



This new CRRA Liaisons Council initiative will bring monthly news on members' professional development, achievements and conferences, as well as institutional projects and grant opportunities. This bulletin looks to help support and grow our community. Thanks for submitting your news and articles.

### **1. CRRA 2017 Annual Meeting - Mark the Date!**

The CRRA Annual Member Meeting will be held at the Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus in downtown Chicago. We will meet in the Schreiber Center, 16 E. Pearson Street. Plan now to join colleagues – in-person or online – on Tuesday, June 27. Please reserve the morning from 8 a.m. – Noon Central Time. We are planning box lunches to eat on premises or to go. For everyone flying out on Tuesday, please book a flight departing at 3 p.m. or later. That way you can stay for the whole meeting and maybe even a bite of lunch with colleagues on-site.

If you are interested in joining a program planning committee, please contact [Pat Lawton](#) or [Jennifer Younger](#). We welcome your ideas and participation.

### **2. CRRA Strategic Plan 2016-17: Mid-year progress report February 2017**

This is a progress review summary toward accomplishing our 2016-2017 goals. Each committee relates its actions to the annual goals to the top priority strategic goals in the [Three Year Strategic Plan](#). You may find full report attached to this bulletin for your review.

#### **Board of Directors - Steve Connaghan, chair, Catholic University**

- Two grant proposals were submitted. One received. Staff are developing 2-4 opportunities for CRRA and/or local partners to pursue.

- **Survey** will go out March to members and friends for their views on CRRA services and benefits. The results will assist the Board and Membership Committee in develop assessment strategies and targets that will result in clearer articulation of the value of CRRA membership.

#### **Collections Committee – Stephanie Shreffler, chair, Dayton**

- We have discussed several possible additions/changes to web pages that describe Portal scope.

- We have reviewed the summary documents from the 2009 focus groups. We have identified several key questions we think are important for this round, such as What are current, popular topics of study for Catholic scholars? Have we improved the content available in the Portal for scholars working on different times/locations? What are users' current expectations regarding full-text availability?
- We have reviewed the websites in DAC's list. We note that the Portal is one of the few/only examples of a truly collaborative effort among many institutions. Most of the examples in the list seemed to be created and run by one or two institutions. Other variables to compare include the resources' geographic coverage and time era; the rarity of the items; and the availability of digital objects and full-text.
- We have reached out to 13 member institutions that had no content on the Portal to offer any assistance they may need. Several institutions have plans to add specific resources, and one institution contacted Eric Morgan and began adding content.
- We suggest that a collaborative collection development project and digitization around parish histories would be a good opportunity for CRRA members to share knowledge about copyright and permission-seeking.
- We are currently planning to host one or two webinars with Eric Morgan and DAC for CRRA members, to explain how to use a tool for determining "rare" available in the portal.
- We will promote newly written LibGuides by sending them to the Liaisons list to share with their constituents. We also recommend adding information about new LibGuides to CRRA Newsletters.

### **Digital Access Committee – Kevin Cawley, chair, Notre Dame**

- DAC members did a preliminary comparison of a few resources comparable to those of CRRA (<https://crra.box.com/s/jvlbezmtwh1q0gj77ayupk72ntxc4is>).
- We discussed various possible ways to allow users of the portal to make suggestions to related content, it may be through blogs links or email lists.
- We discussed the merits of Dublin Core, MARC, and EAD for providing access to full text resources. Using the CRRA EAD Template Program. This could work, with an adaptation of current techniques for processing EAD, to index full text and provide immediate access to it. We are presently developing the necessary adaptation.
- In order to revisit the scope and functionality of the portal, have reviewed earlier CRRA focus group efforts and have started to design the mechanisms to be used for a new effort.
- We have made a preliminary review of website content. Two new members of DAC, who had not previously experienced the website, found it easy to use and generally helpful.

- A simple web form has been made available to determine “rare” available in the portal. Put in OCLC numbers and find data regarding rarity. Cosmetic improvements might be made, and better integration into the website, but the essential mechanism is sound and, we believe, adequate.

