

Special Issue – LLMC Partners with Center for Research Libraries

Contents:

- 1– The Center for Research Libraries -p.1
- 2– CLR & LLMC, the Symbiotic Potential -p.2
- 3– CRL Global Resources Program in Law -p.3
- 4– Near Term Project Implementation -p.3-4
- 5– A message from our Chairman -p. 4

The Center for Research Libraries

As most of our readers are generally aware, the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), is an international consortium of university, college, and independent research libraries. Its core mission has always been acquiring and maintaining sharable collections of primary materials for original scholarly research. Its collections contain a rich and diverse corpus of roughly five million rarely-held books; journals, pamphlets, newspapers and other primary source materials from all regions of the globe.¹ Operating as an acquisitions cooperative, CRL has grown its collections over almost seven decades, both through deposits from its member libraries, and also through joint purchase-proposal and demand-purchase programs guided by its members. Thanks to its policy of carefully involving librarians, specialists and scholars from its member libraries in the acquisition programs, CRL has been able to tap the enormous pool of collection-related expertise and knowledge in its community. Most of the materials acquired by CRL with member funds are from outside the U.S., and many are from the emerging regions of the world: Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

Ideally for a consortium where most member libraries are in North America, CRL is headquartered in Chicago, where it is housed in its

¹ The many forms of recorded knowledge and historical evidence available from CRL include: Newspapers (second largest circulating collection in North America, with more than 16,000 titles); Doctoral Dissertations (over 800,000 titles from outside the U.S. and Canada); Journals (several thousand titles in English and other languages); and Government Documents (including census records, legislative journals, official gazettes, and archival collections).

own purpose-built building adjacent to the Univ. of Chicago campus. For years its principal method of servicing its members was through interlibrary loan of print materials, but it quickly integrated microform and digital technologies into its service model as they became available. In whatever medium, CRL loans can be for extended periods and without limitation on format or quantity of material borrowed. This uniquely generous “project length” loan policy makes it possible for serious researchers to conduct careful reviews of long runs of publications and comparative analyses of a wide range of sources.

Currently CRL has over 250 member libraries of all types and sizes.² It is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the membership, that represents the research and higher education communities. Its diverse group of current Board members includes the head librarians from eight universities and colleges, four high-ranking university officials, the Exec. Dir. of the American Historical Association, the President of the Council on Library and Information

² In size CRL compares to LLMC, which has 264 member libraries. There is also sizable overlap in their memberships. Ninety colleges and universities are members of both; the law libraries through their host institutions’ memberships in CRL, and the host institutions via their law libraries’ memberships in LLMC. One noteworthy difference between LLMC and CRL is the latter’s enviable performance in recruiting strategic “Partners” over the years. Partner organizations that currently support or have provided major support to CRL activities include: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Council on Library and Information Resources, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, John and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and U.S. Dept. of Education.

Special Issue – LLMC Partners with Center for Research Libraries

Resources, and, *ex officio*, CRL's President, Bernard F. Reilly.³

CRL & LLMC, The Symbiotic Potential

LLMC and CRL have long been aware of each other's activities. This was only natural given the similarities in the groups' missions. It was also apparent to both sides that there were significant overlaps in the law and law-related literatures for which they were separately responsible. In addition, for many years both organizations maintained robust programs in microforms, and each could rely on the other to cover some of its potential filming responsibilities. However, the mutual interest increased as both CRL and LLMC faced the opportunities and challenges of the emerging digital era. Both sides knew that the digital experience clearly would require greater effort and much higher costs than anything either consortium had undertaken in the past.

LLMC read the tea leaves and concluded that, given its historical responsibilities to its member libraries, it had no choice but to embrace the new digital technology. As honed during more three decades of work in the microforms arena, LLMC's portfolio of duties to its members included: Creating access to market-ignored titles, Ensuring preservation of the data contained in the print corpus, Providing for methodical space recovery, Defining and maintaining basic standards of document reliability; Influencing library research costs toward reasonable levels, Insuring against future monopoly pricing, and Defending the public domain. There was no way to do all of that unless LLMC established a presence in the digital world, fulfilling those functions that the for-profit side of the market would likely leave undone.

