Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Dear CRL Global Collections Stakeholders -

Greetings from CRL and from Chicago!

First, I apologize for skipping last week’s update without warning. It was a slow news week.

I recently met with a representative from the Nairobi Office of the Library of Congress’ Cooperative Acquisitions Program (LC CAP), https://www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/. As they explain on their website, as “[s]ince 1962 the Library of Congress has maintained offices abroad to acquire, catalog, preserve, and distribute library and research materials from countries where such materials are essentially unavailable through conventional acquisitions methods.” Many of our member libraries participate in this effort and CRL also has selected subscriptions.

I had a loosely related meeting with the newspaper sub-committee of the Cooperative Africana Materials Project (CAMP) as CRL receives some African newspapers through the LC CAP program. There are, obviously, other newspaper subscriptions across the collective portfolio of the CAMP member institutions, some of which are selectively moved to CRL for scanning to preserve the content and enhance access across the membership. Going forward, CRL and CAMP will work to minimize CRL duplication of LC CAP titles received by members; this will permit us to commit to content that is rare or unique across the membership for greater impact across the collective. Over the summer, I will be making similar efforts for the other regions covered by the LC CAP program, which includes newspapers and other select serials.

As I have mentioned before, I am still meeting with AMP/GRNs who have specific feedback for the Global Collections Advisory Task Force or other concerns. I met with CAMP leadership to review some questions about ongoing change management, including confirming that funds contributed to CRL projects are being held to be put towards the appropriate affiliated approved projects when that work resumes. Also, CRL leadership met with South Asia Open Archives (SAOA) leadership to discuss some logistics unique to their situation.

My office hours schedule is available for meetings like this, or as opportunities for individuals or small groups to chat if there are questions or opinions about the future of CRL. Please reach out via Zoom: Meeting Registration - Zoom

Thanks for your continued patience, engagement, and support!

- Kevin