

# Catholic Research Resources Alliance

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## Feature Article

### Valuing the User Experience: CRRRA Annual Meeting June 27, 2017, Chicago

Users are the raison d'être for the Catholic Portal and the [Catholic News Archive](#). It is therefore important to listen to their stories of discovery as we plan the expansion of these resources and other projects. This year part of the CRRRA Annual Meeting will be devoted to listening to our users in order to better understand how students and researchers are using these resources and what types of future collaborative projects might be beneficial. If you know a researcher who has used either the [Portal](#) or the [News Archive](#) and who might be willing to share their story, please contact any member of the program planning group. We understand students and researchers might not be

attending the meeting, but we can work with you to tell their stories.

We look forward to hearing from you. Plan now to join us on June 27, 2017 at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) at the Schreiber Center in downtown Chicago.

Kathy Young, Loyola University Chicago, chair  
Jennifer Head, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Pat Lawton, CRRA  
Karen Reilly, College of the Holy Cross  
Marianne Ryan, LUC  
Stephanie Shreffler, University of Dayton  
Jennifer Younger, CRRA

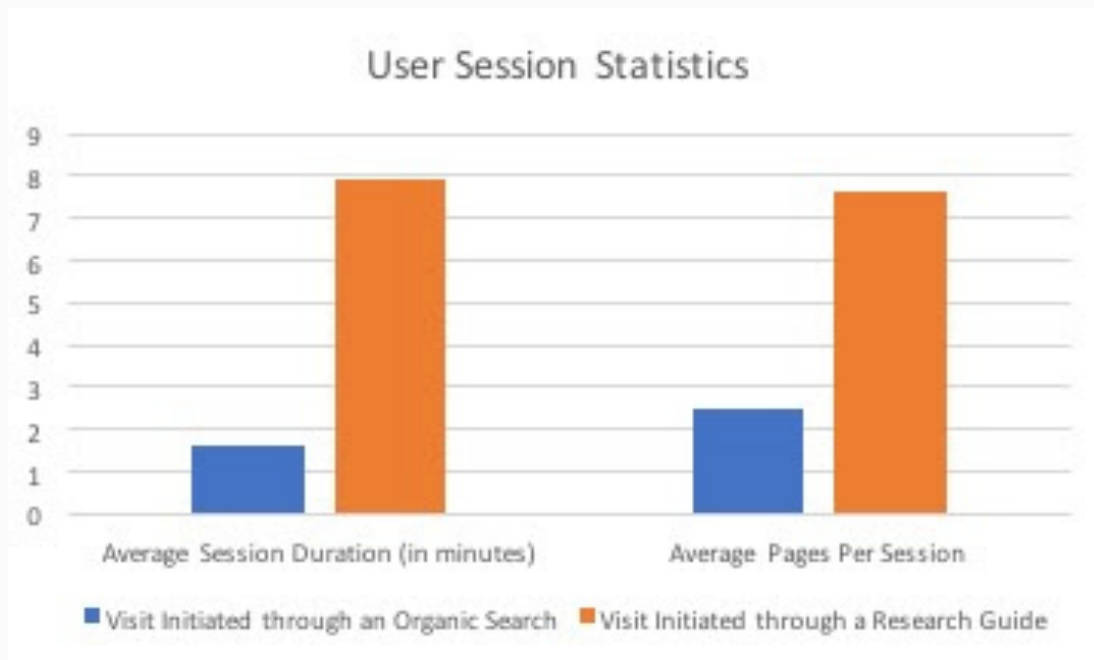
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## ***Google Analytics Winter 2017 Report***

*Josh Dinsman, CRRA Website Manager and Digital Projects Assistant*

Each year CRRA utilizes data from Google Analytics to track usage statistics for the CRRA website, the results of which can be found in our annual Google Analytics Reports. We invite you to read [this year's entire report](#), but offer a few highlights here with some of the key findings from the 2016 calendar year.

