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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WAIDNER-SPAHR LIBRARY, DICKINSON COLLEGE

FALL 2018

BUILDING COLLECTIVE COLLECTIONS THROUGH LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS



It is estimated that 500,000 new books are published every year in the U.S. alone. There are more than 85,000 English-language scholarly journals currently published. Magazines, non-English titles and newspapers add considerably to the amount of new available content.

Libraries provide access to this content, and are responsible for ensuring the long-term preservation of the scholarly record, as they collectively store content in perpetuity, in print and in secure digital format. Clearly, it is impossible for any individual library to acquire and preserve so much information. Even the Library of Congress cannot collect everything that is published.

To meet the challenges of collection and access to this ever-expanding information universe, libraries have long formed partnerships, known as consortia, to share the work of providing and preserving information. One familiar example of this is interlibrary loan service, through which libraries share their materials for the benefit of individual library users. Beyond this service, libraries collaborate behind the scenes to gain additional

benefits. Described here are just a few of the partnerships in which the Waidner-Spahr Library participates.

The OCLC catalog, through its WorldCat network service, facilitates interlibrary loans and allows libraries to share the work of cataloging books and other materials. As of June 2018, WorldCat contained over 425 million records describing books and other materials in 491 languages. The Waidner-Spahr Library staff makes use of these records by adding books to the library's collection, and we also add our holdings to the WorldCat database to facilitate discovery and interlibrary loan.

The Waidner-Spahr Library joined HathiTrust in 2017. HathiTrust has a mission to digitize and preserve the scholarly record, and it also coordinates shared print-copy maintenance by member libraries. *(See article on HathiTrust elsewhere in this issue.)* We also purchase journal and scholarly e-book access from JSTOR, a not-for-profit, shared digital library of academic journals, which has a strong digital preservation program bolstered by paper-copy repositories.

Waidner-Spahr has long been a member of the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc. (PALCI), which is made up of nearly 70 public and private academic and research libraries,

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BALANCING ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP: A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

The diversity of the curriculum and the interests of Dickinson's students, faculty and staff generate demand for an equally diverse array of information, delivered in myriad formats. Managing the costs associated with the information needs of our users each year has thus become increasingly challenging with a static budget. To meet our users' needs, the Waidner-Spahr Library staff has developed a sustainable approach to collection development that balances access with ownership concerns.

OUR COLLECTION-DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY IS BASED ON FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Maintain core library collections within the budget.
 - 2) Facilitate discovery of information sources without limits.
 - 3) Provide fast, convenient, cost-effective access options.
 - 4) Ensure long-term preservation of scholarly literature.
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Staff members routinely incorporate analysis into daily workflows to make important purchasing decisions based on what will bring the college the best value for its money. Core resources—those most central to the current curriculum—are subscribed to or purchased to enhance a focused collection of highly used materials. Library staff members provide research tools that present information options beyond what is owned by the library, including the JumpStart discovery service, WorldCat and full-text links added to Google Scholar. Interlibrary loan staff continuously explore unmediated options and cultivate local, state, national and international consortia relationships to provide fast access to materials not owned by our library. With our consortia partners, we also participate in long-term preservation of scholarly output (*see the related article on building collective collections*).

By following these clearly defined principles, the Waidner-Spahr Library has been able to fulfill its mission to Dickinson scholars while demonstrating responsible stewardship over valuable Dickinson assets.

Moving Out Into Open Spaces

In the spring and summer months of 2017, we managed to relocate most all of our digitized books and pamphlets—237 individual items—to our new Internet Archive home (<https://archive.org/details/dickinsoncollegearchives>).

Nearly 20 years ago, archives staff, students and interns began digitizing books, pamphlets, diaries and letters from among our collections so that these resources could be more easily shared online. Due to the slower internet speeds of the late 1990s, the earliest efforts resulted primarily in HTML pages featuring plain text, rather than actual page images. Dickinson College histories and some of the college's founding documents were among the materials digitized in those first few years of digitization.

