

CRRA Updates (Excerpts of interest to the Scholars Advisory Committee):

Highlights of the year, June 2011-July 2012

<http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/Updates/CRRA%20Update%20June%202012.pdf>

Jan 2012

--Many Rare Catholic Materials Yet to Be Digitized

A recent survey of Catholic college and university libraries indicates that many rare and unique Catholic scholarly materials are held and a small percentage (30%) of the surveyed institutions has digitized their rare Catholic resources. Yet, respondents indicate an interest in working collaboratively with other institutions to make Catholic scholarly materials more readily available through digitization.

CRRA members Marta Deyrup and Martha Loesch (Seton Hall) presented their findings as participants in the *Digital Projects Showcase* at the November Duquesne Symposium.

To read more about this and other showcase projects, see the full article from the ACCU newsletter (page 9) at: <http://www.accunet.org/files/public/Update/Winter2011b.pdf>.

--The Duquesne Symposium Reflections

Advancing Catholic Scholarly Research: A Symposium at Duquesne University

Perhaps the best way to describe the Symposium is through the participants' words:

- The Symposium clarified the mission of the CRRA and will help me to choose what items to contribute to the portal.
- It was wonderful to discuss options and future problems/challenges from experts in the field.
- I have more ideas about areas of our collection that would be of interest to scholars of Catholic Studies.
- Great symposium. Generated a lot of ideas for me to take home.
- I have made personal contacts for on-going assistance. I have seen possibilities I would not have seen. This has been interesting + helpful

Feb 2012

--Strategic Plan

From Lorraine Olley, Chair of the Five Year Strategic Planning Task Force

Strategic directions, initiatives and mission-critical outcomes: Content and community

The Task Force (TF) employs the "content and community" framework to keep its thinking targeted on strategies for enhancing access to Catholic research resources (content) and on the communities of scholars, archivists and librarians drawn to, collaborating through and participating in carrying out the mission (community). This dual focus provides the foundation for the vision, mission, and directions for CRRA that the Task Force will propose, all of which are focused on users, collections and a business plan for carrying out our mission.

March 2012

--Selecting Materials for the Catholic Portal-- Fran Rice.

The University of Dayton, University Libraries apply two approaches to the recommendation and selection of materials for inclusion in the Catholic Portal: collaboration and faculty recommendations. Selection of materials for the Catholic Portal is part of the digital planning process of our Digital Projects Advisory Committee. This committee includes representatives from the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute and the U.S. Catholic Collection of Roesch Library. The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute is recognized as the world's largest and most

comprehensive collection of printed materials on Mary. The U.S. Catholic Collection preserves records of the Catholic Church and Catholic life in the United States and supports the University's new doctoral program in Religious Studies focusing on the U.S. Catholic experience.

April 2012

--Collection focus

THE PHILADELPHIA ARCHDIOCESAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER COLLECTION –Sean Weldon

The Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center (PAHRC) holds one of the largest collections of Catholic newspapers in the United States. These newspapers were collected by the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia which was founded in 1886 to collect material documenting the history of Catholicism in the United States. The ACHS collections, including manuscripts, newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, books, artifacts and graphic material, were given to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in the 1930's. In 1989, the ACHS Collection was merged with the Archives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to form PAHRC.

The newspaper collection contains Catholic newspapers from throughout the United States as well as some Catholic newspapers from Canada, England, Ireland, France and Italy. The collection contains over 300 titles, representing 35 states and the District of Columbia, and covers the period primarily from the 1820's through the 1940's. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1840's through the 1920's.

Included are early and prominent Catholic newspapers such as *The Catholic Press/The United States Catholic Press* (Hartford), *The Catholic Miscellany* (Charleston), *The Catholic Herald* (Philadelphia), *The Catholic Mirror* (Baltimore), *The Catholic Advocate* (Louisville), *The Pilot* (Boston), *The Catholic Telegraph* (Cincinnati) and *The Freeman's Journal* (New York City). The collection also contains many ethnic newspapers, including Irish-American, German-American and Polish-American newspapers, as well as newspapers published for a juvenile audience, society newspapers and papers published for the support of Catholic institutions.

Notable are some of the first black Catholic newspapers published in the United States. There is a good run of the *American Catholic Tribune*, originally published in Cincinnati and later in Detroit, for the years 1887-1894. There are some issues of *The Journal*, a Philadelphia black Catholic newspaper that was published for a few months in 1892. The collection also includes Volume I, Number 1 (February 18, 1905) of *The Catholic Herald*, a black Catholic newspaper in Washington, D.C. which may be the only issue published. For more information on black Catholic newspapers and periodicals in the PAHRC collection see the following:

<http://www.pahrc.net/index.php/black-catholic-periodicals/>

The collection also contains other rare titles such as *Sina Sapa Wocekiye Taeyanpaha*, a North Dakota newspaper published in the Sioux language, *The Catholic Visitor* (Richmond, Virginia), *The New Jersey Catholic Journal* (Trenton, New Jersey) and perhaps the only significant collection of *Redpath's Illustrated Weekly*, a primarily Irish national newspaper published in New York City by the journalist and social activist James Redpath.

