

Digital Access Committee Minutes

20 September 2013

Present: Demian Katz, Jennifer Younger, Pat Lawton, Lisa Gonzalez, Kevin Cawley

Demian called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm Eastern Time.

Update on newspaper project:

Demian reported that no firm decisions have been made, but the project is progressing. The committee is trying to get a quote from OCLC for their services (WorldCat). There have been discussions regarding the CRL ICON platform, though no clear idea of how much money would be involved. Reveal Digital has cost recovery plan that would allow CRRA to fund through subscription but allow open access after time. For Lyris CRRA would pay up front and get the content. Lyris is exploring funding possibilities. The committee is close to a decision on the directory, and has been exploring new digitization options.

Jennifer reported on the idea of developing LibGuides for CRRA: a new Subject Guide Subcommittee of the Membership Committee has been established. These are the members of the subcommittee:

1. Felice Maciejewski, Subcommittee Chair, Dominican University
2. Tony Amodeo, Loyola Marymount University
3. Ted Bergfelt, Duquesne University
4. Lindsey Nawojski, Dominican University
5. Peggy Ridlen, Fontbonne University
6. Steven Szegedi, Dominican University
7. Ximena Valdivia, Barry University

The subcommittee will work on a LibGuide that local libraries can use to promote the Catholic portal, and will share draft LibGuides with other committees such as the Collections Committee and DAC, seeking comments.

Archiving exhibits:

At a meeting of the Collections Committee a question was raised: How should CRRA or one of its members preserve an exhibit of interest to CRRA? For example Notre Dame has an exhibit on the Inquisition, and Marta Deyrup at Seton Hall has developed one showing the holdings of several CRRA members on Women's Religious Orders. Such exhibits are generally taken down after a period of time. Should CRRA or the member institutions somehow make them available in perpetuity? Should we maintain them on the CRRA site? The Seton Hall exhibit on women religious involves blog postings. Seton Hall will host it until October 1, but won't actively interact with it after that, though it will not be taken down at that time. Would CRRA keep it alive, or would Seton Hall preserve it for its institutional history but no longer keep it alive? Lisa said that the Internet Archive has some robust tools for preserving websites. Demian said that one can preserve a Wordpress site as non-interactive or as a blog that continues to work (so that people can continue to comment). Kevin said that for historical value, it needs to be static. Pat

supposed that we will eventually establish a CRRA archives. She had software called Webwhacker that might serve, or possibly Jing. Demian wondered if we want people to experience it as it was at a point in time, or show them a tour? Lisa said that we might at least save on wayback machine (Internet Archive, www.archive.org) Future exhibits might have video or interactive components that would be hard to preserve. Do the architects of the exhibit want CRRA to preserve in in CRRA web space? Jennifer said that interim solutions should work for the time being. We don't need to focus on future complexity -- a snapshot of the current Seton Hall exhibit would be a good start.

Institutional repository documents in the portal:

Marquette has papers in an institutional repository. Is CRRA interested in including these? The Collections Committee says YES. Demian said that Vufind may already have a way of taking in the metadata for these, or can develop one, but he would need more specifics about the characteristics of these papers. CRRA might set up a harvesting process to import records. Pat said that we need to identify which papers qualify for portal. Demian said that the member institutions could include indications in metadata to establish catholic set to determine what to harvest, or CRRA might take all papers and later follow some heuristic procedure to eliminate ones not appropriate for the portal.

We should investigate the Catholic papers in the Marquette digital repository as a test case. Jennifer wondered about harvesting from Content DM. Demian said that this could be done, but the challenges would be similar, involving collection and the selection aspects of harvesting. The Collections Committee should offer advice on how to create a selection.

Kevin asked for an update on the peace-building network, and the prospects of making it part of CRRA. Jennifer said that they are still excited about it, and would like to make their documents accessible. Using CRRA would be less labor intensive than to maintain their own discovery tool and website. But they do not know how to proceed in the creation of metadata. How can they get help? Kevin suggested that an archival approach might suit them better than library metadata. Jennifer recommended a discussion involving Tracy Bergstrom, Kevin, and representatives of the peace-building network.