Compared to the previous year, user sessions held steady in 2016, with just under 29,000 sessions conducted during the calendar year. Research guides also continued to bring visitors to the CRRA website, with over one quarter of all website traffic originating from research guides at member and partner institutions. Such visits are important as they tend to result in longer and more in-depth user sessions (see chart below). For instance, organic searches typically result in a site visit that is under two minutes where the user visits 2-3 pages on the site, whereas site visits originating from a research guide typically result in user sessions that are at least 5 minutes long where the user visits 5 or more pages.



Other notable findings from this year's report include the growing international reach of the website and the increase in the number of users who conducted searches while on the website. Regarding the international reach of the website, when compared to the previous year, 2016 saw an increase in the number of user sessions originating in both Africa and in the Oceania region. Finally, in 2016 there were over 600 more user sessions that resulted in a search of the website. These sessions resulted in approximately 1,500 more unique searches of the site in 2016 compared to 2015.

## ***The Catholic News Archive***

*Jennifer Younger, CRRA Executive Director*

Real questions from real users. We are hearing from colleagues in Philadelphia and Washington, DC about the questions their users are taking to the [Catholic News Archive](#). These users are not alone. Since the Archive opened in September 2016, over 1,100 unique users have searched the portal for answers to questions, which are

sometimes their own questions about their local parish history or the Catholic reporting of and response to Ku Klux Klan activities. What we have seen is that the average user reads an average of six pages per session. Almost half (44%) are return visits. The content continues to grow with almost 150,000 pages from newspapers in Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, as well as from the *Catholic News Service's* historic news feeds and the *National Catholic Reporter*. If you haven't taken a look recently, check out the new features: browse by diocese, "Today in History," or register to correct OCR text in a favorite article. All of this was made possible by the additional financial support of the [Founders of the Archive](#) and the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops.

There is a lot more content to add and we continue to work with our [Digitizing Partners](#). Funding is key, and we are pursuing grants for individual papers and the project as a whole. Our first foray into crowdfunding is a GoFundMe campaign for *The Catholic World in Pictures*, set up and publicized by Katherine Nuss, Information and Archives Services Manager, USCCB. Users may also donate via the "Donate" button on [The Catholic News Archive's home page](#).

We also want to let more potential users know about this new, freely available online resource for access to historical Catholic newspapers. One approach is through advertising, and an ad will be in the conference program for the National Catholic Educational Association / Catholic Library Association 2017 Convention, which generally draws upwards of 10,000 principals, teachers, and librarians. During the conference, Sara Baron, Duquesne, and Pat Lawton, CRRA, are presenting "Finding, Preserving, and Chronicling Our Past: Diocesan and National Catholic Papers in the Catholic News Archive." Last, we are preparing a flyer for your use in publicizing the uses of the Catholic News Archive to your constituencies and will happily make these available for your distribution. Spread the word!

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# ***Catholic Newspapers Online***

*Pat Lawton, CRRA Digital Projects Librarian*

With links to more than two hundred newspapers, [Catholic Newspapers Online](#) (CNO) creates easy access to current issues of many diocesan, national, and student newspapers. CNO has become a regularly consulted "find it here" resource. If you don't find your diocesan or student newspaper listed here, send a message to [Josh Dinsman](#), Digital Projects Assistant, CRRA. Indicate 1) Title (place, if not clear from the title), 2) Years of coverage, and 3) URL to the resource. Examples below.

## **Catholic New World: Newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago**

2010-current

<http://www.chicagocatholic.com/cnwonline/archive.aspx>

## **The Pittsburgh Catholic**

Archdiocese of Pittsburgh

March 16, 1844-March 7, 1957

<http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-pc/>

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# ***The Portal***

*Jennifer Younger, CRRA Executive Director*

While "parish histories" and "parish history" continue as the most popular searches in the portal, we see too more specific searches. One such search query is "Bilenge ya Mwindi," a small group in Kinshasa. The group, known in English as Youth of Light, was launched by a local parish vicar as part of the parish's pastoral outreach to urban youth. Thanks are due here to the Catholic Theological Union for contributing to the broad range of rare and uncommonly held materials discoverable via the portal.

During the last year, records were added that strengthened the collections in Catholic education and women religious, to name only two areas, and increased the number of rare materials as well as digital materials. Although a format, not a topic, it is interesting to see the growth in images on postcards and holy cards. Over 450 postcards and 650 holy cards are accessible via the portal with many of these records containing links to a digitized image. It is also interesting to see that the postcards and holy cards are held in seventeen member collections.

