

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Dear CRL Global Collections Stakeholders -

Greetings from CRL and from Chicago!

You probably already know that earlier this week, the CRL Global Collections Advisory Task Force (GCATF) sent an update to the AMP/GRN email lists, to the IASC21 email list, and posted the text to the CRL website. These added layers of communication from the GCATF are part of CRL's larger commitment to transparency and engagement with the membership. And, as a key part of my personal efforts, I will continue to provide these weekly updates. However, I anticipate they will be getting shorter as more information is distributed from working groups like the GCATF and from other reporting streams as they are developed.

My engagement plan to date has emphasized the AMP/GRNs and I'm often talking with groups of people with related subject emphases. In contrast, this past week I met with the Area Studies specialists at the University of Illinois. This is not the first time I had the opportunity to meet with an entire department of a member library, but I highlight the distinction because I have repeatedly said that I'm trying to meet members in different configurations to facilitate exploration of a variety of perspectives and needs. Please reach out if this interests your library team and you have not yet had the chance. I particularly appreciate meeting with groups with different area interests because identifying common processes highlights opportunities for new efficiencies. A highlight for this meeting was the question of discoverability: how would we know if researchers are aware of CRL resources and services and how can we facilitate that awareness.

At the recent annual meeting of Voting Members, I was able to speak with some representatives from these libraries without AMP/GRN representation. Future engagement will extend my efforts to member libraries, and I anticipate great ideas and unique perspectives going forward as those conversations continue.

This week, I also held another open office hour. Remember that you can schedule time to speak with me directly at <https://www.crl.edu/strengthening-crl-global-collections>. One more note on the subject of personal meetings: tomorrow I am headed to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual business meeting for the Cooperative Africana Materials Project (CAMP), which was founded in 1963! The many opportunities to speak directly with member colleagues so deeply dedicated to our work is truly one of the perks of working at CRL and I will report back on that meeting next week!

- Kevin