CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER PROGRAM

Vatican II Years Digitizing Project

The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) initiated the Catholic Newspapers Program (CNP) in 2011. The goal and scope of the program is to provide access to all extant Catholic newspapers published in North America. The program activities include:

- Creation of a comprehensive directory of North American Catholic newspapers, freely available to all, via the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) database and implementation of a shared directory to online Catholic newspapers,
- Collaborative digitization of priority newspapers and encouragement, guidance and support to others digitizing, or interested in local digitization projects, and
- The development of a shared repository for Catholic newspapers, including the priority newspapers and beyond.

WHY NEWSPAPERS?

Scholars are keenly aware of the importance of Catholic sources as the Church has helped shape the American experience, with significant influences on our systems of education, social justice, immigration, and medical care, to name just a few. Catholic newspapers are relevant to an array of issues across disciplines, including but not limited to: class formation, ethnicity, adaptation to new environments, religious discrimination, charitable work and social justice, school systems, and hospitals, and illuminate how Catholics engage with the Church as well as the societies in which they live. Yet, Catholic newspapers are conspicuously under-represented in existing commercial and public digital databases of historical American newspapers.

> **"But think how much more significant it would be if all Catholic newspapers were online, ensuring the Catholic tradition, experiences and views of Catholics continue to be part of the American dialog."**
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> *Dr. Timothy Meagher, Associate Professor of History, Curator of American Catholic History Collection and University Archivist, The Catholic University of America*

THE VATICAN II PROJECT

The Second Vatican Council, which has been described as the most important religious event of the 20th century, set the Roman Catholic Church's course for the future. Over a four year period (1962-1965), its proceedings were closely followed in the media, bringing the church into the homes of hundreds of millions of ordinary Catholics on nearly a daily basis. Newspapers played an important role in reporting on the events leading up to the Council and

its aftermath. As a result, the time period for the Project has been defined as: 1958-1972, covering the period leading up to the Council, reporting on the Council and the immediate post-Vatican II years.

The priority newspapers selected by the Scholars Advisory Committee provide local and regional coverage from: Boston, Chicago, Hartford, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and St. Louis, national coverage from the *National Catholic Reporter, Our Sunday Visitor,* and historical newsfeeds from the *Catholic News Service*. Discussions to include the target newspapers as part of this project are continuing with the rights holders and we expect to have a final list of newspapers shortly. Replacement newspapers will be substituted for any of the target newspapers where permission has not been obtained.

The Vatican II Project fits within the broader CRRA goal of building a shared repository for all extant Catholic digital newspapers. A complementary proposal has been developed and funding agencies will be approached to fund an additional 40-year period of these same priority newspapers covering the European Immigration years, 1880-1919. Together these two projects would fund the conversion of over 26% of the estimated 1.6M pages that comprise the complete runs of the priority newspapers.

IMPACT

The Project will scan and convert nearly 250,000 pages from 11,700 issues of these newspapers. The collecting and digitization of what will eventually be over a million pages is a breakthrough achievement in enhancing access to Catholic newspapers. The collection will be cross-searchable with key metadata captured, providing exceptional functionality and intellectual value to scholars, students and readers in every community.

Readers in all disciplines and walks of life will easily and effectively be able to learn more about the distinctive and significant impact of the Catholic Church, its communities and families.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS & PARTNERS

The newspapers will be scanned at 300-400dpi in either grayscale or color (depending on size and source of the material) and stored in their original uncompressed TIFF format and as JPEG2000 images for loading into the delivery platform. They will be scanned from the best available copy (print or microfilm) sourced from the holdings of partner institutions. Conversion will be at the article level following METS/ALTO standards with OCR body text and corrected headline, datelines and bylines to facilitate search and discovery.

CRRA has selected Reveal Digital to serve as a development partner for the Project. Reveal Digital will assist with overall development of the Project, manage the content conversion process (through its affiliate Image Data Conversion) and provide fundraising support outside the CRRA. Reveal Digital's unique cost recovery model results in significantly lower pricing than traditionally published digital resources and supports open access.

Veridian software from DL Consulting was selected as the collection management software and host for the shared repository. Their software is specifically designed for newspaper content and has been used by a growing number of libraries and cultural institutions for the display of retrospective newspaper collections. A test instance of the repository is currently viewable at: http://demos.veridiansoftware.com/crra/cgibin/crra. More content will be added to the test instance over the next few weeks.

OPEN ACCESS

Upon completion, the Project will be an open access collection licensed under a Creative Commons license in concert with the interests of libraries, archives, publishers, scholars and other stakeholders. Funding libraries will have early access to the collection as it is being built and for a six month grace period once the project is completed (scheduled for March, 2017).

