

CRRA Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter



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Welcome our Four Newest Members!

CRRA Reaches **50** Members!

1. St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, FL

In joining CRRA, Larry Treadwell, Associate Professor and Director of the Library & Student Success Center, was building on the commitment made by his predecessor to the Catholic News Archive (St. Thomas is a [Founder](#)). The Library digitized [The Voice](#), a weekly newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Miami from 1959-1990 with a two-page Spanish-language insert, *La Voz Católica*, and made it available in the [Library's digital archive](#). Most notably, St. Thomas is sending CRRA a copy of the digital files so the paper can be indexed and added to the Catholic News Archive.

The University traces its roots to the Universidad de Santo Tomas de Villanueva, founded in 1946 in Havana, Cuba, by American Augustinians with assistance from European Augustinians. When the Castro government expelled the Augustinians from Cuba in 1961, several of the American Augustinians came to Miami where they founded Biscayne College. In the 1980's, the name was changed to reflect the College's Cuban heritage and the Archdiocese of Miami assumed sponsorship. The University continues its commitment to teaching students of different backgrounds. The 6,300 students come from eighty countries and forty-one states to study in seventy-five areas of undergraduate and graduate study,

including law.

The University Library houses and preserves the [University Archives](#), Special Collections, [Digital Collections](#), and the Archbishop John C. Favalora Archive & Museum, which curates permanent and rotating exhibits throughout the year. Digital collections include some of Catholic individuals, such as Fr. John Kelly's Catholic University of Havana, and Catholic newspapers.



Larry Treadwell, CRRA Representative is third from left and Jessica Orozco, CRRA Liaison is third from right.

2. Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives



Sarah Patterson, Director of the Chancery Archives, began active planning to digitize the Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph two years ago and joined CRRA's [Digitizing Partners](#). Since then, she obtained two grants to digitize the 19th century issues of the paper, now available in the Catholic News Archive and became the second diocesan archive (Philadelphia is the first) to join CRRA. The [Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives](#) is the official repository for the

archdiocese and is charged to collect, preserve and make available the official records of the archdiocese and those ancillary records that reflect the work of the Catholic Church within the region of the archdiocese. Records in the archives date back to the founding of the archdiocese in 1821 to the present day, including the working files of our archbishops, archdiocesan offices, many closed parishes, and other ancillary records on Catholicism in the Archdiocese. In order for our collections to be more readily available to researchers, the Archives is making the finding aids (catalog records) we have available through OhioLINK.

3. Ohio Dominican University, Columbus OH

Michelle Sarff, Head Librarian, and Jim Layden, Collection Services Coordinator, decided this was the year to act on their long-standing interest and join CRRA. The [Library](#) holds a small newspaper collection, including the most extensive collection of Catholic Diocese of Columbus newspapers - The Catholic Times, Columbus Register, and Catholic Colombian (dating from 1875) , which they would love to digitize. This is a reason for their extraordinary support which includes an investment in the Catholic News Archive. We are pleased to count them among the [Founders](#). Founded in 1911, Ohio Dominican University is today a Catholic liberal arts university in the Dominican tradition, guided in its educational mission by the Dominican motto: *To contemplate truth and to share with others the fruits of this contemplation*. The [Library](#), located in the Spangler Learning Center, is the campus hub of information and research. Approximately 2,500 national and international students choose their studies from over forty undergraduate majors and nine graduate programs with some also taking part in opportunities for study, dialogue and the search for truth from the Center for Dominican Studies. The Sisters of Dominican Peace Congregational Offices and St. Mary of the Springs Mother House are located directly adjacent to campus. The Anne O'Hare McCormick Collection, a distinguished alumna, is in the [Library](#) Special Collections. We look forward to working with our new colleagues.



