

# CRRA Fall 2020 Newsletter



Catholic Research  
Resources Alliance

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## Upcoming Events

### Community Conversation for CRRA Representatives:

#### *Library Services and COVID-19*

Thursday, December 10, 2020

**4:00-5:00pm ET | 3:00-4:00pm CT | 2:00-3:00 MT | 1:00pm-2:00pm PT**

CRRA Representatives: Come join us on December 10th for a community conversation among directors, deans, and associate/assistant directors. After a welcome from Xan Arch, Dean of the Library, University of Portland, OR and CRRA Board member, we'll continue the conversation we started over the summer and hear how CRRA members have been managing their libraries thus far this semester and your plans for the Spring.

Please come prepared to ask questions and offer your own insights. We hope that this dialogue will offer you some fresh perspectives and new ideas, as well as reinforce your community connections during these challenging times.

We kindly request that you preregister so we can plan small group discussions. We also encourage you to forward this invitation to your associate/assistant directors so they may participate as well.

Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdOmsrjstG9yyz3hDIXZH3uZKZcwKGC2l>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**CRRA Webinar:**  
***Curating Catholic Web Archives About the COVID-19 Pandemic***  
**Friday, December 11, 2020**  
**2:00-3:00pm ET | 1:00-2:00pm CT | 12:00-1:00pm MT | 11:00am-12:00pm PT**

Please join us on Friday, December 11th for a presentation, "Curating Catholic Web Archives About the COVID-19 Pandemic," led by CRRA members Kayla Harris, Librarian/Archivist at the University of Dayton, and Stephanie Shreffler, Collections Librarian/Archivist at the University of Dayton and Chair of the CRRA Collections Committee.

At the University of Dayton, special collections librarians curated collections of web content using the Internet Archive's Archive-It software, documenting Catholic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic: [The COVID-19 Pandemic and the U.S. Church collection](#) and [The Marian Library Web Clippings collection](#).

This presentation will introduce attendees to web-archiving and Archive-It; explain the criteria used to make selections for the web collections; and describe how the collections support the missions of the University Libraries and of the university as a whole.

Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpc-CprTojGNSvrjg\\_7qdZ5keV0NwEXS5M](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpc-CprTojGNSvrjg_7qdZ5keV0NwEXS5M).

## From the Board

*by Mark Shelton, CRRA Board Chair and Director of Library Services, College of the Holy Cross*



For each of the member institutions of CRRA, a new academic year brings new challenges and opportunities, as we have learned in the community conversations with you. It is obvious that the pandemic represents a challenge we are all facing and that challenge is coming at us from multiple angles. CRRA is committed to working with all of our members to make sure that together, we turn this challenge into an opportunity. Through fiscal constraint, we are being smart while continuing to invest in our work. We are expanding our grant activities to support that work and create collaborative opportunities with and between members in building the Catholic News Archive, so that we can become even more valuable to our members and the scholars they support. We take our mission very seriously, and based on our strategic plan, we are setting priorities for the coming year that will create more of those opportunities. Let us know how the Board can help you be more a part of this!

## Celebrating this year's Open Access Themes

International Open Access Week was celebrated earlier this fall. [CRRA joined in celebrating themes of equity and inclusion](#), highlighting online access to Catholic newspapers related to immigrant and minority communities, labor and socialist history, as well as to Church life nationally and internationally. By making these fragile, difficult-to-locate resources freely accessible [online](#) in the [Catholic News Archive](#), CRRA members and partners are taking significant positive steps toward the inclusion of voices heretofore largely absent from digital news collections.

## Digital Catholica from CRRA

*by Stephanie Shreffler, Chair, CRRA Collections Committee*



Thank you to everyone who responded earlier to our survey inviting you to send a brief description and link to your top five digitized collections of Catholic materials to be included in the [Digital Catholica Subject Guide](#). There is still time to participate by going to the survey at <https://forms.gle/An9i62EbHgegyH7K7>.