### **Liaisons Council – chair, Ximena Valdivia, Barry University**

In order to revisit the scope and functionality of the portal, two joint meetings have taken place so far. On November 2016 a meeting hosted by DAC and Collections, put particular interest on the question of the portal value and scope. On December 2016, there was a webinar on resource sharing. In this webinar, we discussed current resource sharing activities in members’ libraries. The Membership Committee was exploring what opportunities there might be for encouraging reciprocal resource sharing among CRRA members.

In order to orient and educate liaisons about CRRA, an online web meeting was held on January 10, 2017 to provide an overview of the [Catholic News Archive](#) and ongoing and enhanced strategies to more member content available in the portal. Collections will be hosting a webinar to discuss with members a tool for determining how rare a resource is. Liaisons will be the primary contact for ensuring that members know about the tool and reports and how beneficial to their library.

31 member institutions have links to the CRRA portal, to Newspaper Archives and/or with Research Guides on CRRA. We need to determine whether other members have any link or guide on CRRA and how to assist them in achieve this goal.

### **Membership Committee – Felice Maciejewski, chair, Dominican University**

- The Committee believes reciprocal resource sharing is a reasonable and relatively easy way to provide access to our unique collections. On December 7, 2016, members of the committee, CRRA Liaisons and other library staff involved in interlibrary loan processes discussed the pros and cons of such a service. Reciprocal resource-sharing is what libraries do well yet we recognize that some member libraries may be concerned about cost and additional workload. The Committee is recommending a pilot project of interested members.

- We provided input to the survey going out members and others to learn what they value about CRRA. We continue to reach out to library directors and deans of current and prospective members through phone calls, emails and in-person conversations when opportunities arise. Although we cannot predict how many institutions might join, we continue building relationships with library directors at ten academic institutions, one religious congregation and several diocesan archives participating in the Catholic News Archive.

### **Newspapers Committee – Megan Bernal, chair, DePaul University**

-Jennifer and Pat are identifying targets for the newspapers project for CRRA and/or partners to pursue. Hartford has submitted a proposal and should be hearing any day now.

-St Louis member Deb Cashion will participate in Committee discussion on OCR text correction guidelines.

- In addition to 10 completed digitization agreements for priority papers, we are now working with papers in St. Louis and Cincinnati. We are also reviewing the agreement from the Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD for making the digitized *Mother Seton Guild Bulletin* accessible via the Catholic Portal or the Catholic News Archive.

### **Scholars Advisory Committee – Alan Delozier, chair, Seton Hall University**

- Finding out what is excellent about the portal is a prime objective. In more specific terms, what can be improved, and helping the unique needs that scholars of Catholic Studies require. A serious look at the Portal and its place within scholarship is the ultimate goal. Additional collaboration and working with Collections, DAC, and Liaisons Committees to build a stronger site is a valued part of this process.

Strategies for reaching out to scholars about the benefits of CRRA include among other initiatives: updating our contact list for active links, extending the number of recipients, providing a periodic update activities to those in our network and beyond; Implement suggestions made through the results of the survey and members of the committee. In particular we hope to conduct follow-up interviews with survey participants who expressed a willingness to participate; communicate to members scholars desire to see more full text of women religious in particular. Develop strategies in collaboration with Collections to increase this content in the portal; and, potential for building a new Research Guide that contains information about Catholic pedagogy and featuring teaching aids as part of the LibGuide subject offerings to compliment the primary CRRA Portal.

**Staff – Josh Dinsman, Webmaster and Digital Projects Assistant; Todd Jensen, Consulting project manager for the Catholic News Archive; Pat Lawton, Digital Initiatives Director; Jennifer Younger, Executive Director**

We are the behind the scenes engines collaborating with committees, the Board and members to achieve CRRA priorities and goals. Much of our work directly supports committee goals. We also handle the many day-to-day administrative, financial, website, project management, membership communication, and planning activities that go into the running of any successful organizations.

