

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

**CRRA Catholic Newspapers Task Force**

**Thursday, April 5, 2012**

**11:00 a.m. Eastern / 10:00 a.m. Central**

 Call: 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 219 864 93

**Agenda and minutes**

1. Approve minutes from March 29 meeting

Minutes approved.

1. OSV grant - Our Lady of Victory Noll (Pat)

Jeff Hofmann, archivist, on his grant to OSV for digitization their Missionary Catechist, has Bishop’s letter of support and is submitting grant on April 11, will put records into portal and on OSV website, about $5K.

1. OSV grant – ND (Susan)

Submit for August 10 deadline, key element is letter from bishop, contacted ND President’s Office, contact Fr. Scully, ACE, who has received OSV grants.   
Cait asked how possible, Susan said sending grant from ND.  
Noel asked does TF need to work on this?  Susan said pretty much done, Pat said could knock out a draft and send to TF, Jean agreed nice, is OSV firm on deadline? Pat will check, Jean asked how much, Pat said about $25K.

JY will coordinate with Susan to let Board know of ND’s OSV grant application.

1. NEH:  Update on conversation with BC re: newspaper digitizing (Jennifer)

Meeting notes also sent as email on 4/9/12: RE: Digital newspapers at BC, Villanova and Duquesne, and relationship of the portal to a directory

Beginning of email text:   
The purpose of talking with BC, Villanova & Duquesne is to learn more about how they digitize, manage and create access to their digital newspapers.  Rob was not able to participate in today’s meeting; we can get more details from him later.  We will need to answer questions for the NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant on how CRRA will handle these functions.  Pat has proposed, which makes sense, that additional conversations are needed with other experts (thanks for helping to identify them) but we also want to learn the big picture from our CRRA colleagues.

I also included notes from our discussion about making Catholic newspapers accessible via the Portal and the relationship to a comprehensive, online directory of North American Catholic newspapers. --Jennifer

[*The email continued below*](#BC_VU_DU)*:*

1. Discuss NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant

* June 7 draft to NEH
* May 20 begin writing
* May 1 have info from advisors, a plan
* Now to May 1– actual and intended **use** of the newspapers (News TF, Collections, Scholars) evidence of use, when possible, through examples of outcomes such as scholarly publications, educational activities, exhibitions, or media programming; needs assessment piece
* Can this group do some of this in their local environments between now and May 1? Will need:
  + Project overview
  + NEH checklist
  + OK with doing as a googledoc?
* Triage, assemble good ideas. As leaders and interested parties emerge, they can be the final group to review, tweak and approve the plan that develops
* PL: talk with DAC, get subgroup on it
* PL: How much is humanly possible in a three-year period?
* Now to May 1– conversations with tech gurus to plan the software/hardware/project plan/budget/cataloging and digitization standards

1. Next meeting date: **Thursday, April 26 at 11:00am eastern**

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Email RE: Digital newspapers at BC, Villanova and Duquesne, and relationship of the portal to a directory

**Boston College**

BC has 2 digital newspapers at <http://newspapers.bc.edu/>

1. The Heights (BC student newspaper – 90 years and 40,000 pages)

2. Sacred Heart Review

There is a record in the Catholic portal for Sacred Heart Review, with a note to Click here for open electronic access . Interestingly, clicking on that takes you to [http://dcollections.bc.edu/R/?func=collections-result&collection\_id=1764 instead of to http://newspapers.bc.edu/](http://dcollections.bc.edu/R/?func=collections-result&collection_id=1764%20instead%20of%20to%20http://newspapers.bc.edu/)

I think I know the reason. Bob explained BC puts its digital collections on two different platforms: Veridian and DigiTool with Primo as the discovery layer offering access to both sites. Veridian is the platform for BC’s digital newspapers. This is digital library software made specifically to meet the challenges of delivering historical, digitized newspaper collections online. BC put its digital repository for books, images and other things (but not newspapers) on the DigiTool platform.

