

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESKTOP

by Jennifer Burek Pierce
Editor, *Indiana Libraries*

This issue of *Indiana Libraries* marks a transition: Emily Okada, who has served as Editor since 2000, has stepped aside and facilitated my role as the new Editor of *Indiana Libraries*. I use the phrase “stepped aside” purposefully: Emily has not left *Indiana Libraries* entirely but instead now offers her experience and advice in the capacity of Associate Editor. The working relationship we have developed led to the thematic focus on partnerships for this general issue.

One simple denotation of partnership is this: “A relationship of individuals or groups marked by mutual cooperation and responsibility.” The realities of working with partners are more complex, challenging, and nuanced than such a simple definition might suggest. The articles presented here represent different ways that Indiana librarians put this concept into practice. Librarians, administrators, faculty, and library school students describe the ways partnerships benefit both libraries and the communities they serve.

Anthony Stamatoplos and Robert Mackoy have spent five years studying use of the University Library on the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis campus; they explain some of the benefits of collaborative research. Another dimension of evaluating university library services is offered by Gwen Lee-Thomas and John M. Robson of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

The history and programs of the Indianapolis Foundation Library Partners are the focus of an article by Connie Champlin, Carole Gall, and David W. Lewis. Jean Preer also discusses an inter-organizational partnership which resulted in a symposium on philanthropy and libraries. Excerpts from the symposium are also included, transcribed by Janice Gustaferro.

Service to Spanish-speaking community members is an aspect of library outreach where partnerships and external resources are important; an overview of literature and services for Spanish-language library users is provided by Cindy Rider, Katie Ardelean, Karyn Milikan, and Sarah J. Smith. Public library partnerships

in Indiana are also described in an article by Linda Yoder on library consortium management of library technology, and in another by Linda Bruns and Melody Gault on community involvement with a Carnegie library restoration.

Over time, the Indiana State Library has developed a number of relationships with organizations. Andrea Bean Hough and Martha Roblee describe the ways partnerships have become an integral part of state library functions.

The combined efforts of the IU School of Library and Information Science and the Undergraduate Library on the Bloomington campus in educating future reference professionals are discussed by Debora Shaw and Emily Okada.

Finally, the issue concludes with a new feature in *Indiana Libraries*: two columns, one focused on management issues by Carolyn Wiethoff of IU's Kelley School of Business, and the other an annotated bibliography on partnerships by Walden University librarian Rita Barsun.

These remarks would be incomplete without acknowledging not only the efforts of these writers but also those of Melissa Groveman, whose duties as graduate assistant have grown to include support for *Indiana Libraries*. Thanks also to managing editor Crissy Gallion for her efforts and attention to detail.

It is my hope that these articles provide food for thought and discussion in your library and that they encourage you to think about how *Indiana Libraries* can serve your needs for information about the profession. This journal should reflect partnerships not only as a thematic focus or in the workings of the editorial staff but also in its service to its readers. I hope to hear from you about your interests in library and information services, both as readers and as potential contributors.

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