### **3. CRRA Benefits and Services Survey**

CRRA is interested in your perspectives on CRRA benefits and services, in an effort to better serve you, your communities, and the Catholic scholarly and cultural heritage community writ large. To that end, we ask that you complete this very short survey. It truly will take just a few minutes. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

You may find the survey at the following link:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRRA\\_benefits\\_and\\_services](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRRA_benefits_and_services)

## **4. 2017 Conferences and Workshops**

### **4a. Catholic Archives in the Digital Age: The Fate of Religious Order Archives**

*The Catholic Archives in the Digital Age: The Fate of Religious Order Archives* Conference is the third in a series of conferences under the theme of how Catholic archives are evolving in the digital age. As religious orders across the United States consolidate and close houses, many are at a loss to preserve the invaluable historical materials they have conscientiously collected across their history. Some orders have actually had to dispose of much of their archival material for lack of a properly cared for location to put them. The Fate of Religious Order Archives will focus on the importance of religious order archives in understanding the American Catholic experience, as well as possible solutions to the preservation of these archives.

The free conference will be held on the CUA campus in the Pryzbyla Center on March 29th, 2017 and will feature a range of scholars and archivists of the American Catholic experience and archival stewards of religious order records. The conference is funded by the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, and sponsored by the American Catholic History Research Center/University Libraries, the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, and the Department of Library and Information Science.

More information and details: <http://iprcua.com/2017/03/29/the-fate-of-religious-order-archives/>

### **4b. 2017 CLA Annual Convention**

The 2017 Catholic Library Association Annual Convention in conjunction with National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) will be held in St. Louis, MO, on April 18-20, 2017. The NCEA Convention & Expo is the largest private-education association gathering in the nation. Those participating represent all aspects of Catholic school and faith-based education from preschool, elementary, secondary, adult education, colleges and universities. [Registration](#) is now open, for preliminary program please click [here](#).

### **4c. University of San Diego 2017 Annual Digital Initiative Symposium**

The fourth annual Digital Initiatives Symposium will take place at the University of San Diego on May 1 and 2, 2017. The symposium is a forum for librarians and researchers to share their knowledge of institutional repositories and the digital elements of library ecosystems. The event, hosted by The University of San Diego's Copley Library provides educational programs, networking and collaboration opportunities for professionals at the regional, state and national level. The registration deadline is March 23, 2016. For additional program information and registration, please go to <http://digital.sandiego.edu/symposium/>

### **4d. More on Conferences**

Listing of digital library meetings, workshops, and conferences, as well as other activities associated with digital libraries research and technologies, click on [D-Lib](#) Digital Library Federation [DFL Community calendar](#)

## 5. Grant Opportunities

Michigan State University Libraries publishes a compilation of web pages and books of potential interest to nonprofit organizations seeking funding opportunities related to religion. Please go to [Grants for Nonprofits: Religion and Social Change](#) . Also for Faith Based Grants, check out GrantWatch for faith based grants supporting at-risk youth, crime victims and community organizations. 86 Faith Based Grants available at <https://www.grantwatch.com/cat/11/faith-based-grants.html>. Library of Congress published a Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums list, to access the 2010 edition go to <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/about/foundtn-grants.pdf>

OPPORTUNITY NUMBER	OPPORTUNITY TITLE	AGENCY NAME	POSTED DATE	CLOSE DATE
20170503-ZH	Humanities Access Grants	NEH	2/8/2017	5/3/2017
20170502-PG	Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions	NEH	2/27/2017	5/2/2017
20170502-PE	Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants	NEH	2/27/2017	5/2/2017
20170606-HAA	Digital Humanities Advancement Grants	NEH	2/17/2017	6/6/2017
20170412-FEL	Fellowships	NEH	2/3/2017	4/12/2017
20171227-MR	Programming Grants to Accompany NEH on the Road Exhibitions	NARA	1/6/2017	12/27/2017
EDITIONS-201706	Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions	NARA	12/9/2016	6/14/2017
EDITIONS-201710	for Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions	NARA	12/9/2016	10/5/2017
NLG-LIBRARIES-FY17-2	National Leadership Grants for Libraries	IMLS	11/9/2016	6/9/2017
LB21-FY17-2	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	IMLS	11/9/2016	6/9/2017
MAJOR-201707	Access to Historical Records - Major Initiatives	NARA	7/25/2016	7/12/2017

Source <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>