The collections represent many genre, including books, papers and manuscripts, photographs, art, postcards, dolls, maps, sound files and even a comic book, hosted by the home institution or the Internet Archive. With over three hundred views of this research guide, it's a great way to showcase your digital collections. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Women Religious Collections in the Catholic Portal

*by Kevin Cawley, Chair, CRRA Digital Access Committee*



After successfully updating the [Catholic Portal](#) to a new version of VuFind discovery software and migrating to a new host (thank you Notre Dame for hosting since 2009), the Digital Access Committee began building bridges between resources available on CRRA's [website](#) and the Portal. The first project added 124 collection-level finding aids for the individual religious congregation archives listed in the [Women Religious History Sources: A Guide to Repositories in the United States 5th edition](#) published in 2020. For an example of this work in action, by searching "[Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati](#)" in the Portal, users are led not only to records from other libraries for materials about the Sisters, but also to the finding aid describing the collection, hours and whom to contact. These additional records provide users with an additional avenue of discovery and enhance Portal collections.

Ted Bergfelt's guide on [Religious Orders for Women](#) makes starting a Portal search easy by providing subject headings, such as Monasticism and Religious Orders for Women (282 records to archival collections, books and more) and names of orders. If you have suggestions about including records for other resources on our website, I would love to hear from you. Contact me at [wcauley@nd.edu](mailto:wcauley@nd.edu)

If you are looking for a bit of history on care of the sick in times of desperate national need, a [finding aid](#) sent by Scott Keefer, Provincial Archivist, Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives, is in the Portal. The finding aid covers the Sisters' nursing activities related to 19th and early 20th century epidemics, including the Influenza Epidemic, 1918-19. The archives of many congregations are rich sources describing the early and continuing work of women religious in all aspects of health, from caring for the wounded in war times to setting up hospitals in every community.

## Who's using the Catholic News Archive?



We know numbers (over 60,000 this year) not names, of people using the [Catholic News Archive](#), but there are happy occasions when we talk with individual researchers. Sharon Kabel, an independent researcher and former librarian at Belmont Abbey College, used the Archive as the data source to explore [trends in American Catholic Church](#). Not surprisingly, church fires were big news with reports relating to 365 unique churches in cities across the country. She describes reactions to the fires, as in the "immediate, oftentimes ferocious, attempt to save the Blessed Sacrament and other liturgical vessels" (p.12), and illustrates them with clips from various articles. Complicating her research is the commonality of many parish names as seen in the many parishes named St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart. Yet, she points out, the names are treasured reflections of the local heritage and faith. Sharon's detailed account of her search strategy and use of proximity searching is useful for beginning and experienced researchers alike.

Sharon has researched and posted numerous articles on her [website](#), ranging from "[Printable Marian Antiphons](#)" to "[Research Methods for Charts on Papal Citation Sources](#)." Four posts rely on newspaper articles in the Catholic News Archive, revealing the depth and diversity of Catholic newspaper articles.

- [The Second Vatican Council Documents in American Catholic Newspapers](#)
- [Missals in \*The Catholic Commentator\*](#)
- [Missals in the \*Shepherd of the Valley\*](#)
- [Seder meals in Catholic newspapers](#)

### More articles on the Catholic News Archive

Several recently published articles describe the authors' research in the Catholic News Archive (Lesiak) while others describe the strategies and features (Bracke & McManus, Kabel). All are online at [About the Catholic News Archive](#).

- [The Catholic News Archive: project briefing](#), by Paul Bracke, Gonzaga University, and Jean McManus, University of Notre Dame. Presented at the Coalition for Networked Information Fall Conference, November 13, 2020.

- [Catholic News Archive](#) Advisor Review. By Sharon Kabel. Published in *The Charleston Advisor*, v. 22, no. 2, 1 October 2020, pp. 21-25. Posted with permission.
- [Vatican II: Catholic reform and revitalization in a modern world](#), by Karen Lesiak. Published in the *Catholic Library World*, v. 91, n. 1, September 2020, pp. 10-11.
- [Care of the Environment](#), by Karen Lesiak. Published in the *Catholic Library World*, v. 90, no. 3, March 2020, p. 173.

