

---

# Roman Catholic

*David Kriegh, St. Patrick's Seminary & University, Convener*

*Kathy Harty, Sacred Heart Seminary & School of Theology, Secretary*

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

- David Kriegh, St. Patrick's Seminary & University, Convener
- Kathy Harty, Sacred Heart Seminary & School of Theology, Secretary
- Sr. Rebecca Abel, OSB, Catholic Distance University
- Mary Ann Aubin, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
- Jennifer Bartholomew, Sacred Heart Seminary & School of Theology
- Elyse Hayes, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
- Ann Heinrichs, Catholic Theological Union
- Barnaby Hughes, Atla
- Br. Andrew Kosmowski, North American Center for Marianist Studies
- Alan Krieger, University of Notre Dame
- Brian Morin, Mount Angel Abbey
- Philip O'Neill, Barry University
- Steve Perisho, Seattle Pacific University
- Betsy Polakowski, St. Paul Seminary
- Derek Rieckens, Catholic Theological Union
- Mary Sepulveda, Seattle University
- Connie Song, Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology (Athenaeum)
- Stephen Sweeney, St. John Vianney Theological Seminary
- Kris Veldheer, Catholic Theological Union
- David Wuolu, St. John's College
- Jennifer Younger, Catholic Research Resources Alliance

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

- Charles Bellinger, Brite Divinity School (TCU)
- Thomas Bender, Notre Dame Seminary
- Victoria Brennan, St. John's Seminary

- Kerrie Burn, Catholic Theological College
- Matina Ćurić, Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie
- Jim Derksen, Newman Theological College
- Maria M. Garcia, Oblate School of Theology
- Fiona Holly, Conception Abbey and Seminary College
- James Humble, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Daniel Kolb, Saint Meinrad Archabbey
- Melody Mazuk, Liturgical Institute, Ealing Abbey
- Noel McFerran, University of St. Michael's College
- Ann Owen, Sacred Heart Seminary & School of Theology
- Dora Rowe, Union Presbyterian Seminary
- Fr. John Martin Ruiz, OP, Dominican House of Studies
- Sr. Sandra Rutkowski, Lourdes University
- Alexis Weiss, Loyola Marymount University

## **AGENDA AND DISCUSSION**

Opening prayer: Sr. Rebecca Abel, OSB

Welcome: David Kriegh (Convener)

- 1) Welcome and Brief Introductions
- 2) Approval of 2019 Minutes (no corrections or changes)
- 3) Old Business
  - a) A. Presentation Roundup
    - Jennie Bartholomew presented “Growing in Wisdom” as a Listen and Learn identity session on June 17.
    - Derek Rieckens was part of a panel presentation entitled “Physical Collections and the 21st-century Library.”
    - Stephen Sweeney ran the business meeting as president of Atla.
  - b) CLA Update (Jack Fritts)
    - The CLA has been doing online conferences for a couple of years, and has had a larger attendance than in-person ones. This year’s fall conference is Oct. 22 & 23, and the theme is “Mission-Driven Leadership in Faith-Based Libraries.” Plans are also underway for the 100th anniversary celebration next April.

### c) CRRA Update (Alan Krieger)

- The server for CRRA is now hosted at Andornot, a hosting service for libraries, archives, and museums in Vancouver, BC. The new administrator/troubleshooter is Steve LaPommeray. Ted Bergfelt, the Humanities librarian at Duquesne University, has created several subject guides for the portal, resulting in a large increase in use. CRRA also upgraded VuFind as the search app. The Catholic News Archives now contains 17 titles and is on pace to easily match last year's 56,000 users. CRRA also provides grant opportunities, acting as a partner, to help institutions obtain digitizing grants.

### d) Atla LibGuide Project

- Atla has asked the RC group to assist with curating a denominational LibGuide, which Atla will promote. As part of the discussion, it was determined that we do not want to duplicate what CRRA is doing, but that there are several areas in which we could contribute. Among these are: Vatican resources, curating items “born digital,” and/or the Church's take on modern issues. Our best contribution might be to create a “best of” guide, curating links to some of the excellent LibGuides already created by member institutions. This type of project might supplant the older attempt to update the *McCabe Guide to Catholic Reference Works*, begun by Melody Layton McMahon and assisted by several members present.

## 4) New Business

### a) Core Print Collections/Collaborative Weeding/Shared Print Discussion

- This discussion stemmed from several related agenda items submitted by members wanting to either weed responsibly (without tossing out a last copy) or who are looking for recommended core collections for either reference or main collections. At the college level, HathiTrust has already committed to not weeding their *Catholica*. OCLC Green Glass has been helpful to some

schools for evaluating overlap in collections with OCLC institutions.

- On the one hand, it might be useful to find a way to allow each other to see what's being acquired by sharing acquisitions lists, or perhaps create a shared print project among smaller libraries. Atla could help to set up a wiki for such projects. One of the points of discussion centered on the scarcity of electronic access to some older, classic works that are useful to seminaries. It might be helpful to lobby publishers to make more of their print materials available as e-books. Members are asked to suggest core texts, and to see what has already been done with the McCabe project.
- As for the weeding, SCELCLC & Atla are working on negotiating a steep discount on the GreenGlass product from OCLC for "micro" institutions, such as most members are. The Catholic Library Association might also collaborate in this project, and CRRA is interested as well.

#### b) Library Reopening Plans

- Libraries have been asked to share their plans via the Atla-RC list serve as appropriate. Among common threads: some form of "curbside pick-up" or drop-off; being prepared to pivot between in-person and quarantined services; ordering more e-books; getting staff more mobile-ready; revamping spaces to comply with physical distancing; discussion of IP and security concerns.

#### c) Transitions

- Ann Heinrichs has retired from CTU.
- Derek Rieckens has moved to CTU as the systems librarian and archivist.
- David Kriegh left his position as library director of St. Patrick's Seminary & University and is now head of Collections Management at Saint Mary's College of California.
- The Diocese of Buffalo has closed Christ the King Seminary as part of its reorganization.

- In March 2020, it was announced that Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry is under review to sunset some graduate programs while also migrating some to the university's larger graduate program curriculum. No action will be taken until it is approved by the Board of Trustees. STM worked to create new forms of programming that respond to growing interest in spirituality, interreligious dialogue, and the intersection of ministry with other professions and disciplines. Unfortunately, these efforts have not demonstrated a sufficient market for graduate education in these areas and have not been able to compensate for serious downward trends in demand for more formal ministerial leadership education.

Closing Prayer: Br. Andrew Kosmowski

## SUMMARY

In light of events far beyond our control, our annual denominational meeting made its Zoom debut this year on June 29, 2020. While the unusual scheduling prevented some of our in-person regular attendees from joining, we enjoyed seeing the new faces of those who have not been able to join us in the past. Following our customary introductions, we discussed old business, which included the usual affiliated association updates from CRRA and the CLA, plus further discussion on collaborative projects through Atla's new LibGuides platform. There was a strong sentiment that these projects should aim to harness the best of what individual libraries have produced to be shared for the benefit of the whole Catholic library community. This led into our new business, where we discussed the increasing interest in both a shared print collection among Catholic theological libraries to assist weeding projects as well as developing core collection lists to help identify resources that every library should hold. Other new business included a call to share reopening plans as these developed in the coming months, as these plans may include valuable advice not typically included in the plans of other library types and sizes. Finally, we noted any retirements, transitions, or other related news from our various institutions. Please note that some comments received in the chat have been incorporated into the minutes as recorded above.