Despite the size and research value of the collection, there are some issues that impact its usefulness. Although there are very large runs of issues for the major newspapers, none of the titles is complete and there are gaps and issues missing. Most of the rarer newspapers may contain only a few issues or a few years of the paper. The most pressing issue is that the collection is maintained primarily in hard copy and a significant number of the newspapers are in very fragile condition and in need of immediate conservation and preservation. One of the advantages of membership in the CRRA is the opportunity to cooperate with other repositories facing these same issues to create a comprehensive online inventory and directory of North American Catholic newspapers and to facilitate the eventual digitization of the various collections. One of my goals as a member of the CRRA Newspapers Taskforce is to assist in the realization of these projects.

To view the contents of the newspaper collection at PAHRC see the following: <http://pahrc.pastperfect-online.com/30664cgi/mweb.exe?request=clicksearch;dtype=d;subset=0; t1101=newspapers>

--Shawn Weldon, PAHRC

Member, Collections Committee

Member, Catholic Newspapers Task Force

May 2012

--Involvement in Library Association meetings and presentations, e.g.:

More CRRA at ALA: June 23, 4:00- 5:30 pm. ALCTS Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries Interest Group Transforming Collections. June 25, 8:00-10:00 am. Virtual Faiths: Cooperative Digitization Projects.

June 2012

Highlights of the year

<http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/Updates/CRRA%20Update%20June%202012.pdf>

July 2012

--Newspaper Project gaining momentum

The CRRA Catholic Newspapers Program (CNP) by Jennifer Younger, CRRA Executive Director

About a year ago, the CRRA Scholars Advisory Committee noted that Catholic newspapers offer many key insights into the life of Catholics as well as into the beliefs and influence of the Catholic Church. As such, Catholic newspapers are highly-valued resources relevant to a broad array of issues across disciplines, including adaptation to new environments, charitable work and social justice, school systems and hospitals. Especially in cities with large numbers of Catholics, the newspapers provide a Catholic dimension on critical questions in American history. At the same time, scholars noted these newspapers are often held in scattered locations with unknown holdings, in fragile condition and vulnerable to disappearance. They recommended digitizing Catholic newspapers for access, use and preservation.

The Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center (PAHRC) holds one of the largest collections of Catholic newspapers in the United States, now accessible via the portal (CRRA Update April 2012). Currently, a small number of newspapers and newspaper clippings appear in the collections of ten other CRRA members. Duquesne, Villanova, and Boston College have digitized individual Catholic newspapers. Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and Notre Dame are each seeking grants to digitize diocesan newspapers in their respective states. The CRRA Five Year Strategic Plan highlights the importance of Catholic newspapers in developing important, curated collections and in developing the scope of the portal for continuing value to scholars with this mission critical outcome:

3.3.2 Continue project to locate, provide access to and digitize North American Catholic newspapers toward the goal of an online directory and central shared repository.

In the last several months, the Catholic Newspapers Task Force has created a three part plan to create a comprehensive directory with links to the full digital content when available, encourage digitization projects and explore options leading to a central shared repository in the future. Two pilot projects are underway. The University of St. Michael's College is undertaking a survey of Canadian library holdings of Catholic newspapers. Pat Lawton, CRRA, is mining extant sources of newspaper metadata to build a prototype directory after which she will gather and add data from CRRA members on the kinds, formats, and holdings in their collections, and whether these newspapers are included in their digitization plans. Even in its early development, the directory will encourage broader use by simplifying access, laying the groundwork for a more extensive survey of institutions, and supporting individual and collaborative digitization projects.

At the ALA Annual Conference, I spoke at a program on cooperative digitizing projects of religious materials. What quickly became evident is that each project – the American Methodism Project, the Florida Jewish Newspaper Project and the Catholic Newspaper Program – has discovered significant gaps in digital religious documents. Many digitization projects focused on geographic, format or other characteristics that while not completely exclusive of religious documents, did not systematically or comprehensively include religious materials. The three projects will create internationally important digital collections of religious materials. We thank the American Theological Library Association and the Catholic Library Association for inviting CRRA to participate. You

can find the presentation slides for Virtual Faiths Digitizing Catholic Newspapers June 2012 on the CRRA website:
<http://www.catholicresearch.net/info/CNP%20June%202012.pptx>

Sept 2012

--New members

Welcome to Our New Participants We are pleased to welcome Fontbonne University, Rosemont College, and St. Norbert College to the CRRA membership and to welcome Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters as an inaugural partner (nonvoting) participant.

October 2012

--**DePaul Hosts Catholic Research Resources Alliance Symposium** On October 15 – 16, 2012, DePaul University hosted the annual Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) Symposium, “Nurturing the ‘Spirit of Perfect Charity’: Libraries and Archives at the Intersection of Service and Scholarship in Catholic Social Justice Studies.”

--Preview of the CRRA Updated Website

We invite your input into how the site works for you and how it might be improved. Max and I will be hosting two one-hour webinars to demo the site. Please plan to join us for one of these sessions.
Demo of CRRA website and discussion:

Thursday, November 8 at 12:00 noon Eastern time (11 central, 9 pacific)

Sessions will include a live demo of the site and comments and suggestions from you (via text chat and/or telephone).

To participate, please email Max (mtolomei@nd.edu) or Pat (plawton@nd.edu) for login information.