



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

www.catholicresearch.net

Providing enduring global access to Catholic research resources

CRRRA Accomplishments 2015-16

Pat Lawton, Jennifer Younger, Josh Dinsman, Nick Casas, Committees

Compiled July-August 2016

Board

- Implemented strategic multi-year financial planning.
- Identified four ways in which members can provide more leadership, financial support and institutional support. One individual became the Associate Editor of CRRRA newsletter. One institution handled the VuFind Upgrade. Four members paid additional dues and twenty provided financial support for the Vatican II Years Newspapers Digitizing Project.
- Reviewed updates on plans for funding newspaper digitization and preservation projects.

Collections

- The Subcommittee on Subject Guides to the Portal published 13 LibGuides to the Portal and specific portal collections, available on the CRRRA website.
- Initiated and advised on development of a tool for analyzing the rarity of print materials in the portal.
- Co-hosted with DAC two joint meetings on: 1) portal analysis and 2) determining rarity of print.
- Coordinated efforts and recruited authors to publish in ATLA's Theological Librarianship journal an essay highlighting CRRRA collections.
- Invited six member institutions to participate in a pilot project to mentor members on Portal collections.
- Surveyed liaisons to determine interest in collaborative digitization of parish histories.

DAC (Digital Access Committee)

- Harvested records from five member institutions including OAI content from Barry; 5,000 records from Marquette; 1100 Catholic pamphlet records from Marian Library at Dayton; and an online postcard collection from San Diego.
- Established The Metadata Advisory group, which has begun MARC record template creation and review of VuFind MARC import mappings to ensure appropriate RDA support.
- Planned and co-hosted the *Webinar on Digitization of Catholic Pamphlets* for Liaisons.
- Developed a set of usability questions.
- Provided consultation to Ingrid Hsieh-Yee on the work of mapping subject headings to twelve themes regarding syntax and searching the portal.

- Changed the EAD XSL stylesheet to add links to outline at beginning of output (to make it easier to navigate to detailed sections). Added mechanism to specify physical extent for each subordinate component; developed a version of the tool for EAD3 (Cawley).
- Advised on technologies for aggregating and displaying Catholic social action content for a collaborative CRRA-member CLIR proposal.
- Provided guidance on developing a CRRA Archive, a long-term solution for storing CRRA documents; helped to determine Box as the platform for sharing current documentation.
- Co-hosted with Collections two joint meetings on: 1) portal analysis and 2) determining rarity.
- Developed a tool for analyzing the rarity of print materials in the portal (Morgan).

Liaisons Council

- Initiated the monthly *Liaisons Bulletin* of news by and about members, member collections, continuing education, and grants opportunities.
- Hosted an all-Liaisons meeting on making content available in the portal and collaborative collection building and digitization.
- Co-hosted with DAC the *Webinar on Catholic Pamphlets*.
- Conducted a survey to collect data in support of 2015-2016 Liaisons goals.
- In collaboration with Collections and Membership, adopted use of LibGuides at 15 member institutions.
- Added links to the CRRA portal and/or Newspapers Online to ten member websites.
- Suggested priority collections/themes for members to collaboratively build portal content including digital collections (digital humanities and newspapers) and religious congregation materials, especially oral histories.

Membership Committee

- Welcomed three members for 2015/16: Ave Maria Law School, Belmont Abbey College Edgewood College
- Maintained relationships with ten prospects; two requested membership applications.
- Communicated with directors/deans at ten members institutions.
- Promoted the Vatican II Years Newspaper digitization Project in three webinars for directors/deans, fall 2016.
- Solicited testimonials from faculty, students and library directors on use of newspapers and need for a digital archive. The testimonials were added to the Catholic Newspapers Program on website and two were featured in articles in CRRA Updates.
- Laverna Saunders, Rob Behary, Tom White, all from Duquesne University and Pat Lawton, CRRA, presented a paper on digitizing newspapers in August 2015 at the ACWR Triennial Conference in Pittsburgh.
- Created a draft reciprocal resource-sharing agreement making access CRRA members to learn about current activities and capacity for reciprocal access borrowing, on-site use and scanning-on-request with a view to understanding member capacity and expectations in providing access to resources in the portal.

Catholic Newspapers Committee and Digitizing Partners Group

- Collaborated with Reveal Digital to develop a Cost Model and project plan for the Catholic Digital Newspapers Project (digitizing priority papers, implementing the Veridian platform, and preserving newspapers in MetaArchive).
- Hosted three webinars on Vatican II Newspapers Digitization.
- Submitted two grant proposals: 1) a local grant for the Hartford paper and 2) a CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections grant
- In collaboration with vendors, created the Workflow for Digitization.
- In collaboration with vendors, drafted CRRRA Technical Specifications for Newspaper Digitization.
- Implemented the Veridian platform and began digitization of 32,000 images for ingest.
- Spearheaded a call for funding for the newspapers program which yielded \$70,000 in pledges from CRRRA member institutions.
- Finalized legal agreements for Sourcing partners and Permissions agreements.

