DIGITIZING MATERIALS IN GLOBAL CATHOLIC PEACEBUILDING

Presented by Kristi Haas, University of Notre Dame • Catholic Peacebuilding Network • In collaboration with the Hesburgh Libraries, the CRRA, and others

Goals & Implications

Many texts by Catholic bishops worldwide are very difficult to find. This project makes such documents discoverable through a single site, the Catholic Portal, so as to enhance scholarship on the theory and practice of Catholic peacebuilding and the more general study of religion in our global context.

{Genres}
- Pastoral letters
- Public statements
- Manuals & reports
- Correspondence

Examples


Summary

This project makes hundreds of hard-to-find, primary-source texts related to peacebuilding freely and publicly available through the Catholic Portal.

The project will include texts from Catholic groups of all kinds. The current phase focuses on bishops’ conferences, especially those with whom the CPN works actively:
- Dem. Rep. of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, ACEAC
- South Sudan, Uganda, AMECEA
- Colombia, the Philippines, Nigeria
- Regional Federations: Asia, Latin America, Africa

These collections fall under peacebuilding, one of the Catholic Portal’s collecting themes. They are of interest for the application of Catholic Social Teaching, the role of the church in the world, the increasingly global constitution of Christianity, global politics, and more.

Work Process

Though the work process is being adjusted to incorporate additional collaborating institutions, the basic process is well tried and established. It can serve as a model for similar projects.

1. Bibliography created and initial permission sought to create and use digital versions.
2. Digitization of texts, which are found online or in print, to standard quality, including OCR.
3. Metadata collected for each text according to CurateND and Library specifications.
4. CurateND, Notre Dame’s digital repository, houses the files including some metadata.
5. Library records created from the metadata spreadsheet and marked for CRRA.
6. Texts Accessible on the Catholic Portal when records are harvested, catholicresearch.net.
7. Additional point of access: a Catholic Portal search bar on the CPN’s website, cpn.nd.edu.

Progress on Collections

1. Dem. Rep. of the Congo, ACEAC (Central Africa), and AMECEA (East Africa)
   93 documents (47 digital only – Goma collection; 46 print texts from bishops)
   Acquired → Digitized → Seeking Permission → Next Steps
   *Digitized by Kroc. (Metadata, storage, processing)

2. Nigeria: 74 documents (32 digital only – online statements/texts; 42 print booklets)
   Acquired → Digitized → Seeking Permission → Next Steps

3. Uganda: 20 documents listed, those plus additional materials to arrive late summer
   Acquired → Digitized → Seeking Permission → Next Steps

4. Kenya, South Sudan, Malawi, FABC (Asia), CELAM (L America), SECAM (Africa)
   Hundreds of documents listed; many of these also saved from web. For long term.
   Acquired → Digitized → Seeking Permission → Next Steps

Collaborators Present and Future

This project entails much collaboration, and more collaborators are sought. Some include:
- The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) – cpn.nd.edu
- The Hesburgh Libraries’ Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) and Subject Librarians
- The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) – catholicresearch.net

Further collaboration/coordination could relate to additional materials on any topic from global Catholic bishops’ conferences as well as texts from lay groups and additional regions.