

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

**CRRA Catholic Newspapers Task Force**

**Friday, November 9, 2012**

**10:00 am Pacific**

**12:00 pm Central**

**1:00 pm Eastern**

**CALL-IN INFO**

Call: 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 219 864 93

**Agenda and Minutes**

Present: Amy Cary, Pat Lawton, Malachy McCarthy, Jean McManus, Susan Ohmer, Darren Poley, Steven Szegdi, Shawn Weldon, Jennifer Younger

Regrets: Cait Kokolus, Noel McFerran

1. Updates
   1. Progress on summer pilot project at ND and St. Mike’s (Pat and Noel)
      1. Pat and Noel are collecting same data elements separately and will combine into one database this fall. Pat has gotten holdings from PAHRC, ND, CRL and other sources to get to 800 titles. Using the master record approach.
      2. Ran 800 titles against WorldCat to find out what titles members own. Suggested also searching Archivgrid. Use an API to bring in records.
      3. Interface to allow user searching is needed. Build locally or adopt existing directory/database software with already developed interface.
      4. Shawn. Any thought to putting in an announcement in ACDA newsletter soliciting titles and holdings to add to directory/database. PAHRC has microfilms of newspapers held in dioceses, e.g., New Orleans. Pat noted good idea to find hidden collections. Shawn will assist in identifying emails and collecting information.
   2. Digitization initiatives   
      No discussion.
   3. Conversation with Center for Research Libraries (CRL) (Jennifer)
      1. CRL has large holdings of domestic newspapers including some Catholic newspapers although the extent of CRL holdings of Catholic newspaper titles and issues is unknown. CRL hosts the ICON (International Coalition on Newspapers) database. CRL may want to digitize its newspaper holdings and create a digital archive.
      2. Our Catholic Newspaper Program has three phases: create a directory, support and accelerate digitization and provide access to a digital repository.
      3. Susan noted we have always been thinking about possible relationships between our project and others. Data mining is increasingly important and inclusion of Catholic newspapers in a large aggregation of newspapers would be an even richer digital archive. Collaboration could help us pursue two goals: 1) Ensure scholars of Catholic Studies to have access to a rich body of Catholic research materials and 2) put Catholic newspapers in the mainstream of scholarship and research.
      4. Amy noted there are lots of digitization projects out there. It would be good to be part of a larger project for ease of access for scholars.
      5. Jean noted CRL is a membership organization and inquired about access for CRRA members and scholars in general. Jennifer agreed our mission is to provide freely available global, enduring access via the portal and newspaper directory. Multiple paths for access and repositories could continue via the portal, the Catholic newspaper directory and via other tools such as a newspaper database and repository at CRL. She agreed that in considering a collaborative endeavor, we would need to ensure we could meet our mission and goals.
      6. In response to Darren’s question of whether the ICON interface software was built with open access software, Pat reported the ICON database has two layers: the discovery of records via Koha, which is a lot like VuFind, and a user interface built on SQL to browse the database in a number of ways.
      7. Darren identified multiple aspects that a possible relationship with CRL could facilitate our work relating to:
         1. Creating and searching a directory/database
         2. Supporting and accelerating digitization
         3. Providing access to Catholic newspapers in a large aggregation
         4. Storage and preservation (digital redundancy, managing print)
   4. Jean McManus report from Scholars Committee meeting on Nov. 7. They are pleased with the developing momentum. They:
      1. suggested priorities for digitizing including papers from NYC, Chicago, New Orleans, Miami, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and glad to note Philadelphia and Boston paper digitizing is already proposed,
      2. noted interest in the database (directory) of titles and holdings,
      3. suggested creating a historical mass and digitizing newspapers up through 1924,
      4. suggested creating a documentary time line of the newspaper enterprise, and
      5. approved the regional node model for collaboration in digitizing.

Susan mentioned the historical newspapers already in ProQuest and welcomed the geographic expansion in the scholars’ ideas.

1. Next steps
   1. Draft a proposal for board review at their Dec. 12 meeting
   2. Explore NDNP digitizing grants
2. Committee review of the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan (attached).   
   Review and seek approval of or revision of 2012-2013 goals.    
   Proposed goals include:
   1. Create prototype Catholic newspaper directory with member holdings and mined resources  (3.3.2.)
   2. Identify and pursue collaborative projects around Catholic newspapers – Diocesan archives & ACDA, CLA, Catholic Press Association, National Digital Newspaper Program, Center for Research Libraries, ATLA (4.1.2.)
3. Other business
4. Next meeting. Pat will send out a query to schedule a meeting in mid-November.  
   Next meeting dates (please attend one or both, as you are able):   
     
   **Thursday November 15 at 1:00 pm (Eastern); 12:00 pm (Central)**

**Tuesday November 20 at 2:00 pm (Eastern); 1:00 pm (Central)**