· Back to newspaper repository, BC pays Veridian an annual fee to host the newspaper content and software Pricing is based on content. Bob can furnish a ball park cost. Find out more about Veridian platform and services at <http://www.dlconsulting.com/>

· The Digital Library Consulting site also has a good introductory article at http://www.dlconsulting.com/the-unique-challenges-of-newspaper-digitization/

· BC sent its newspapers to Digital Divide Data for digitization and Alto software processing. This company is NOT mentioned on at www.dlconsulting.com. Find out more at <http://www.digitaldividedata.org/services/newspapers>/ BC paid Digital Divide Data a per page charge for the scanning and Alto processing. The Alto processing takes the scanned page, notes where the article is on the page thus providing the support for navigation and puts the information into a metadata schema. The results are completely searchable. Apparently this “alto processing” is the gold standard for creating searchable digital newspaper content.

· Digital Divide Data has a social mission. It delivers world-class, competitively priced digitization and It services to clients across the globe. It recruits Cambodian and Lao staff from disadvantage backgrounds and provides jobs, education and marketable skills to help them overcome poverty and achieve upward mobility. I took this from their web site. Other companies based in the US might also do the same in outsourcing digitization.

Of course, for CRRA, using a platform such as Veridian or DigiTool would incur costs. The dlconsulting.com site mentions Greenstone which is an open source digital library software for building complex digital collections (digital repository) as an alternative to commercial platforms such as DigiTool, Blacklight or others. <http://www.dlconsulting.com/greenstone/>

**Villanova**

Villanova has digitized its campus student newspaper, Villanovan. I didn’t find a record in the Catholic portal, just as there was no record in the portal for the BC student paper The Heights. When I searched the Villanova Digital Library at <http://digital.library.villanova.edu,>I found over one thousand individual listings, which I think are individual records for issues, e.g., the first record was for the Villanovan, Vol. 33. No. 20, 1958 with a link for online access to the content. The screen looked familiar - VuFind at work. It looked like I could browse for one or more issues, which could be arranged in descending or ascending date order, but I’m not sure if it is possible to search the content of individual articles.

Subsequently, Darren sent the link to identify the newspaper titles included in the Villanova Digital Library, which is a collection that brings together historic Catholic newspapers and magazines owned by the American Catholic Historical Society and maintained at the PAHRC and includes Truth Teller, Redpath Weekly, and The Gael.

<http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Catholica%20Collection/American%20Catholic%20Historical%20Society/Newspapers%20and%20Magazines>/

Darren also noted that Villanova has digitized the Philadelphia Herald, a Catholic newspaper but not the diocesan paper, which is a predecessor to Philadelphia’s Catholic Standard & Times, which St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and Villanova are digitizing. He will check on getting the metadata record for the Philadelphia Herald into the portal.

Darren described how digital newspapers at Villanova are created, managed and accessed. Villanova uses VuDL as the open source software backend (platform) for managing complete digital library aspect. They looked at Greenstone before developing VuDL, investigated all options of what was out there, nothing met all of criteria. He indiciated that CRRA can put VuDL on its short list of platforms for the newspaper repository. VuDL has been released at ACRL last year, exhibitor booth at PLA last month 2012, to other libraries,

Villanova uses VuFind for discovery. There is a single point of access through VuFind whereby people can search the library catalog and include searching in the library holdings and digital repository, including the newspapers. Demian Katz can provide many more details about VuFind and VuDL. Darren knows VuFind is being adopted all around the world, recently by elementary schools in France and is being implemented by the Philadelphia Free Library system. There is also a legacy front end which can search the digital library by collection and subcollection. It is a legacy user interface (IU) developed by Villanova and under consideration for replacement. Villanova has purchased Summons as a search tool so can search multiple databases or sources at one time: voyager (library catalog), digital library in VUDL and also what is in Summon. This is similar to BC’s use of Primo to search its separate book and newspaper repositories, library catalog and other resources simultaneously.

Darren summarized as follows: VuDL is the software for the back end of the repository. You can use VuFind as the front end faceted search user interface (UI). We have also a legacy UI “browser” front end to the digital library: http://digital.library.villanova.edu/. This provides patrons with three points of access:

1. content discovered on the Web using a search engine,

2. by means of the Digital Library/Digital Repository browser and

3. by means of our Library catalog which uses VuFind.