*Michelle Sarff, CRRA Representative is third from the left,
Jim Layden, CRRA Liaison is second from right*

4. University of Portland, Portland, OR

Xan Arch, Dean, Clark Library, was introduced to CRRA by her colleague Paul Bracke at Gonzaga University. Since then, Portland has participated in CRRA annual meetings, added its student newspaper to [Catholic Newspapers Online](#) and taken part in the research sprint (#CRRAHistoryUnfolded for the Holocaust Museum History Unfolded: US newspapers and the Holocaust). Founded in 1901 by the Congregation of Holy Cross, the University today offers forty undergraduate programs and twenty graduate programs to 4,000 students from the U.S. and the world. [The Clark Library](#) supports student and faculty success through traditional as well as innovative library services, including a digital lab. Its [digital collections](#) describe university history in collections of art and buildings on campus, songs, presidential photographs and artifact images, and the [Pollentia Expedition](#), an active archeological dig in Mallorca with annual faculty and student participation. Xan Arch said of Portland's interest: "We see this as a way to surface our unique Catholic resources by participation in the Portal and by increased connection with Catholic institutions around the country. We look forward to creating more opportunities for collaboration and participation in providing enduring access to Catholic research resources."



Xan Arch, CRRA Representative is on the right and Susan Hinken, CRRA Liaison, is on the left.

From the Board



Sara B. Baron, Ed.D, Duquesne University

I am thrilled to report several significant achievements from this year that have contributed to CRRA's mission. Records for new digital content were added to the Catholic Portal. A resource sharing pilot program is underway with eleven participating members. A second grant as well as Digitizing Partner grants are supporting continuing digitization of Catholic newspapers for the Catholic News Archive. New subject guides were added, bringing the number to twenty-one. We continue to provide new resources and tools for making content available as well as professional development, leadership and collaborative opportunities through committees and projects. We again expanded the diversity of our members. Our web and social media presence, as well as the management of the association has transitioned to the capable hands of our partners at Capitol Hill. Through our collective efforts in making Catholic research resources more available and sustaining a distinctive network of libraries and archives, we realize our vision of fostering a dynamic scholarly community.

It was wonderful to engage with so many of you in our first virtual annual meeting. Thank you everyone - members, partners, guests, committee chairs and members and my Board colleagues – for bringing your expertise, initiative and leadership to advancing our mission. I enjoyed working with all of you in service to CRRA, our members, and the larger Catholic community of scholars, researchers, and readers.

Growing the Catholic News Archive

The Archive continues to grow in content (now at 10,971 issues) and use. The first fifty-four years (1831-1885) of the *Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph* went live in June. More of the Catholic News Services will be added this summer and fall. Digitization of the *Catholic Worker*, started by Dorothy Day in 1931, is in process with a "go live" date to be determined as digitization proceeds. In the first six of months of 2018, the average use/month jumped to 1,274, a big increase over the monthly average of 400 in 2017. Thanks to everyone who is spreading the word one person at a time and/or posting articles or blogs. It is rewarding even at this early stage to see how the archive supports CRRA's mission. David E. Cassens, dean of libraries at Saint Louis University, described it this way: "The major goal of the Catholic News Archive is to provide concurrent access to primary source materials that in most cases have been available only to a limited number of scholars and students." For more on what scholars are saying, check out the recently published article - [Catholic News of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow at Your Fingertips](#).

New Records for Digital Resources in the Portal

Alyse Hennig, St. John's University, Queens, NY, sent 856 digital item records to the portal. The links point to a variety of materials, including newsletters published from 1994-2003 by the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's, adding to the spiritual, religious order and mission newsletters already available in the portal. The lesson plans for teaching the [St. John's Catechism](#) (a sound filmstrip) were digitized because these plans are still used today.

Eric Lease Morgan, University of Notre Dame, harvests and indexes MARC, EAD, and OAI-based metadata for the Portal. Earlier this year, Eric Lease Morgan, Notre Dame, re-indexed all content in the portal in anticipation of moving the CRRA website to the new catholicresearch.org domain. That move has been completed. Eric asks everyone to look at the indexed content, and get back with him regarding errors or discrepancies. He will then do what he can do resolve any problems. Contact [Eric](#) directly about the availability of new metadata and/or changes in URLs noted in your institution's records. That will help him keep the Portal's index up-to-date.

