

DAC 11.9.10 Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Leonhardt, Eric Frierson, Maura Kenny, Kevin Cawley, Marta Deyrup, Demian Katz, Susan Leister, Wei Zhang, Ann Hanlon, Eric Morgan, Pat Lawton

1. Update on metadata guidelines (Pat)

Ann, Marta, Eric, Kevin have been working on a new version which integrates minimum requirements for functionality and use for EAD and MARC. A draft for discussion will be available at the DAC December meeting.

2. Member efforts to continually add records and update records to the portal (Pat and Eric)

Several members have made strides in this area and general consensus is the harvesting procedure works. The CRRA's collection policy invites all rare, unique, and/or uncommon materials related to the Catholic experience. If selectors are uncertain about what to include, please encourage them to contact us for clarification. The Collections committee prefers to leave the decision of "appropriateness" to the discretion of local institutions but we understand the value of talking over some possibilities and will gladly meet with selectors to clarify.

3. Use statistics (Eric)

Eric M. described two tools currently in place: Analog and Google Analytics (see tabs for each in the CRRA Admin area: <https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/> (catholic; portal). Demian indicated that the VuFind stats module will also track searches with zero hits and suggested the VuFind site map generator tool for other useful features.

Discussion followed including a suggestion to add a user survey to the CRRA website, asking users to comment on their search experience. This evolved into a discussion about who is using the portal and how to increase visibility within CRRA membership and how to publicize within and beyond our community. Tom referred to this as an executive responsibility, for library directors to make everyone in the library aware of what the CRRA is and is doing. It is a "grand undertaking" and one that directors should share with their staffs.

Eric will be blogging about the current stats collected. The next step, then, is to take the discussion to the Board - show them stats that are currently gathered and ask for their input on what other stats and reports they would like CRRA to track.

4. Usability studies catholicresearch.net, vufind.library.nd.edu (Pat and Eric)

By December, several key milestones in portal development will have been met including: VuFind 1.0 (ELM, functionality, EF look and feel), EAD viewer, EAD as EAD not MARC, increased member content via new members and implementation of processes to continually update content by new members, Changes to tabs on catholicresearch.net to include "How to participate" etc.

Eric noted the importance of getting feedback from users (not CRRA or committee members) regarding the functionality of the portal. Ann suggested the approach used in focus groups, noting that users might be more loosely defined than in the focus groups where scholars and students with Catholic research interests were interviewed. Background: last fall, six member institutions conducted focus groups to gather input from scholars and students regarding the nature of the content deemed as important for the portal. The proposed usability studies might be conducted in a similar fashion (at member institutions) complete with a common list of questions and procedures to use at each. DAC or a task force could take the lead in generating the protocol and questions. Over the shoulder observations were suggested as was using various software techniques to view what users are searching. Demian suggested looking at focus group results as a beginning point to generating questions of interest. Pat volunteered to do this and to report back to the group.

Susan raised an issue of portal functionality - indicating to users how to get the item. As an example, Georgetown users are interested in their Lives of Saints but Georgetown does not lend the item and it is not digitized. A point of contact or location in the metadata would be ideal. Eric M. said he is working on just this - a mechanism to display institution and call number, and beyond that is the possibility for contact info or a link to the home institution.

5. January in San Diego (Pat)

Wed. Jan. 5

Informal events for those arriving early, followed by dinner.

Thursday, January 6, 2011, Copley Library, University of San Diego

- Noon to 2 p.m. Board of Directors (with both onsite and call-in participation for Board members)
 - Noon to 2 p.m. Campus and library tours to be arranged
 - 2:30 - 5 p.m. Open forum for all participants with refreshments provided by the Copley Library
- Previewing portal, EAD,
- 5:30 Dinner for all participants at Le Gran Terraza which offers a fine dining experience on campus (your own treat)

Details are available here: <http://www.catholicresearch.net/blog/2010/09/crra-in-san-diego-january-2011/>

6. Other business

CRRA/ND Forum on Digital Humanities

All are invited to attend this forum exploring text mining and visualization techniques that can be employed in the portal once there is a critical mass of digitized content. This forum will explore current approaches.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday and Friday, Feb. 24 and 25, 2011. Beverages and shelter will be available for your sled dogs.

