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Feature Article

Valuing the User Experience: CRRA Annual Meeting June 27, 2017, Loyola University Chicago

Plan to join your colleagues in Chicago. [Registration](#) is open now. Danielle Cooper, Senior Researcher, Ithaka S&R, will discuss what was learned in the recent study on the research habits of faculty in religious studies. She welcomes questions about the study and encourages meeting participants to speak to how their experience relates to the study findings. The full report is [online](#).

Our focus on users continues in conversations with several individuals who will describe their experiences in using the Catholic Portal and the Catholic News Archive. We will round out the program with conversations on collaborative initiatives (resource-sharing, digitizing parish histories, and facilitating the ingest of member digital content), member priorities and activities. All participants are welcome to bring flyers, brochures or other materials for display and/or distribution at the meeting.

Kathy Young invites all CRRA members, even if unable to attend the meeting, to showcase two images from their digital collections. Send the images (JPG format, 150 to 300 dpi) with the name of collection, name of library and institution, and your contact information to Kathy Young, chair of the annual meeting planning committee, at kyoung3@luc.edu. After the program, the images will be featured on CRRA's website.



From the Board

Steve Connaghan, University Librarian, The Catholic University of America

It's been an excellent year for CRRA with huge progress in putting Catholic research resources online. We implemented the [Catholic News Archive](#), which is already gaining national attention as scholars and journalists use it to find information they need. We continue to connect members with new resources, including more digital objects in the Portal (over 900 postcards held in nine collections), subject guides, new tools for making content available, and professional development, leadership and collaborative opportunities through committees and projects. We expanded the diversity of our members in welcoming a third religious congregation archives (Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives) and a second Canadian university and seminary (Kings' University College & St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario) as well as two academic libraries (Edgewood College, Madison WI and Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA). Through our collective efforts in making Catholic research resources more available and sustaining a distinctive network of libraries and archives, we realize our vision of fostering a dynamic scholarly community.

In the coming year, we will enhance CRRA services and operations. I'm pleased to announce we begin a new partnership on July 1 with Capitol Hill Management Services, Inc., who will support CRRA and our outstanding staff with administrative, financial, and website management services. More information is given in the announcement below. We look forward to working with them.

Although the Annual Meeting signals the end of this membership year, it also sets the stage for next year. It is a great opportunity for learning more from our users and our CRRA colleagues. The discussions at the meeting always provide good fuel and direction for CRRA. All members, friends of CRRA, and guests are welcome.

It's been a pleasure serving as Chair these past two years and working closely with Jennifer, Pat, and all the CRRA Board members and committees, but now I must sign off my final "From the Board."

Sincerely yours, Steve

CRRA Partners with CHMS for Association Management Services

Jennifer Younger, Executive Director, CRRA

We are partnering with Capitol Hill Management Services, Albany, NY, for administrative, financial, and website services. We are pleased to be working with a proven national leader in association management to adopt new best practices in CRRA operations, enhance membership services, grow our membership, and raise awareness of the resources and opportunities that CRRA makes available. “Through its committed members and outstanding programs, CRRA fosters a dynamic scholarly community,” said John A. Graziano, Jr., President of Capitol Hill Management Services. “We are pleased to work with the Alliance’s dedicated staff, Board of Directors, committee members, and other volunteers in ensuring a successful future.”

The new office operation begins on July 1, 2017.

The website and the Portal will continue at <http://www.catholicresearch.net/>. Similarly, the Catholic News Archive continues at www.thecatholicnewsarchive.org.

Please continue to send questions, comments, and suggestions to us:

- **Jennifer A. Younger, Executive Director** jyounger@nd.edu
- **Pat Lawton, Digital Initiatives Director/Librarian** plawton@nd.edu
- **Todd R. Jensen, Newspapers Digitization Project Manager** jensen1787@gmail.com
- **Josh Dinsman, Website Manager and Digital Projects Assistant** josh.dinsman@gmail.com

Pat and I work with our association manger, Leslie Brownell, CHMS.

We also have a new office address. Send dues payments and other U.S. mail to:

CRRA
230 Washington Avenue Extension, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12203-5319



In the weeks ahead, we will be providing you with further information about our office changes—stay tuned.

Tracing Church History Through Old Newspapers: Hot Off the Press

The author begins with the old saying that "journalism is the first rough draft of history." How true that is, and a wonderful validation of the significance of making Catholic newspapers accessible — today, tomorrow, and in perpetuity. For looking back at revolutionary changes in the Church, the author describes the [Catholic News Archive](#) as "compelling reading" and offers his hope that more content will be added. This is great encouragement and unsolicited feedback.

[Tracing Church History Through Old Newspapers](#), by K.E. Colombini

We thank the many CRRA committee members — Scholars, Newspapers, Collections, Digital Access — who set the goals and developed the plan, our digitizing partners who are giving their permission for their newspapers to be digitized for access and preservation, providing digital files and/or film for digitizing, and our part-time project manager for their work in turning a vision into reality; also the executive director of the Catholic Press Association, the many digital newspaper program managers, copyright, digital preservation and other experts who offered their advice, and Pat Lawton, CRRA Digital Initiatives Director/Librarian for shepherding this project over the last several years. And, we thank too all CRRA members, the [Founders](#) of the Catholic News Archive, and the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops for their financial support.