FUNDING

Funding for the Project will come through commitments made by many libraries, archives and other supporting institutions. These commitments represent a one-time outlay of funds for the Vatican II Project. Before we expand the call to other libraries and archives we are asking CRRA member libraries to make an early firm commitment to support the Project (see Funding Levels below). Your commitments will be held on file by CRRA until the project is fully funded – no later than September, 2016. At that time you will receive an invoice from Reveal Digital for your funding commitment. Your payment can be made from the 2015/16 budget year (request an early invoice), the 2016/17

BENEFITS TO FUNDING LIBRARIES
• Early access to the Collection while it is being built and for a 6 month grace period
• Free title-level MARC records for local loading and for sharing with discovery services
• Support for mass downloading of text for patron use

budget year or spread across both years. If more commitments are received than are required to cover the cost of the Project, the excess funds will be used to fund the conversion of additional issues/pages from the priority newspapers.

If the required funding to complete the project is not received, CRRA will discuss with the funding libraries the options of: a) reducing the scope of the project to match the received funding, b) revising the funding request and going out with a new funding call, or c) cancelling the project altogether.

FUNDING LEVELS

Institution Type	CRRA Count	One-time Commitment Level	Funding Raised
Diocesan/Religious	3	$200	$600
Theological / Special	4	$500	$2,000
Bachelors	18	$3,400	$61,200
Masters	10	$4,250	$42,500
Doctorate	4	$5,100	$20,400
ARL	3	$8,500	$25,500
	42		$152,200

CRRA members are being asked to make early commitments to this CRRA-sponsored Project. Your early support is critical in showing the backing of the CRRA community and as a result will help to attract funding commitments from non-CRRA libraries. 100% participation by CRRA member institutions will demonstrate belief in the power of collaboration to deliver digital collections in support of the **CRRA _mission "to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americ_**a.

Funding calls for the Project will be staged as follows:

STAGE 1: Pre-call to CRRA member institutions; *August 1, 2015 through October 15, 2015*

The goal of the Pre-call is to gain early support from CRRA members to show momentum and backing at the start of the Public-call.

STAGE 2: Public call to beyond CRRA members; *November 1, 2015 through September, 2016*

(A) Catholic Institutions – targeted campaign for early adopters

(B) Non-Catholic Institutions – subject specialist focused campaign

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To make your funding commitments please send an email to Jennifer Younger at: jyounger@nd.edu. Please make sure to include your funding level and amount, and any special billing instructions. Regular updates on the progress of the funding calls will be posted on the CRRA website. Remember, you won't be invoiced until the Project is fully funded.

PROJECT COSTS

The total cost for the Project is estimated to be $442,353. This covers content sourcing, conversion and loading into the platform, development of a CRRA branded platform for Catholic newspapers and hosting the collection for three years. It also includes project management and outreach related costs. Full details on the Project's costs and assumptions for funding participation are included in a spreadsheet accessible from the CRRA 'member only' website.

CONVERSION: Covers the cost of sourcing the material from contributing libraries including, library staff time to pull, box, ship and re-shelve the material; content check-in, scanning, full-text conversion, metadata capture and quality control.

SYSTEMS: The collection is being hosted on the Veridian platform and includes initial development and three years of hosting.

OUTREACH: All outreach related costs including: staff time, travel, exhibiting, marketing campaigns and promotional material.

DIGITAL ARCHIVING: This category covers the three-year cost of storing the scanned images (TIFF and JPEG2000) and associated metadata in a community-led dark archive and preservation through the MetaArchive Cooperative.

ADMINISTRATIVE: This line item supports additional CRRA communication costs related to the Project.

DIGITAL ARCHIVING $37,255
ADMIN $5,000
OUTREACH $53,500
SYSTEMS $30,292
Total Project Costs **$442,353**
CONVERSION $316,306

PROJECT PLAN

Key Activities:	2015						2016												2017		
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Project start with Board approval	*																				
Complete digitization agreements		▓	▓																		
Obtain copyright permissions				▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓												
Identify sources for materials	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓											
Pre-call to CRRA for funding	▓	▓	▓																		
Public call to non-CRRA libraries				▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓						
Full funding achieved															*						
Scanning and conversion																▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
Platform development																▓	▓				
Beta release (funders exclusive)																		▓	▓	▓	▓
Summary report																					▓
Project finished																					*

Open access begins 10/1/2017

For more information about the Vatican II Project or to answer any questions, please contact:

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Informational Webinars for the Project will be held in September. More information about them and their dates will be provided as they become available.