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**CRRA Catholic Newspapers Task Force**

**Thursday, May 10, 2012**

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

 Call: 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 219 864 93

**Present**: Rob, Steven, Susan, Noel, Jean, Malachy, Shawn, Cait, Jennifer, Pat

**Agenda and Minutes**

1. **Review and approve April 26 minutes**  
   Minutes approved.
2. **Update on the Milwaukee meeting (Steven, Susan, Pat, Jennifer)**

Met at Marquette on Friday with Tim Walter, Director of Catholic Press Association. Advice on grant approaches from conceptual approaches to specific language. Byzantine rite and Byzantine Studies at ND.

Noel: Can people search in various fonts, provide full and equal access?

Shawn: first consideration is the digitizing of it.

Rob: from proquest, no searching capability.

Noel: Publications in Gaelic older used different alphabet which would not be picked up in OCR. There are packages for German but add-ons to OCR software.

JY: Mary Angela Roman, Shelly managing editor Milwaukee Herald, Patrick Carey (Marquette scholars committee), Bill Thorn (Scholar of Catholic Newspapers, Chair of Institute for Catholic Media, Milwaukee). Carey was emphatic about value of Catholic newspapers as a resource for scholars. Bill Thorn recommended extending to magazines, can be a side project.

What questions newspaper editors will have:

-who will do the digitizing?

-who will pay for it?

-how to manage without interfering with our current subscriptions?

Some papers are owned and published by the diocese, some by publishers.

Cait: copyright?

JY: Catholic news Service, what kinds of agreements?

Cait: In talking with editor of Catholic paper in Philadelphia, they will be happy to point people to an article to someplace else where held. This is a big plus for him.

Shawn: does not see conflict with newspapers. Not sure how far up to present time we would go. Function of crra site would be to point people to the website where paper hosted.

Susan: many orgs have not in fact digitized, ND does OSV, copyright could apply. ND legal team thinks won’t be a problem. Places will be thrilled that benefit.

Jean: Catholic pamphlets project have a sample letter for request for permission.   
Cait: we too have a fairly expensive historical Catholic pamphlet collection.   
Shawn: thrilled if another institution were to digitize them.

Malachy: Katherine Nuss librarian for Catholic News Service (NSWC, CNS) shift in 1920’s to national news, all on film and all indexed. Another publication to get and digitize. Marquette has it USCCB and CNS and maybe ND. Index is available only in Washington. Equal to CPLI and Catholic Directory as it determines what people see in the news. AP for Catholic press, newsfeed for various papers.

Many papers gone to quarterly or monthly format. Marketed as a standard product and shipped to the diocese.

JY: Not in conflict with papers already digitized and what we are doing, since the directory will lead user to the paper. Long term would like to have all papers in one place so we can mine and maximize search discovery and use.

Shawn: we can access the text document. Not necessary for us to have a copy of the digital file. Duquesne Pittsburgh Catholic, crra asks for digital files. Can we link to them is different.   
Rob: pilot with Crivella West, have permission to make files available here but to share with CW may get more complex.

Anyone who digitizes it can be brought together centrally.

Cait: safer to have it distributed.

JY: portal is an index.

Shawn: who would pay for server space to hold digital copies? That would eliminate the need.

JY: CRA will support the collaboration to build the directory, community input or however. Build, maintain, and host the directory of North American Catholic newspapers of metadata with links to digital content wherever it lives. Second aspect how would you enable text mining and digital scholarship – would you create a central repository? CRRA would not do the digitizing.

Noel: at one point more open to centralized digitization depending on funds. Phase 1 identify papers, phase 2 digitize.

JY: role of crra and availability of funds for collaborative digitization projects. Large part of proposal was to support collaborative digitizing. Slightly different than crra doing the digitizing.

1. **Concluding remarks on the NEH Humanities collection and Reference Resources Grant (Pat)**

Noel: What is missing?  
Susan: few papers and the type of publications. We want to look at parishes, different levels of engagement. Many more possibilities. Our range is much broader.

Noel: Searching with Catholic in the title is not an effective way, is not a good way to search. Chronicling America subject access is not great.

JY: another limitation is that the whole project no mechanism for proactively supporting collaborative digitizing. Not complete runs, we will provide complete runs.

Shawn: impression is went to institution and see what they have. Missed a lot of stuff.

Malachy: Desperate need to have preservation strategy. Historians know where the stuff is.

Cait: planning grant?

Malachy: Historical libraries, crra, theological groups. Critical importance to get a strategy to get this stuff. Bob O’Neill’s talk at CLA, how do we get primary sources into the hands of high school students? Crra look at developing that module. Only go to the high end schools, start on a local level and move to a national level.

Noel: NEH says they do Canadian papers.

JY: NEH would entertain grant to digitize Canadian papers.

Noel: everyone looking for the digital copy, yet funding has been withdrawn.

Jean: Mexico as well?

Don’t know, good question.

Jean will talk with Latin American Studies Librarian at ND to see what is out there and what the need is. Could fit into ND plan as well. Hispanic periodicals of the US.

Malachy: San Antonio or LA, where exiled community went.   
Cait: Catholic universities down there. Missions along coast of Calif.

Malachy: Jeffery Burns in Berkeley, handle on where the newspapers done.

1. **Proposal to pull together, create the big picture, devote next two meetings to tweak and confirm**

Directory

Digitization

Repository

1. **Meeting dates to discuss big picture:  June 7? June 21?**

Yes to both.