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100-Day Assignment:

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section describing the benefits of the on-site research experience and how you think

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Challenges mostly involved environmental factors not considered before the trip. While I knew that a library this large and unique would have to guard its sources, I did not realize how that would impact me while there until I was there. While the rules are stict, it is necessary to preserve the collection for future generatiosn to use.

Skills acquired consisted of research and involved research and utilizing sources. We also learned how to request and reserve sources for the Reading Room, as well as how to scan materials onto a flash drive.

The students were also appointed librarians with specializations in particular areas of research. Unlike the last time I was on the LOC trip in 2017, the research librarian for the area of religion and theology was out of the office this time so I was helped by the Laura Buberian in the social sciences and humanities department.

Types of sources found included books and scholarly research articles. Topics focused on on the interaction between action research in religion and education as well as its use in the process of instruction.

New insights mostly involve considerations for the uniqueness of the LOC and other unique points to the trip. In addition to the LOC being a unique situation, the trip itself was a reminder that even a city lesss than two hours away from my home town can be a completely dofferent environment with different rules. Though I had been to DC before, this time I noticed somewhat of a general culture clash.

In addition to my studies at OGS, the experience and skills from the LOC trip will help with both of my jobs and also serving in my church. I can pass the research skills from the LOC trip and my studies at OGS onto my students where I teach at Germanna Community College, as well as other assiociates at Walmart. The hands-on research strategies from the LOC trip can be passed on to my community college students and my retail co-workers to help them find and look up information, as well as helping the women at my church find and use bible study tools. Also, the observation strategies from action research can be applied when teaching at Germanna or training new associate at Wal-mart as far as which instructional methods do or do not work. In adddition I can use the teaching and learning strategies to aid in teaching the women at CityLight Church.

Benefits of on site research include immediate access to sources that would otherwise be blocked by a paywall. Additionally, being paired with a librarian in a specific area helps to point the researcher in the right direction and saves time. Also, the librarians are very skilled and informative on teaching their skills to the researcher to help navigate finding sources of different types related to the desired topic.

Other things impacting my experience:

Galudet University, where most of the students and faculty stayed during the trip, is the first and only university for the deaf.

In addition to the above, among all the sources I found in my searches was an article by an OGS faulty member.

Roe v. Wade

Some time at the library was cut short because the Roe v. Wade decision fell the same week we went to the LOC. Due to extreme positions on the issue, the Library of Congress closed early the day the decision was announced to avoid rioting.

Other Incidents:

The week was very eventful; at least two classmates lost their flash drives and then I temporarily misplaced my bag with wallet, ID and cards, leading to a panic attack.

A kind classmate who, also local to DC, volunteered to drive me back to my room a few blocks away so I wouldn’t have to walk. As great as that week was, it was also insane. When I lost my bag with my id, reader card, and credit cards that bag also had my new flash drive in it that I had bought for the trip. I was able to get a new flash drive from the convenience store in the LOC (my husband got it). Meanwhile, the same classmate who had been letting me ride with him, lost his flash drive. Later that day when I found my lost items, I now had two new flash drives so I gave him one to replace the one he lost.