After a few years, we received our first grant to support digitization efforts, with \$75,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which was a redistribution of funds to the state from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant work began in 2002, with a goal to scan and make available online 22,000 pages of printed and handwritten content. With the improvement of internet speeds, we intended to display the original page images as well as plain text. Seeing the need for an easier way to manage the thousands of files and pages involved, we purchased a license for CONTENTdm software and mounted the software on our college servers. That software subsequently provided the platform by which to share hundreds of other books, journals and letters drawn from our special collections, the digitization of which was supported, in part, by four additional grants over the next eight years.

For the past 15 years, we have used CONTENTdm as the primary tool to share books and other print materials online. The software has been stable, although the upgrades to the software have not kept pace with the advancement of other online technologies. The user interface definitely looks its age, and the page viewer lacks some of the ease of maneuvering and sharing that one sees with other online tools. We had been looking



around for possible alternatives when, two years ago, we were informed that future upgrades to the software would not be provided to those who host CONTENTdm on their own servers. With that in mind, we began to search for another solution with an increased sense of urgency. Looking at the options and considering issues of limited budget and staffing, we ultimately decided to migrate our materials to the Internet Archive, a nonprofit online resource that is openly accessible to all.

The Internet Archive began as an effort to capture, preserve and share websites and other online content and, over time, developed to encompass all variety of materials. The volume of content available there means that those searching for information are far more likely to find it there than through a website with as relatively few items as we have digitized.

We hoped that this move would not only provide the kind of preservation and access environment that would make our collections easy to use, but also that the increased visibility and discoverability offered by the Internet Archive would, in turn, increase overall usage. In 2016-17, just under 2,500 users visited our digital materials in our hosted CONTENTdm collection. During this past year, having moved the materials to the Internet Archive, we saw more than 8,000 visits. We are heartened to see that these texts are now enjoying more use by an interested global public, and we look forward to adding more materials to this open and easily accessible environment in the future.

HATHITRUST MEMBERSHIP

PROVIDES ACCESS TO MILLIONS
OF TEXTS AND HELPS PRESERVE
THE SCHOLARLY RECORD

Dickinson College has joined HathiTrust (www.hathitrust.org), a partnership of major academic and research libraries collaborating in an extraordinary digital library initiative. Eleanor Mitchell, director of library services at Waidner-Spahr Library, explains: “Through our membership in the HathiTrust, we both expand access for our users to millions of books and other materials and join a collaborative effort of more than 120 academic and research libraries to support digital scholarship and preserve the cultural record.”

The benefits to digital scholarship provided through the HathiTrust Research Center are of particular interest to faculty, including Christopher Francese, Asbury J. Clarke professor of classical studies, who chairs the Dickinson Digital Humanities Advisory Committee. “[HathiTrust] has, on a number of occasions, provided me with crucial material unavailable through Google Books or any other source; for example, the 1939 typed dissertation by Tilroe that is the best existing commentary on the *Ilias Latina*, an important Latin epic on the fall of Troy,” says

Francese. “Hathi [also] makes material available for large-scale analysis by text mining. There, the superiority of their metadata and digitization really shines through and makes this a crucial tool for the future of scholarship.”