Goals discussion:

Demian suggested that DAC take a high level view today, to consider what's coming next and how to approach goals. What next on digitization best practices? Pat said that on the CRRA wiki digitization best practices are presently quite broad. We need to focus on newspaper digitization best practice and metadata, discuss various standards out there, including the National Digital Newspaper Program. One issue is whether to use original for digitizing whenever possible. The NDNP says digitize microfilm, but that assumes good microfilm. This may be the only approach feasible for some because of cost, and it may simply be the form in which most newspapers have survived so far. Demian considered that it is better to digitize from paper if you have good paper, though sometimes microfilm is the only sensible way to do it. Kevin said that he preferred best practice documents that include this sort of recognition of variations in what we have to digitize in the first place rather than simple one-size-fits-all standards.

Outreach and member mentoring:

What is the status of our orientation packet? What do we need to do now? Jennifer explained a change recommended for "Making Your Content Available". A prospective CRRA member suggested to the Membership Committee that we shouldn't say we need to bring a team of specialists together, implying that CRRA is only for large libraries. We should revise the document in an activity-based way, rather than supposing everybody has many staff specialists as in the present staff-based description. Jennifer will produce a draft within a few months, and we will discuss it then.

Social media, website, blog:

Are we making any progress in social media? Who will do it, when will it begin? Pat said that an ad-hoc group has already retooled the logo. We need to survey who are our audiences -- twitter and facebook serve different groups. We haven't done this study. We have set up a facebook page, but have done nothing with it. DAC's responsibility is to set up such resources, not manage them from there on. Jennifer would like to see us advertise for a volunteer to manage social media and be facebook host. Demian said that this will be easier to do when newspaper project is further along. We will need to have something to talk about day by day, something to report. As the digitization progresses, we will have that to talk about; we can also report when member institutions have added new collections or items. We need somebody proactive, who will not wait for members to post. Liaisons should be involved: CRRA members will have interesting things to talk about. Jennifer wondered if this should be done by an unpaid volunteer or if there should be a stipend. Demian suggested that we ask for a volunteer first and see if anybody shows up. If we ask directors to contribute somebody's time to support CRRA, such a person would be able to do during work hours, and therefore be compensated somewhat.

Wrapping up:

Demian reported that the upgrade to VuFind 2.0 at Villanova is going well. Eventually we need to think about how new features of this version to apply to the portal. Pat raised the question: Do users want or need an explanation of the CRRA themes? We can find out if we keep statistics on how much this page on the CRRA site is used.

In our next DAC call will have more discussion of digitization, and of the institutional repository at Marquette.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Demian Katz wrote:

The next DAC call will be next Friday, September 20, at 2:00 CENTRAL time and 3:00 EASTERN.

AGENDA

Updates:

- Newspapers project
- Other announcements?

Main Discussion Topics:

- Archiving exhibits
- Institutional Repository docs in the portal
- Goals discussion – contextualizing / setting targets

Several documents are attached:

- The minutes from last call
- Recent collection committee minutes (for some IR discussion, among other things)
- Our draft goals from the last call

You may also wish to review these digitization best practice links shared by Shana for the first part of the goals discussion:

- Digitization capture standards from the WRLC: <http://confluence.wrlc.org:8090/display/polstand/D%29+Capture>
- Standards from ALA ALCTS: <http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/minimum-digitization-capture-recommendations>

Some more relevant links courtesy of Pat:

- <http://crra.pbworks.com/w/page/60620928/FrontPage> (CRRRA Wiki – in process)
- <http://www.ifla.org/node/6777> (IFLA digitisation standards and best practices)
- <http://publishing.educopia.org/chronicles/> (Guidelines for Digital Newspaper Preservation Readiness)

CALL-IN INFORMATION

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 216 605 75