For example: [http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Catholica%20Collection/American%20Catholic%20Historical%20Society/Newspapers%20and%20Magazines/Redpath%20Weekly/ or](http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Catholica Collection/American Catholic Historical Society/Newspapers and Magazines/Redpath Weekly/ or https://library.villanova.edu/Find/Search/Results?lookfor=Redpath%27s+Weekly&type=&search=digitallibrary&filter%5B%5D=collection%3ADigital+Library&filter%5B%5D=__fulltext__%3Ayes)

[https://library.villanova.edu/Find/Search/Results?lookfor=Redpath%27s+Weekly&type=&search=digitallibrary&filter%5B%5D=collection%3ADigital+Library&filter%5B%5D=\_\_fulltext\_\_%3Ayes](http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Catholica Collection/American Catholic Historical Society/Newspapers and Magazines/Redpath Weekly/ or https://library.villanova.edu/Find/Search/Results?lookfor=Redpath%27s+Weekly&type=&search=digitallibrary&filter%5B%5D=collection%3ADigital+Library&filter%5B%5D=__fulltext__%3Ayes)

On the management of library metadata, Villanova is migrating from Voyager to Kuali OLE for its bibliographic management/library catalog/ILS. On the scanning, Villanova sent the Villanovan newspaper to be scanned by Internet Archive and then did significant in-house processing to chop up the enormous scanned files sent back from IA. You can get differing degrees of goodness and depending on what you want, you need to have staff on hand to manage quality control & manipulation of scanned files from IA. It is inexpensive. You get what you pay for.

**Duquesne**

Duquesne has digitized the contents of the Pittsburgh Catholic from 1844 – 1864, and as we know from Rob, is now digitizing the volumes through mid-1950’s. You can read and search the digital content at <http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-pc/>. There are options to browse through the issues or search the full content. I don’t know what the platform is or discovery tool, but again, Rob can fill us in on that. There isn’t a record in the Catholic portal yet although I believe both Rob and Laverna have mentioned a desire to contribute that metadata record.

Catholic newspapers accessible via the Portal and a comprehensive, online directory of North American Catholic newspapers

There are only a handful of Catholic newspapers currently in the portal. A search limited to newspaper format retrieves 11 entries, most of which are Indian papers held at Marquette fitting the definition of rare and uncommon. Probably, we have interpreted “rare, unique or uncommon research materials” to exclude Catholic newspapers in general. This is something to consider for the portal especially as we move along in developing the North American Catholic Newspaper Directory. Many of our members have or are in the process of digitizing campus newspapers which relate higher education as well as institutional history. Cait asked last week about the relationship between the portal and the directory. We haven’t discussed how we might or will describe a separate purpose of each but there is some similarity in that both provide a listing of titles. A union catalog isn’t necessarily comprehensive in that it usually lists only those titles held by libraries or archives that add their holdings to the catalog. We have indicated we want the directory to be comprehensive although there is some assumption that some library or archive somewhere, holds a copy in some format of the newspaper, or maybe that isn’t the case. In any case, we will want to address the relationship of the portal and the North American Catholic newspaper directory.

The question was raised: should CRRA aim for a central repository of newspaper in addition to the distributed individual newspapers at multiple and various institutions? Darren shared his personal vision of a central repository of data from members with the portal serving as a front end for any user. Then the back end repository enables members to share newspaper files and be able to use digital newspaper files from that central repository for their local needs as well. Members could use files from CRRA to flesh out its own holdings, add to it, etc. and then return a bigger file, more complete to CRRA. Example of Philadelphia herald, missing volume 1, would like to have another institution contribute the missing data and be able to have a complete file at CRRA and at Villanova. He noted that for CRRA:

· the Portal could be a main access point to discover newspaper titles via VuFind

· VuDL could be used to manage the digital asset, a shared repository. VuDL can manage any file type (audio, digital, etc.) and is good software for managing a digital asset.

· Each library deciding on a digitizing process appropriate to its needs, allowing for digitizing happening in-house and/or at one of various vendors.