During the film years, LLMC's "TVA-style" role made a demonstrable difference in all of the areas flagged above, and it made that

³ While they could not copy it in detail, LLMC's founders were aware of the CRL governance model, and that influenced their decisions as they devised the LLMC governance structure.

difference because LLMC had a respectable, though hardly dominant, presence in the larger microforms market. Given the special nature of the market for legal literature, there was at least a reasonable chance that LLMC could have a similar impact in the digital arena, but only if it could establish a similarly significant presence. Of course, we knew that there were obstacles and risks. But we thought that the odds were reasonable enough to justify taking the chance. So we waded in. Having accepted the challenge, to date LLMC has made a fairly decent start toward its goals. Its already scanned product includes over 3,000 titles, comprising over 50 thousand volumes and over 26 million pages. Not so incident-ally, a very high percentage of those 26 million images contain data that is also of high interest to most CRL libraries.

CRL has read its tea leaves differently. Its mission statements differ from LLMC's. As important, it has to operate in a vastly wider universe of research literature. Even were it able to go the LLMC route and create its own digital library, it couldn't hope to have the impact that we at LLMC aspire toward in our more circumscribed neighborhood. So CRL has chosen a different strategy, but one still admirably calculated to make total use of modern technologies in fulfilling its primary mission of developing and making accessible rich research collections for its members. As its leaders recently described their desired future in a far-sighted report summarizing an extensive self-study and long-term planning exercise funded by the Mellon Foundation:

In 2016 CRL . . . supports its members and clients by engaging appropriate partners and service providers to preserve critical paper and electronic source materials and to provide electronic access to same. Those source materials are held by a network of libraries, archives, publishers and aggregators that CRL engages to provide those services and which CRL monitors and certifies on an ongoing basis.

The potential for symbiosis so readily apparent here is that, for the CRL game plan to

Special Issue – LLMC Partners with Center for Research Libraries

succeed, they need “appropriate partners” and reliable electronic “aggregators.” They have now decided that LLMC fills their need relative to law and law-related materials. Of particular interest is that CRL told us that strong factors influencing the selection of LLMC was our non-profit status and their belief that our mutual goals were so consonant.

CRL Global Resources Program in Law

To integrate the work it will be doing with LLMC into its ongoing programs, CRL has designated this project as a unit of its existing Global Resources Network program,⁴ with the name “CRL Global Resources Program in Law.” The following is a lightly edited and compressed version of the public announcement CRL just made to its own members:

CRL and LLMC share a commitment to ensuring the survival of primary documentation for advanced research. Besides their obvious importance to the legal community, published laws, treaties, statutes, and other law and government-related materials are of increasing interest to researchers in the humanities and social sciences. For example, legislative journals and the official gazettes of civil law countries, are key components of CRL’s own holdings. However, despite their importance to researchers in many fields, many law libraries have begun to discard their print copies of these materials, because of the growing acceptance of electronic information by law students, lawyers and jurists, and other factors such as the evolution in American Bar Association accreditation requirements.

Since its founding in 1976, LLMC has been filming and later digitizing many thousands of volumes of law and law-related materials, principally from North America, but also including all regions of the world. It now makes over 25 million pages of these materials available electronically to member institutions through its online subscription

service LLMC-Digital. In addition, as an accredited unit of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA) Print Preservation Program, LLMC also archives the original print copies of the titles it digitizes whenever it has custody.

CRL is a cooperative collection development effort that preserves, acquires, and maintains newspapers, archives, government and legal publications, and other primary source materials for scholarly research and teaching. Since its founding in 1949, CRL has built a shared collection of five million items and has in recent years digitized over three million pages of those materials.

In the coming months CRL will work with LLMC to identify and digitize materials from CRL’s own collections, and also materials from the Library of Congress and other important repositories to which LLMC has access, that support and augment CRL’s areas of collecting focus. These cooperatively digitized materials will become available to CRL libraries through the LLMC-Digital interface. Fields of interest for CRL libraries identified to date include Latin America, Native American, Western colonialism and colonial law and governance, and human rights. The materials thus acquired will augment existing CRL digital resources such as Latin American newspapers and colonial African and South Asian government publications. Over the longer term, the ongoing selection of materials to be digitized will be guided by a joint Global Resources Law Steering Committee, comprised equally of representatives appointed by the governing boards of CRL and LLMC.