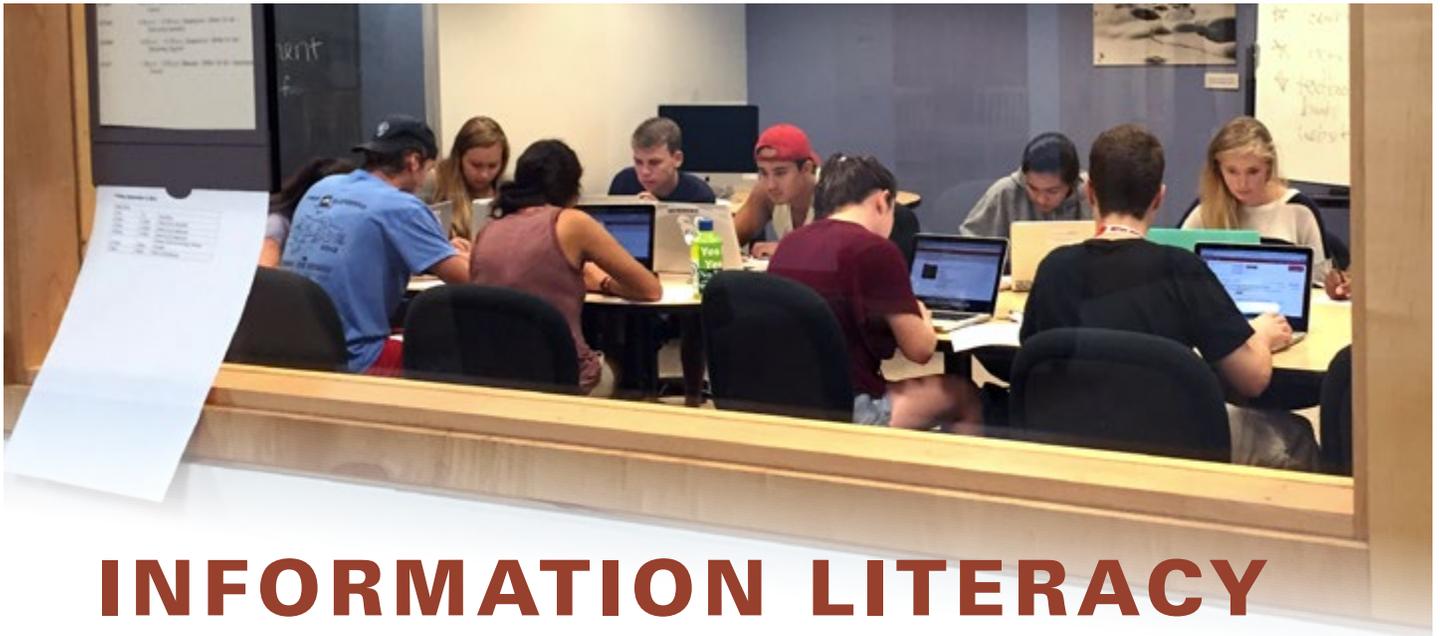
Sarah Kersh, assistant professor of English, also sees great potential for HathiTrust, as it is one of the only digital repositories of some rare 19th-century texts that are important to her research. Kersh is currently working with Language Technology Specialist Todd Bryant, and previously worked with Sai Grandhi, ’18, to answer questions about canonicity. The team categorized page-level word-count data for many volumes of English-language literature by eras. Kersh explains that she can “compare the word counts to those of some of the more noncanonical writers to see if part of their omission from the canon of a specific era is because their language looks more like those texts from another era—in other words, to look for outliers.” Kersh plans to share some of this work based on HathiTrust data in a forthcoming article on the late 19th-century poet Michael Field.

Dickinson’s HathiTrust membership has also provided new opportunities for the Waidner-Spahr Library to collaborate with Dickinson’s Office of Disability Services (ODS). Special HathiTrust access, set up by the library and administered by ODS staff, greatly expands the number and types of digitized in-copyright course materials that can be made legally available to students with documented print disabilities.

HathiTrust: Something for Everyone

While HathiTrust is a well-known resource in the humanities, this digital library contains books and other materials that are relevant to most any discipline. **Examples of the diverse content collections in HathiTrust include:**

- space science
- human sexuality
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publications
- Islamic manuscripts
- Bureau of Indian Affairs publications
- food studies
- action and adventure fiction
- Early American cookbooks
- foreign relations of the United States
- records of the American colonies
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography publications
- African American historical publications
- patent indexes
- the Women Composers Collection
- Hebraica and Judaica
- and many more!