Engaging Members and Stakeholders

CRRA Virtual Annual Meeting June 7

It was a lively meeting with excellent discussions via chat and polls. Forty people participated, including prospective members, visitors, digitizing partners as well as new and familiar faces

from CRRRA members. Sara B. Baron, CRRRA Board chair, Duquesne University, set the stage with mention of the [strategic directions](#). Meghan McGrath, Capitol Hill Management Services, highlighted the CRRRA blog and Facebook page. Three committee chairs - Stephanie Shreffler, Collections, Kevin Cawley, Digital Access, and Felice Maciejewski, Membership and Resource Sharing - asked for input on the work of their committees. From the input, we identified several actions we will take.

- Send out more information on resource sharing opportunity
- Accelerate development of a teaching tool for the Catholic News Archive
- Make the [subject guides](#) copiable from the Springshare community library
- Publicize the link to the "rare tool" which assists a member in assessing its materials in the portal
- Make it easy to contact committee chairs and members through email
- Develop opportunities to add Canadian newspapers to the Catholic News Archive
- Exploit blogs, social media, and webinars to engage and communicate with members and stakeholders

Did you Miss the Annual Meeting?

You can still watch it! Click [HERE](#) to view!

Stay Engaged!

Check out our latest blogs [HERE](#)! Our latest blog titled, *Getting the Word Out: Whenever Possible Tell Scholars About the Trove That is The Catholic News Archive* is a good reminder of how important the Catholic News Archive is! Interested in writing a blog or already have a blog ready to be published on our website? Let us know by contacting Meghan McGrath, Association Manager at mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org!

Join your colleagues and like us on [Facebook](#) so that you can stay updated on our latest news! Do you have your own news to share? Send us your idea for a Facebook post to mmcgrath@catholicresearch.org!

Recognizing Member Leaders

At the annual meeting, we were delighted to inaugurate a new program recognizing member leadership. This year we began with a special thank you to the University of Notre Dame Systems Administration Team. Notre Dame has provided server space and operation of the Portal since its inception in 2009 and later for the CRRRA website as well. The Notre Dame Team disentangled the CRRRA website from the Portal (VF), thus allowing the website to move to a new hosted platform, while maintaining access to the Portal from the CRRRA website. The challenges were considerable and we gratefully recognize the Team's contributions.

We then honored two individuals who have made a deep and lasting impact through their generosity, expertise, intelligence, creativity, and graciousness. They are Demian Katz, Villanova and Eric Lease Morgan, Notre Dame.

Demian is the developer for VuFind (VF), which powers the Catholic Portal. He chaired the Digital Access Committee from 2012-16 and continues as a committee member. His gracious and generous leadership served us well in that long stretch. To name just a few of his many

contributions, he supported our movement to the open source CMS Concrete5, collaborated with CUA researcher Ingrid Hsieh Yee to map LCSH to the portal themes, conducted VF upgrades, led us through usability studies, focus groups, served on the newspapers digitization specifications subcommittee, and most recently, shepherded us through the migration from Concrete 5 to the new CRRA website platform. With Eric, Demian made possible harvesting of member data.

Eric set up the portal in 2009, ingested records and indexed the metadata for discovery. His skillful problem-solving has greatly expanded the dynamism of the portal. He came up with creative, simple solutions to problems such as cross-walking PastPerfect metadata into Dublin Core for ingest, implementing a full text search in the portal, developed an EAD module within VF, introduced us to text mining against a corpus of Catholic Pamphlets, and developed the "rare tool" in response to the Collections' committee desire to make it possible for members to simply evaluate the "rareness" of their portal collections.

CRRA News By and From the Members

ATLA Annual Conference, Indianapolis, 2018.