## News from CRRA

- Jennifer Head, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, shared news of the BVM celebration of the [Women and Leadership Archives](#), housed at Loyola University Chicago since its beginning 25 years ago. Records for the papers of Mar DeCock, [Blanche Marie Gallagher](#), and other BVM sisters can be found in the Women and Leadership Archives by searching in the Catholic Portal.
- The [Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia](#) (CRRA member) and CRRA received a grant from the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia. This project will extend coverage of [The Catholic Standard and Times](#) to include the decade of the 1950s, a decade which saw not only the post WWII boom but were also flourishing times for churches of all denominations.
- Catholic University (CRRA member) and CRRA will create online access to materials in Catholic University's Special Collections through a grant awarded by the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The National Catholic Welfare Council (NCWC) Bulletin (later Catholic Action), the NCWC Annual Reports, and the National Council of Catholic Men program transcripts of the Catholic Hour will be available in the [Catholic University Digital Collections](#) and, thanks to the enhanced processing, in the [Catholic News Archive](#). These materials are vital for understanding the operations of the representative organization of the Catholic Church in the U.S. - the USCCB/NCWC - and offer a window into relations between the lay National Council of Catholic Men and the U.S. Bishops. Finally, they offer a view of early twentieth century Catholic media on a national scale.
- CRRA [honored two individuals](#) who have made a deep and lasting impact on CRRA through their vision, expertise, creativity and "full steam ahead" leadership. Ted Bergfelt, Duquesne University, created, and continues to do so, the popular [research guides](#) on [African American Catholics](#) and many other topics, and Darren Poley, Villanova University, chair of the Newspapers Committee and Digitizing Partners Forum, is an active blogger with posts about questions for which information can be found in the Catholic News Archive. We are grateful for their work.
- At the [CRRA Virtual Annual Meeting](#), guest speakers from the [Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project](#) discussed the connections being made with descendants of the enslaved Africans, who were first brought to this country some 400 years ago, community members and scholars. Collectively, we must address racism in our society and work with all stakeholders on what transformative solutions might look like. We are pleased to make a [recording](#) available of their remarks.

- The [2019-20 Annual Report](#) provides a graphic summary of use of CRRA key resources, member engagement and collaborative activities of CRRA and its members, as well as the accomplishments of the Board and committees. Members govern CRRA through the Board and committees - [Collections](#), [Digital Access](#), [Membership](#), [Newspapers and Digitizing Partners Forum](#), and [Scholars](#). We hope you will consider joining a committee. Ask us. Send a note to the committee chair, to [Laura Lyman](#) or [Jennifer Younger](#).

## Official Catholic Directory Volumes Available



The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati archives is moving to a smaller space and downsizing some collections. We have copies of the Official Catholic Directory from 1925 to 2015 *with the exception* of the following years: 1932, 1934, 1960-1962, 1964-1965, 1969, 1974-1976, 1984, and 1991-1992.

Please contact Archivist Veronica Buchanan at [veronica.buchanan@srcharitycinti.org](mailto:veronica.buchanan@srcharitycinti.org) or 513-347-5348 *before December 21* if you are interested in any of the remaining editions of the OCD.

## National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Assistance Grants

Applications are due January 14, 2021 for grants of up to \$10,000 to assist smaller institutions in preserving important humanities collections in a range of genres and formats. Eligible activities include general preservation assessments, consultations with preservation professionals to address a specific need, including assessing the conservation needs of a collection or developing detailed plans to improve storage or rehousing a collection, or the purchase of storage furniture and preservation supplies. Learn more on the [website](#).

## Atla Call for Proposals

Atla Annual 2021 will be in Fort Worth, Texas, June 16-19, and online. Atla welcomes proposals from presenters that plan to join in Fort Worth and from those who plan to participate online from their locations, from religious studies and theological librarians in Atla as well as those active with other associations. Deadline: January 31 2021. Consult [Atla](#) for more information.

## Stay Engaged!

Check out our latest blog posts [HERE!](#) Interested in writing a blog post or already have an article ready to be published on our website? Let us know by contacting Laura Lyman, Association Manager at [lyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:lyman@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 [llyman@catholicresearch.org](mailto:llyman@catholicresearch.org)!

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