

Wednesday, April 03, 2024

Dear CRL Global Collections Stakeholders -

Greetings from CRL and from Chicago!

This past week was a bit less eventful than the week before as I continue to engage with our members individually and in small groups. Last week I met with Alma Ortega and Sarah Buck Kachaluba, current Chair and Chair-elect for the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP). The group is eager to resume their project work and spoke briefly about promoting CRL resources and services to their students, ranging from our long loans periods to digitizing content by request.

Tuesday (yesterday), I attended a CRL “Leader-to-Leader” forum, an informal event convened and moderated by Lisa Carter (U. Michigan and Chair of CRL’s Collections and Services Policy Committee) for senior leaders across CRL’s 200+ members to check in with each other about ongoing planning around CRL’s global collections work. Kristina Rose (NYU & Vice Chair of the Collections and Services Policy Committee) and Devin Savage (Illinois Institute of Technology & CRL Board of Directors) shared their perspectives on the change process to date, Kristina served on the “sustainability sprint team” last summer, and talked about how that experience raised her awareness regarding the back-of-office pain points that CRL staff experience related to the current administrative structures for the global programs. Devin shared the reasoning behind IIT joining CRL, and how much IIT depends on CRL to build collections to which constituents on his camps have access (a point that was echoed by many other participants). In all, over 50 Deans, Directors, AULs and other leaders from member institutions representing a broad diversity of library sizes and environments reflected on the process, asked questions, and offered insights on next steps.

I’m also continuing to meet individually with the members from the International Collections and Content Group (ICCG). Created in 2020 as an advisory group to the Collections and Services Policy Committee (CSPC), this group continues to evolve since their creation but are still rooted in their call to action in 2021 ([Call to Action](#)).

The CRL Council of Voting Members is coming up in just two weeks so we here at 6050 S. Kenwood are all getting ready to welcome members from across the country. This event is exclusively an in-person event, though I will certainly provide an update after and any recordings we make. I know I will see many of you there.

And, of course, I'm still offering office hours for personal meetings. These are great opportunities to chat if you still have questions (or opinions) about the future of CRL. Please reach out via Zoom: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Thanks to all of you who are participating in this process. At our first Town Halls in February, I heard from many of you that you did not feel a part of CRL's change process and wanted to get more actively involved. Based on that input, we now have changed the timeline, added flexibility into potential outcomes, and created more opportunity for contributions from the community. As we move forward, my work with the Global Collections Advisory Task Force is picking up and I will look for ways to bring the Task Force's work to our continuing engagements. In the meantime, follow all events/news, including the [Advisory Task Force Community Notes](#), on our [Strengthening Global Collections landing page](#).

- Kevin