INFORMATION LITERACY AND INFORMATION PRIVILEGE

Access to a wealth of useful information—such as legal and medical information, scientific studies, demographic data and historical documents—is a privilege afforded to members of select groups, such as those in the legal or medical professions and college and university students and employees. Those affiliated with such organizations can obtain information that others can't access without expensive and specialized tools. Some information cannot be obtained by individual subscription, even if you wanted to pay for it. Some information available by individual subscription—think Ancestry.com or New York Times Online—may be too expensive for many potential users. Even free government information, supported by taxpayer dollars, can be difficult to obtain or understand without knowledge of where the data is stored, access to data interpretation tools, or the assistance of experts who can help make sense of the information.

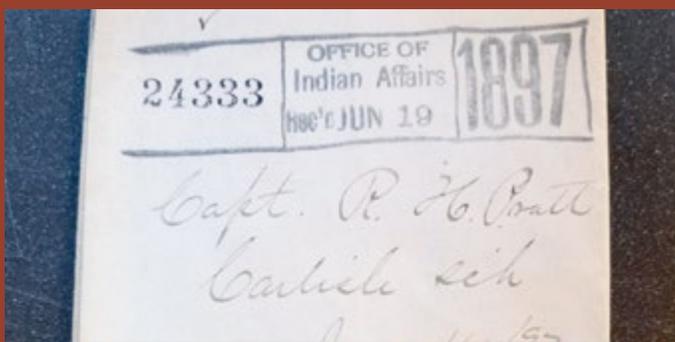
Dickinson students, faculty and staff are part of a community that enjoys privileged access to information via the 500+ databases, thousands of journal subscriptions and millions of books selected and paid for by the Waidner-Spahr Library. Despite the proliferation of open access sources, high-quality subscription-based information resources remain critical to academic research. However, open access sources are quickly becoming just as important to the research process as the material behind paywalls. Many colleges and universities, government agencies, news outlets and nonprofit organizations are making primary sources, statistics, research articles and other data freely available online through grant funding, engaging the help of volunteers who digitize and post information, and reciprocal borrowing arrangements with other libraries, and this information is increasingly used to teach courses at Dickinson. This proliferation of free information can make finding and evaluating information, in all its forms, exponentially more complex.

Teaching the evaluation of resources has always been a critical aspect of academic library missions, especially at Dickinson. However, the open access movement makes the job of a librarian arguably more important than it has ever been. Starting with our research instruction at the First-Year Seminar level, and continuing with Writing in the Discipline (WID) and senior capstone courses, librarians at Dickinson help the community find and evaluate information in a number of ways. First and most important, we teach students how to locate and access information that is most relevant to the topic under consideration, regardless of the information's origin. We then work with students to help them identify the elements of a source that signify it to be reliable and valuable, and to use the information according to the research standards of their majors. Finally, we help students ensure that they use all the information they find in an ethical manner.

In addition, the library raises awareness of the open access movement in several other ways. We host semiannual, all-campus workshops on open access materials. We provide clear access to reliable open access material on our guide, "Resources for Alumni and Visitors," at <http://libguides.dickinson.edu/alumniresearch>. The college also provides funds to help faculty pay related fees when they want to publish their work in open access publications, and the library maintains memberships with organizations that provide open access material, such as Open Library of the Humanities (<https://www.openlibhums.org/>) and Knowledge Unlatched (<http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/>). Finally, the library hosts an online collection of research created by Dickinson faculty, staff and students through our institutional repository, Dickinson Scholar, at <https://scholar.dickinson.edu/>.

SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON HISTORY:

THE DIGITIZED RECORDS OF THE CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL



Since we launched the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center project (<http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>) five years ago, the foundational objective has always been the digitization and sharing of original content about this first federally managed, off-reservation boarding school for Native American children and young adults. That content, in turn, supports various forms of personal and scholarly research, teaching and learning, as well as new forms of information creation and sharing.

