

Digital Access Committee Conference Call 5 May 2009

Present: Eric Lease Morgan, Wm. Kevin Cawley, Pat Lawton, Susan E. Leister, Ann Hanlon, Thomas W. Leonhardt

Discussion centered on questions about the technical infrastructure of the CRRA Portal and possible strategic goals and deadlines.

The main goal for the DAC is to implement VuFind. Implementation includes developing a search interface, testing indexing software and indexing EAD files. One challenge that has been encountered: VuFind is designed for MARC records and at this point, does not work with EAD files. Eric and the Team Portal at Notre Dame are in the process of deciding how to proceed.

Eric would like the database to grow faster. He would like to have thousands of records representing different formats (books, images, sound, post cards, etc.) for development purposes. He needs a large amount of data to use for testing converting EAD to MARC. Eric also emphasized the importance of standards and the need to review and begin using the Portal's Metadata Guidelines as we move forward.

Metadata records on the Web can also be harvested using a Z39.50 server or OAI-MPH. For example, using Z39.50, a source specific query (e.g., asking for RARE BOOKS) would search for MARC records in the catalog with that string. Once identified, the records could be harvested and imported into the Portal. OAI-MPH is waning in popularity, but is capable of importing a record composed of few basic Dublin Core fields. Can we narrow down fields we are looking at for harvesting purposes? Eric suggested a local MARC tag, possibly 690 or 699 with CRRA in the subfield *a*.

The DAC is strongly in favor of adding new members to CRRA because of the potential (membership criteria) for staff who can help us partner with VuFind. Programmers who can work with PHP would be particularly helpful. Also needed are members who can contribute large numbers of records. We can also identify and harvest open source journals with material of interest to CRRA.

The DAC recommends that CRRA expand the number of themes and suggests that this is a topic for a joint meeting with the Collections Committee when we gather in Chicago this July.

Additional topics and outcomes for the July meeting were mentioned including: how Pat can offer assistance, documentation for selection and contribution, deadline setting for getting 500 or more records in the Portal.

Pat offered to develop fact sheets on the Portal. Everyone agreed this would be useful.