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

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• A nonprofit membership alliance
• Forty-one academic and religious institutions in U.S. and Canada
• Mission: to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas
Catholic Portal

- Records to over 101,000 rare and unique items
- Focus on more digital content
CRRA Catholic Newspapers Program

• Conduct an environmental scan
• Create a Directory (ICON database)
• Digitize priority papers
• Host a shared repository
• Build infrastructure for member digitization
Catholic Newspapers

- Catholic by purpose, audience or tradition
- Scattered locations
- Endangered, in brittle condition
- Not fully identified in national projects
- Threat of losing this historical perspective
12 Papers Targeted for Digitization

- Past
- Local/national
- 3 national and 9 local or diocesan papers
Why Catholic papers?
Many Catholics in the World

Which countries have the most Catholics now?

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>126,750,000</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>96,450,000</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>75,570,000</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>75,380,000</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>49,170,000</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>38,100,000</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>37,930,000</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>35,310,000</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>34,870,000</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>31,210,000</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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<td><strong>World Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,078,790,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
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Population estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.
Pew Research Center
Significance of the Content

• Immigration
• Education
• Charities
• Cultural “the weaker sex”
• American historical perspective
• Genealogical
Catholic Media Use in the United States, 2011

- Have read a diocesan paper in last 3 months
  - Print. 1 in 4
  - Digital. 1 in 25
- Time spent reading
  – Print. 17 minutes
  – Digital. 2 minutes
Other findings

• The most likely readers of the online edition are the oldest generation of Catholics.

• In this demographic, young Catholics are not moving to online from print as many assume.
Answer: 12 newspapers, 23 institutions, 27 individuals, 34 committee members, 2 staff, and 2 consultants.

Question: What does it take to plan the CRRA Catholic Newspapers Digitization Project?
Ethics of Collaboration
by Anne Balsamo

• intellectual flexibility
• intellectual generosity
• intellectual humility
• intellectual confidence
• intellectual reliability
Go fast, go alone; go far, go together

Thank you.