Scholars Committee

- Developed and disseminated a survey to scholars to glean expert perspective in terms of precise needs and wants, and also to gauge use of CRRRA services.
- Identified strategies and groups with which to collaborate to enhance outreach including: ATLA, current owners of the Catholic Literature Index brand; looking at the history of Protestant-Catholic relations, Catholics in the Gilded Age, Mexico, Latin America, 16-18th century life, and various others topic areas of note.

Pat Lawton/Jennifer Younger

- Submitted a pre-proposal to CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections to digitize priority Catholic newspapers in Vatican II Years (1958-72).
- Presented *Best Practices for Digital Archiving: Aggregated, Catholic, Collaborative* at the Catholic Media Conference, June 3, 2016, St. Louis.

Jennifer Younger

- Supervised a UW-SLIS practicum student in researching information on member resource-sharing activities and models for funding digital resource projects
- Implemented multi-year budgeting and financial reporting
- Coordinated plans for the Annual Meeting
- Co-chaired the Program Planning Committee for the IFLA RELINDIAL SIG Satellite Meeting, 12 August 2016, Columbus Ohio
- Visited four member libraries (College of the Holy Cross, MA; St. Norbert College, WI; Mount St. Mary's University, MD; Georgetown, DC) and two prospective members.

Pat Lawton

- In collaboration with Marquette and Catholic University, assisted in developing a CLIR pre-proposal for Digitizing and Aggregating Catholic Social Justice materials.

- Co-presented *Catholic, Crowdfunded and Collaborative: A Unique Approach to Digitizing Newspapers* at the University of San Diego Digital Initiatives Symposium, April 2016; remotely to the IFLA News and Media Conference in Hamburg, Germany, April 2016.
- Co-presented with Ingrid Hsieh-Yee on the “Themes to Records Project” at the Catholic Library Association’s 2016 Convention March 29-31 in San Diego. Presented *Users and Access: Models for Collaboration on Digital Projects* at the Catholic Archives in the Digital Age Biannual Conference at The Catholic University of America, October 8, 2015.
- Co-presented with Duquesne University *Digitizing Catholic Newspapers* and moderated *Integrating the Story of Women Religious into the Broader Historical Narrative: Collaborations among Communities of Religious and Libraries and Archives* at the ACWR Triennial Conference in Pittsburgh, August 2015.
- Lawton, Moyer, Zarndt, Casas. [Catholic, Collaborative, and Crowdfunded: A Unique Approach to Newspaper Digitization](#), IFLA News Media Section, 2016.
- Developed goals and consulted with CRRA Webmaster and Digital Projects Associate.
- Developed goals and consulted with CRL staff member on collecting metadata for submission to the ICON database and Catholic newspaper digitization projects.
- Recruited and interviewed candidates, selecting a volunteer from CRRA membership, to serve a two year term as *CRRA Updates* Associate Editor.
- Refined and established guidelines for assigning METS metadata to the newspapers, coached Nick Casas in working with partners and developing documentation.
- Worked collaboratively with vendors and partners to develop Technical Specifications and the Digitization Workflow.

Nick Casas CRL/ICON

- Collaborated with ICON database manager on enhancement of metadata and record creation.
- Confirmed best copy source material for six priority papers.
- Documented status of sourcing material and permissions agreements.
- Coordinated with sourcing partners and vendors materials for ingest into Veridian.

Josh Dinsman CRRA Webmaster and Digital Projects Associate

- Implemented redesign of home page based on suggestions from CUA review of website and initial redesign work done by the previous webmaster.
- Consolidated all committee member biographies, moving them from individual CRRA Group pages onto a single new “Member Bios” page.
- Created a new, searchable “Master Directory” of CRRA members and staff.
- Improved “Catholic Newspapers Online” page by changing layout from simple page text to an easily editable (inputting, updating) C5 table, easily searchable for the end user.
- Completed end-of-calendar-year Google Analytics Winter 2016 Report.
- Assisted in the creation of CRRA committee surveys (e.g. Liaisons Goals Survey, Scholars Advisory Committee Survey, Collections Committee Survey).
- Assisted Digital Projects Librarian with various projects (e.g. Portal content analysis, preparing images for CLIR grant application).
- In collaboration with Pat Lawton, developed a page listing courses at member institutions that might benefit from content to made available in Catholic Newspapers Online.
- Curated three online exhibits.