Harrisburg University/Dickinson College Site Visit Summary

In late July 2019, Dickinson College librarians hosted the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology library staff to discuss the Waidner-Spahr Library’s award-winning information literacy education program and Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center and its robust student employee training practices.

In addition to discussing Dickinson’s award-winning Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center, Jim Gerencser (co-director of the project and Dickinson College Archivist), Don Sailer (Library Digital Projects Manager, Dickinson), and Calida Barboza (Harrisburg University) talked about the role of grants in funding digital projects and tools for digital resource management. Gerencser highlighted the importance of being prepared to take advantage of opportunities when they arise and the value of daily, incremental improvements.

Emily Reed (HU) met with Chris Bombaro (Dickinson) to discuss the Waidner-Spahr Library’s award-winning information literacy program. Chris detailed how the library is integrated into Dickinson’s First Year Seminar (FYS) and provided the IL rubric created specifically for their FYS program. Chris has a unique role in the English 300 course, providing in person instruction and online modules. They discussed how the model could be easily adapted and used for different content, different courses, and different programs. Emily and Chris discussed the importance of academic integrity instruction and brainstormed some solutions for some of HU’s challenges in providing consistent academic integrity instruction for HU’s international graduate students.

David Runyon (HU) discussed Dickinson College’s Student Library Consultant training and various challenges of student employment with Nidia Werner (Dickinson). Nidia shared many of the training resources, manuals, and presentations she uses.

Afterward, the two teams shared lunch at Kimberly’s Café and Creamery, which surprisingly does not serve ice cream. Thanks to ACLCP for its support of this visit!