Through its new partnership with LLMC, CRL will benefit from the expertise and resources of an organization with deep roots in the law library community to broaden the range of source materials available to faculty and students in its own community. This timely partnership will advance the missions of both organizations, while creating economies of scale that will strengthen member libraries in a period of diminishing resources and growing vendor consolidation.

⁴ See <http://www.crl.edu/grn>

Special Issue – LLMC Partners with Center for Research Libraries

Near Term Project Implementation

Starting in July CRL will begin to support LLMC digitization and preservation of materials of mutual interest to CRL and LLMC members. Staff in Chicago and Hawaii are already making some preliminary selections from among the more obvious legal titles held by CRL so that books can be shipped and scanning can begin in July.

Under the partnership all CRL member libraries will have electronic access to the LLMC-Digital corpus. 158 CRL member libraries do not yet enjoy coverage through dual membership. This roughly 38% increase will bring the *LLMC-Digital* subscriber base to 422 public, academic, and research libraries. As they are for LLMC's current subscribers, subscription rates for the new CRL recruits will be tied to library size and type categories.

As a result of this investment by CRL LLMC's annual operating revenues will grow approximately twenty per cent, and its capacity will also increase. The understanding between the parties is that this will be roughly the proportion of total LLMC annual scanning capacity that will be devoted to CRL-network owned titles in those subject areas of mutual interest.

Finally, as noted in the CRL release quoted above, over the longer term the strategic directions of the project will be developed in greater depth and sophistication aided by advice from a Global Resources Law Steering Committee staffed by nominees from CRL and LLMC. The plan is that the Committee will be composed of three librarians and one staff liaison person from each organization. Recruitment from among our librarian colleagues in both organizations of individuals to serve on this important committee is currently underway. An announcement of the Committee's initial membership is expected by the time of the next issue of this newsletter.

A Message from Our Chairman

Richard Amelung, Chairman of our LLMC Board of Directors, has forwarded the follow-

ing message to summarize his and the other Board members' sentiments on the launch of this new partnership.

It is difficult to adequately convey the import of the partnership between CRL and LLMC. However, on behalf of the current and immediate past members of the LLMC Board of Directors, let me start by expressing our appreciation for the many hours of hard work and thoughtful consideration that both Kathleen Richman, LLMC Executive Director, and Jerry Dupont, Associate Director, have invested in seeing this effort through to a most positive conclusion.

As all our members certainly understand, such partnerships do not suddenly spring up over night. My own notes, from initial contact to final approval, extend well over two years. During the ebb and flow of the discussions, your Board of Directors has been constantly informed and involved, offering advice and counsel to ensure that the guiding principles and mission of LLMC be preserved. Fortunately, throughout this process of negotiation with our counterparts at CRL, we would frequently arrive at the same conclusion: This is really a good fit!

Now, of course, we will need to work through the many details of implementing this agreement. That will take significant and imaginative new effort. But our Board and the LLMC staff are motivated to do their best knowing that the end result will be of such increased benefit to our members and their patrons. Furthermore, even though now more ambitious, our combined endeavors will be easier of achievement in some respects; given new synergies in terms of aggregating materials (CRL's holdings and networks), and the provision of digitized copies complete with cataloging and authority control (LLMC's facilities). In addition, as the partnership between CRL and LLMC matures, we can hope to discover other synergistic opportunities. In this manner we will play to each other's strengths without losing sight of our individual institutional goals.

As we move forward with this effort, the LLMC Board views this partnership as an opportunity to broaden our membership into

Special Issue – LLMC Partners with Center for Research Libraries

areas where researchers have a need for law and law-related materials, but have lacked access to the depth and breadth of collections which are, even now, available on LLMC-Digital. As for our current users, LLMC's access to CRL's collections and its network of specialists will enable the Global Resources Law Steering Committee to select from an even greater wealth of titles to add to those titles presently online.

Your Board looks forward to the flowering of this partnership with expectations for seriously beneficial results. We trust that our actions on your behalf will methodically and massively enhance the research, teaching, and law practice of our members.