In addition to records sent to the portal from library catalogs, records harvested directly from member digital repositories, such as ContentDM, increased significantly, making more digitized materials fully accessible via the portal. For the curious among us, Eric Lease Morgan, University of Notre Dame, suggests this search — <http://bit.ly/2mPmZxN> — to see where the institutional collections are and the fascinating array of topics of the over 25,000 digital materials described in the OAI-based metadata. If you are interested in having your content harvested directly, please get in touch with [Kevin Cawley](#), Digital Access Committee chair, University of Notre Dame Archives; [Eric Lease Morgan](#), University of Notre Dame and/or [Pat Lawton](#), CRRA.



## ***From the Board: It's Spring***

*Steve Connaghan, University Librarian, The Catholic University of America*

It's spring. The beat goes on as we begin planning for the annual meeting and analyzing the results of the recent survey on CRRA benefits and services. I hope many of you responded. We are eager to learn from you as the Board and all of our committees start planning priorities and goals for next year. On my campus,

we are addressing priorities for next year in various forums and then figuring out how best to deploy our resources. That same process is true for CRRA, with the last step being the adoption of next year's strategic annual plan and the CRRA budget at our last meeting in June.

We recently sent a ballot to the voting representatives, who will elect three Board members to three year terms starting July 1, 2017. My term as Board chair comes to an end in June when the Board elects officers for the coming year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead CRRA, to share in the excitement as the [Catholic News Archive](#) evolved from a dream to a reality, and through this column, to communicate with you, our members, partners and friends. I'm not leaving CRRA, however, and will continue on the Board in the role of past-chair.

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## ***Member News***

- **The Catholic Archives in the Digital Age: The Fate of Religious Order Archives Conference**, recently held at Catholic University, which has historically served as a center of education for members of religious orders from around the country, featured scholars of the American Catholic experience and archivists stewarding religious order records alike speaking on the rich role played by women and men religious in "weaving the fabric of the U.S. church." Several CRRA members were among the panelists, including Maria Mazzenga and Tim Meager, Catholic University; Denise Gallo, Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives; Carol Coburn, Avila University; and Pat Lawton, Digital Initiatives Director, CRRA.  
[Read more ...](#)

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- **CRRA at the Catholic Library Association 2017 Annual Convention: The Multiplier Effect**

CRRA and CLA share interests in ensuring access to Catholic resources and ongoing professional development. Through CLA, we have an opportunity to engage with and learn from parish, community and school librarians. This year, CRRA/CLA members will present five sessions in St. Louis:

Parish and Community Section

- "Finding, Preserving, and Chronicling Our Past: Diocesan and National Catholic Papers in the Catholic News Archive," by Sara Baron, University Librarian, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Pat Lawton, Digital Projects Librarian, CRRA/ University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- "Bringing the Archives and Library to the Online Classroom: Catholic Course Content Old and New in Action," by Alan Delozier, Archivist/ Special Collections Librarian, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.
- "Early Church Fathers and Mothers," by N. Curtis Le May, Library Director/ Theological Librarian, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity—University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Elyse Hayes, Director of Library and Information Services, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception.

Academic Section

- "Demonstrating Library Value Through Interdisciplinary Programming," by Sara Baron, University Librarian, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- "Moving Collections: Lessons Learned," by Sarah B. Cahalan, Director, and Colleen Hoelscher, Librarian/Archivist, Marian Library, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.



- **Announcing: Chronicling the U.S. Catholic Experience in the First World War**

The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives houses the richest collection of materials related to the First World in the United States. As America nears the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into the First World War, the Archives is making hundreds of pages of photographs, letters, scrapbooks, and other documents available online to the public free of charge in a new [website](#).

- La Salle University invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean and University Librarian. The Dean and University Librarian will serve as the executive administrator of the Connelly Library as well as the University Archives and the proposed Learning Commons.

See <https://careers.insidehighered.com/job/1322299/dean-and-university-librarian/>