Gonzaga University Joins CRRA

Jennifer Younger, Executive Director, CRRA



Gonzaga University is an exemplary learning community educating students for lives of leadership and service for the common good in keeping with its Catholic, Jesuit, and humanistic heritage and identity. Located in Spokane, WA, the Foley Center Library, the Chastek Law Library, and a library in Florence provide a wide range of academic resources and services in support of 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students in 75 fields of study.

In keeping with the University's mission, Paul J. Bracke, Ph.D. and Dean of Library Service is looking forward to their participation in CRRA to expand support for faculty and students, but also to make their collections more widely known. The Jesuit Oregon Province Archives and the [Gerard Manley Hopkins Research Collection](#) are the most significant collections with a Catholic focus. In addition, the digital archival collections contain scanned and born digital images [documenting Gonzaga's history](#) from its beginning in 1918, showing people, places, and events. New items are added regularly.



Member News

Lisa M. Villa, College of the Holy Cross
Journal of Global Catholicism

The recently launched [Journal of Global Catholicism](#) is an online, open access, international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. Its purpose is to foster the understanding of diverse forms of lived Catholicism with attention to their significance for theoretical approaches in anthropology, history, sociology, media studies, psychology, theology, and philosophy.

“Lived Catholicism” is an intentionally broad designation that encompasses the various ways Catholicism is expressed and embodied through practical human activity. Within this rubric, the journal explores the ways Catholics are developing a global sense of what it means to be Catholic today by considering the implications of Catholic expressions and embodiments in relation to issues of global concern. Journal content may include studies that are broadly comparative in scope, specific case studies, articles that draw upon ethnographic, historical, or theological methods, photo essays, and articles that examine issues in the teaching of global Catholicism. All publications in the journal are intended to be of interest to professional audiences in academic disciplines where religion is studied, including anthropology, history, sociology, media studies, psychology, theology, and philosophy.

Articles and essays address an extensive range of topics, including but not limited to:

- classical topics such as devotion to Mary and the saints, pilgrimage, and popular visions and apparitions;
- modes of secularity and post-secularity as they relate to lived Catholicism;
- race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and indigeneity;
- lived Catholic theologies;

- movements involving lay Catholics such as healing, liberation, post-colonial, and Charismatic;
- Catholic charitable service and economic development;
- religious formation in the lives of Catholic laypeople;
- migration, travel, tourism, and shrine cultures;
- Catholic material cultures;
- methodological discussions in the study and pedagogy of lived Catholicism.

The *Journal of Global Catholicism* is part of the Catholics & Cultures initiative to explore the religious lives and practices of Catholics around the world. Both the journal and Catholics & Cultures are administered by the Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.

The Journal is also accessible from the CRRA website on the [Links and Resources](#) page.

University of Notre Dame Launches Convocate: Bringing Catholic Social Teaching and International Human Rights into Dialogue

[Convocate](#) is an innovative database and research tool that positions Notre Dame at the forefront of inquiry into connections between international human rights law and Catholic social teaching. Initial database documents in international human rights come from the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the African Union, among others. Those that focus on Catholic social teaching are from the Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This launch is the culmination of three years of project partnership between the Hesburgh Libraries and the Center for Civil and Human Rights and is an excellent example of the ways that the Libraries shape and help to implement campus research and digital projects. Please share the news with your users!

Archbishop O'Brien Library (Hartford) Wins \$14,000 Grant to Create High-Quality Film for Digitization



CRRA Digitizing Partner, The Archbishop O'Brien Library, The Library of the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT, was recently approved for a grant of \$14,000 from the Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation. The funding will be used towards the creation of second generation microfilm from print master negatives of *The Catholic Transcript* and its

predecessor *Connecticut Catholic*, one of the priority Catholic newspapers that is part of CRRA's Catholic Newspaper Project initiative. The Library, in collaboration with CRRA, has worked closely with the Catholic Transcript Office and the Archdiocese of Hartford Archives with the goal of having Hartford's newspaper digitized along with the Catholic newspapers of CRRA partner libraries.

Karen Lesiak, Director of the Archbishop O'Brien Library, explained that, "This will now make it possible for us to ship high-quality microfilm for digitization without putting original print masters and bound editions at risk of damage or loss. We are thrilled at the prospect of having our Hartford newspapers become part of the Catholic News Archive so that greater access to a treasure of our Catholic history and information can be made available to researchers, educators and students, historians, librarians, archivists and all members of the public."

Congratulations to our Hartford partners!!

Position Available

Xavier University of Louisiana, a historically Black and Catholic University, seeks an enthusiastic professional for the position of Reference and Instruction Librarian. This individual will be responsible for providing reference services and innovative library instruction and information literacy programs in support of a Learning Commons next-generation environment. To apply, log in to the online system at: <https://jobs.xula.edu>. Attach a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references, with the letter of application addressed to: Tamera Hanken, Chair, Library Search Committee. Review of applications will begin June 19th 2017, and continue until the position is filled. EOE/AA

Call for Papers for The Religion and Culture in the Americas Seminar

The Seminar explores topics in religion and culture broadly and from interdisciplinary perspectives including social history, biography, cultural studies, visual and material culture, urban studies, and the history of ideas. We are interested in how religious belief has affected society, rather than creedal- or theological-focused studies.

The Seminar provides an opportunity for scholars to share works-in-progress, and we encourage papers that use new methods, unveil archival discoveries, or need feedback in preparation for book and journal article publication.

Seminar sessions are held on Fridays from 3pm to 5pm at the Newberry, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The link to the website is:

<https://www.newberry.org/newberry-seminar-religion-and-culture-americas>