In a happy confluence of circumstances, Pat Lawton and Alan Krieger (Notre Dame) offered a presentation on the history of the CRRA and its current Catholic Studies research tools at the June annual conference of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) in Indianapolis--a conference appropriately titled: "Connection at the Crossroads: Creative Collaboration in a Changing Landscape." Alan offered a history of the early pilot phase of the Alliance's development (2005-2009), while Pat covered the growth of the Catholic Newspapers Program and current features of both the "Catholic Portal" and the CNP, including the Catholic News Archive, Catholic Newspapers Online, finding aids for archival collections, full text search capabilities, text mining tools, and subject guides. This "listen and learn" session, called "Digging Deeply in Catholic Studies: the CRRA's Collaborative Approach in Providing Access to Rare and Unique Catholic Collections", was well received by over 20 attendees from a variety of seminaries and universities; a lively discussion followed and participants agreed that the role of the Scholars Advisory Committee is key in making CRRA projects an integral part of the Catholic Studies academic environment. We were also strongly encouraged to continue the development of both the searchable News Archive and the Catholic Newspapers Online directory. All in all, it was an enjoyable and stimulating session, offering both important information about CRRA and providing an example of how collaborative work can accomplish goals beyond the reach of any single institution. Submitted by Alan Krieger, University of Notre Dame.

American Library Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2018

Kathryn Shaughnessy, University of St. John's, presented a Catholic Library Association session on open educational resources (OERs). She explained the concept of the [Open Ecology of Information](#) and provided examples of open resources. Such resources include the [Catholic Portal](#), the [Catholic News Archive](#), [subject guides](#) by Ted Bergfelt, Duquesne, and a selected list of [Freely Available Digital Catholic Resources for School Librarians](#) by Jean McManus, Notre Dame and Pat Lawton, CRRA/Notre Dame. As befits the topic, Kathryn's [handout](#) with access to featured resources is also freely available.

Catholic News of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow at Your Fingertips

Jennifer Younger's feature article was published in the summer newsletter of the Association

of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). Find out more of what over 6,000 presidents, provosts and other educators are learning at <http://www.accunet.org/Portals/70/UpdateNewsletter/Update-Summer2018.pdf> (pps. 14-15).

Extra, Extra, Read all about it!

Darren Poley, Villanova, blogged recently about the use of historical newspapers in the Pennsylvania Library Association College & Research Libraries at <https://crdpala.org/2018/06/07/extra-extra-read-all-about-it>. Although libraries pay subscription fees for some digital newspaper collections, he mentioned that Web-based portals with free open access to newspaper content are also incredibly valuable to scholars.

Ethiopia, a Land of Origins: A Fulbright Experience

Janet Lee, Regis University and Fulbright Program Scholar returned in June from a year in Axum. While there she implemented new software to computerize the library cataloging process at Axum University and developed a Chromebook Lab at the Axumite Heritage Foundation, which works to restore, preserve and promote Axum's ancient and modern cultural achievements. In New Orleans, Janet was recognized for the International Relations Round Table Mission Enhancement Grant awarded to the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library. Janet tells of her work in a series of articles.

<http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/intlleads/leadsarchive/201803.pdf>

<http://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/intlleads/leadsarchive/201806.pdf>

<https://ilceig.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/ethiopia-2018-03.pdf>

<https://ilceig.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/ethiopia-2018-04.pdf>

Check out this Exciting Resource!

CRRA is now the host site for the [*ACWR's Women Religious History Sources: A Guide to Repositories in the United States*](#). We look forward to a continued and growing collaboration with ACWR and welcome your feedback on other resources to include on our website.

Back in Print!

Jessica Whitmore, Mount St. Mary's University, reports on the reprinting of *John DuBois: Founding Father*. "We are thrilled to have this important work back in print and the proceeds are going directly to preserving his papers and those of others in the Mount Archives." http://msmary.edu/about-the-Mount/news-and-events/news-archive/2018/6-22-2018_Biography_of_Mount-St-Marys-University-Founder-Back-in-Print.html

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