

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Dear CRL Global Collections Stakeholders,

The Global Collections Advisory Task Force has completed our work and presented our proposal at the recent Board meeting, held in person at CRL on November 8th. We included a supplemental document informed by responses from the AMP/GRNs, which is on our [Strengthening CRL Global Collections](#) website along with the original report. The Board asked Jake Nadal, our incoming President to prioritize addressing international collections.

I am also writing to elaborate on some of the concerns related to the proposed establishment of collection committees, to extend some of the ideas in the FAQ generated by the Task Force recommendations report.

Open Access came up repeatedly as a concern. CRL is committed to contributing to open content. Our out-of-copyright collections are freely available after they are digitized on-demand, and many planned digitization projects result in open content. For example, a recent preservation project provided access to an at-risk collection through non-extractive scanning, benefiting the collection holder, CRL members and users outside of CRL membership. With the migration of our digital hosting platform, CRL has the potential to grow in this area as needed.

Funding details were also recurring questions, asking about both CRL revenue and support for the proposed committees. We have budgeted funds to support the committees immediately if they convene this year and, if implemented, they will be part of our annual budget. CRL does not charge membership fees but instead operates under a cost-share model in which members contribute a percentage of their acquisitions fund. We are committed to diversity in our membership and inclusive representation of research communities, regardless of size, programs, and financial resources of the institution. With a minimum cost-share of only \$1,200, membership is within reach of most research libraries.

Our Board of Directors is elected by our voting members and reflects the diversity of our membership and our partners across the research landscape. Our current Board includes representatives from the Modern Language Association, ITHAKA, public and private schools, small and large libraries, and nearly half are from ARL institutions.

The office hours with the Task Force have stopped as the Task Force itself is now dissolved, but you can still schedule time with me through the office hours link on the Strengthening Global Collections landing page. As always, thank you for your engagement.

Member participation is essential to the ongoing process of creating our best future!

- Kevin