

Contributor/Presenter:

Patricia A. Lawton (Digital Projects Librarian), Catholic Research Resources Alliance,
University of Notre Dame

Title:

Implementing the Catholic Newspapers Program: Collaborative Digitization and Discovery within a Non-profit, Distributed, Online Organization

Abstract:

The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRRA) <<http://www.catholicresearch.net>> is a nonprofit membership alliance of institutions collaborating to deliver projects and services in support of its mission "to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas." The immediate focus is creating freely available access to those rare, unique and uncommon research materials which are held by libraries and archives in North America.

The CRRRA initiated the Catholic Newspapers Program in 2011. The goal and scope of the program is to provide access to all extant Catholic newspapers published in North America. Program activities include:

- An environmental scan of North American Catholic newspapers to determine what newspapers exist, where they are located and the extent of holdings and formats. A summer 2012 pilot project at the University of Notre Dame resulted in the identification of 800+ titles.
- Development of a directory. Extant Catholic papers will be made discoverable through the CRRRA Newspapers Directory within the Center for Research Libraries' International Coalition for Newspapers (ICON) database. The directory will be a comprehensive, fully searchable directory of North American Catholic newspapers, freely available to all.
- Digitization. Current work is focused on the collaborative digitization of twelve priority papers and identification of shared repository options. Fifteen "digitizing partners," comprised of both member and non-member publishers, archives, and libraries are working together to identify complete runs of newspapers from inception to the present, and to bring the collection together in a shared repository of newly digitized and born-digital content, freely available to all, with a continuing commitment to providing access to the papers in perpetuity.
- Catholic Newspapers Online. An evolving list of digitized or born-digital Catholic newspapers.

Our July 2013 progress report is

here: http://www.catholicresearch.net/cms/files/3713/8307/2439/CRRRA_Annual_2013_CNP_070113_r ev082913.pdf

Biography:

Patricia Lawton is Digital Projects Librarian for the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA). The CRRA is a nonprofit membership alliance founded in 2008 with a mission to provide enduring, global access to Catholic research materials in the Americas. As CRRA Digital Projects Librarian, Pat manages the primary projects of the CRRA including the Catholic portal and the Catholic Newspapers Program. Prior to her work with CRRA, Pat was a faculty member in the School of Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh and taught cataloging courses online for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from 1997-2005. Prior to her years of teaching, she served as a librarian in public, academic, and special library settings.

Pat holds a BA in English and the MLS from Indiana University, and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.