to do the survey with guidance from Collections Committee?
- 13 is a landmark Boston College anniversary. Burns Library will digitize 150 treasures some of which are Catholic related and will share once digitized and available.
- RBMS preconferences are good sources of information (John Buchtel). Move away from boutique digitization projects and go toward more sustainable models, from highly detailed metadata for each object to group metadata for archival collections. Could adopt some of this for digitizing around portal themes.
- Participants agreed that more full text available via Portal is useful. Full text is problematic although will sell to grant providers. Matt still sees need for detailed metadata because not OCR'ing full text. How to increase digitization?
 - Staff could volunteer to transcribe digital document images, could organize and do, in libraries, staff, and/or students. Social participation among communities of interest. Quality control at appropriate points. ATLA RC Section set up wiki, coordinated group input into developing an online resource. Set up CRRRA TF as subgroup to take one theme and start.
 - Kris. Outsourced some digitization to good results so this is still an alternate approach.
 - CRRRA members could assign digitizing to various staff as regular responsibility.
 - Lyrasis has a digitizing program. Output goes automatically to Internet Archive.

Pat then reviewed that the purpose of today's discussion was to review the strategic planning document for inclusion of goals and objectives for the coming year. In July, Pat will take back to committees to develop priorities, assignments and time lines as noted in the process for developing the CRRRA strategic plan which was distributed as part of the agenda. Artemis suggested the Board would then be the appropriate entity to adopt the strategic plan. Jennifer will schedule a Board meeting.

Discuss Board-established *Principles of Membership* and activities for growing the membership (Jennifer Younger)

Jennifer opened the discussion with a brief review of the *Proposed protocol for adding new members to the CRRRA*, printed on the verso of the agenda. Everyone is welcome to identify and cultivate prospective members. The Board is the body charged with extending the official invitation. She noted the membership packet sent to candidates includes six documents: a letter of invitation, the *Bylaws*, the *Principles of Membership*, the *Collection Policy for the Catholic Portal*, the contact list of current

governance bodies and members and finally, a dues invoice. With the exception of the invoice, these documents are posted in the administrative section under Bylaws and Membership or the Collections Committee. Participants generally agreed with this approach. Jennifer identified six institutions currently interested in membership. Participants mentioned additional candidates which Jennifer will pursue.

Set priorities among themes.

Bob O’Neil, Chair of the Collections Committee, noted the Committee’s proposed focus on three themes in the coming year: Catholic social action, Catholic intellectual life, and Women religious. The Collection Committee recommends that we communicate to members that highlighting these themes is not prescriptive but suggestive. Encourage members to think about their own holdings in these areas and to add to the portal what they may have in these areas, thereby supporting the portal goal to build collections.

- For prospective members, if collection is weak in top 3 themes, then what? The idea is to provide focus for members in thinking about their collections, what they might add, digitize or emphasize for first contribution to Portal, etc., but not prescriptive in that only these themes can be added. Janice added that themes might be used to provide the focus for grant funding, etc. again but not restrictive.
- Kris Brancolini noted there are intellectual property issues associated with archival collections. Some things are not digitizable, etc. Understood and clearly important. Still, metadata in Portal useful to point to existence of collections even if not digitizable or fully accessible for all users. Bob, even for continuing members, priorities are useful and could even be a catalyst for seeking permission from rights holder to open up for access.

Growth and outreach

- Incorporate or apply 501c status? The Board has considered in the past, but the time was not right. The Board will pursue a decision as part of developing sustainable business plan.
- NEH challenge grant. CRRA applied for and received permission from the NEH to apply for a Challenge grant as an independent institution. NEH challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. The Challenge grant would provide funds to build capacity and support an endowment for digitization, a graduate research fellowship, scholarships for CRRA workshops, enhanced public outreach, and other costs of maintaining and sustaining the Catholic portal. Grant proposals are due May, 2011.
- Marketing. Are there gaps or is there critical mass around one or more themes? Market to specific or broad constituencies? Ready to market on individual member campuses? For what purpose – use, feedback, other? General sense that for “real” marketing, content not rich enough, too many books, which means “target and build” in next year – themes, unique materials, more representation from existing and new members. Set up hierarchy of materials of highest interest to scholars, e.g., under Graham Greene to ensure archival collections are seen before books, can do with facets? More discussion on ways to identify, target, build for greater critical mass and richer content, through digitization and digitization grants? More

discussion needed on ways to develop content, collections, through digitization and digitization grants and/or a focus on curated collections.

Meetings in 2010/2011

- University of San Diego will host a CRRA reunion and meetings in conjunction with ALA in January 2011. A tentative meeting date has been set for **Thursday, January 6, 2011** (prior to ALA, Jan. 7-11, 2011).
- The group discussed the possibility of holding the all-CRRA participants meeting in Philadelphia in conjunction with ACRL (March 30-April 2, 2011). Joe Lucia volunteered to lead the local arrangements committee. Video conferencing options for those not able to attend are highly desirable. A tentative date is **Tuesday, March 29, 2011**.
- Members discussed holding the CRRA all-members meeting in conjunction with ACRL, which meets every other year. When there is no ACRL meeting, CRRA all-members meetings would be held in conjunction with ALA. There are groups such as RBMS within ALA, making it possible to sponsor a session at those meetings as well. No formal vote was taken but there was general consensus on both the continuing need for an annual all-members meeting and the usefulness in the near term of holding it in conjunction with another established conference.

Submitted 7.16.10 by Jennifer Younger at younger.1@nd.edu and Pat Lawton at plawton@nd.edu.