The heart of this project is the idea that the content itself is highly desired by a large community of interested researchers, including living descendants of the roughly 8,000 students who attended the school, and the many other people who study the school and its significant impact. Since so much of the primary

resource material about the school is housed in various archival repositories around the country, it is important to make these materials easily accessible online, so that descendants and researchers do not have to pay to request copies of documents from those repositories, and do not need to travel, at often great personal expense, to conduct their work in person.

Digitizing and uploading the documents, photographs and other items to our website is just one part of the project. The thousands of hours of effort put in by dozens of work-study students, interns and consultants to process, catalog, describe and tag the digitized content online is what makes these unique documents easily discoverable and usable. Additional transcribing and indexing of many of these handwritten materials by our team members also makes the content

searchable, so that researchers can more easily identify individual names, events and other information without having to read through thousands of pages of unmarked text.

Our research team recently returned from its 10th digitization trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. We are scanning content from more than 16,000 files, scattered among 3,740 boxes of loose correspondence received by the office of the commissioner of Indian Affairs in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This material has only been minimally indexed, meaning that it has gone almost untouched by researchers, due to the extensive amount of time it would take to search it. With these files, our team is uncovering a treasure trove of documentation that will shed a wealth of new light on the history of the school, the experiences of the students who attended and the aims of those who administered its operations.

We uploaded our first digitized and processed files to the website just over five years ago. Since then, nearly 200,000 people have visited the project site, and they have viewed more than 1,250,000 separate webpages and even more individual pages of text. Usage of the site continues to increase as more and more files are added to the project, which already boasts more than 200,000 pages of unique content. We receive requests and comments from users daily, and have been told that the National Archives itself routinely points interested researchers to the project website. We couldn't be more pleased by this heavy use and positive response. We look forward to many more years of being able to add to the Resource Center, so that this complicated, largely untold history can be fully explored and examined by researchers of all kinds.

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Continued: Building Collective Collections

servicing more than 500,000 students. PALCI thinks strategically about its member library holdings as a “collective collection.” The Waidner-Spahr Library typically purchases roughly 5,000 individual books per year and has approximately 500,000 books in its collection. By participating in PALCI, the Dickinson community has access to the 144 million items owned by PALCI member libraries. In addition, Waidner-Spahr participates in the following “collective collection” arrangements through PALCI:

- access to more than 250,000 academic e-books from JSTOR, Ebook Central and EBSCO
- online access to nearly 1,000 scholarly journals published by Wiley-Blackwell
- online access to the complete, historical contents of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*.
- access to a collection of more than 60,000 academic streamed videos
- and a distributed shared print program, for which the Waidner-Spahr Library agreed to retain print runs of five scholarly journals, while other PALCI member libraries retain different journals in print and several major newspapers on microfilm. Each library can then quickly loan articles from these publications to other libraries as needed.

This article has highlighted only a few of the many consortia and partnerships in which the Waidner-Spahr Library participates. Through these partnerships, we can better serve library users, while helping to ensure that information will be available for future generations of researchers.

FIND US ON





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Efficiency, Economy and Improved Discovery:



The Library Migrates to a New Management System

A modern library requires a great deal of behind-the-scenes technology to provide information and services, including an online catalog, the ability to cross-search multiple databases, links to online full-text articles and more. The Waidner-Spahr Library's current catalog system has been in place for more than 20 years, and staff have added on separate systems to provide modern features, such as full-text linking and the JumpStart "discovery" search.

We began work on the yearlong project of migrating to a new library-management system early this summer, although the changes will be largely invisible to library users until the new system goes live in June 2019. The new system will provide an integrated back end for increased staff efficiency, as well as an improved JumpStart search interface for library users. As a single, integrated system, it will also save money, compared to the multiple systems used now. More information will be shared with the Dickinson community as the work proceeds.