

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESKTOP

by Jennifer Burek Pierce



This issue of *Indiana Libraries* returns to the format of the traditional general issue, featuring articles on diverse topics and concerning a range of library environments. Contributors to this issue work in public libraries and in education; they serve in positions ranging from school media specialist to administrator. The differences of experience and perspective represented by their work should offer readers of *Indiana Libraries* not simply ideas for their own libraries but also increased understanding of the matters which concern librarians in venues around the state.

Steve Cochran reports the results of a survey conducted by ILF's Intellectual Freedom Committee. The committee was interested in how public libraries in Indiana prepared to respond to potential threats to patron privacy represented by the PATRIOT Act. While some libraries appear to have enacted measures to ensure patron privacy, Cochran indicates that the vast majority could be doing more to uphold professional ideals.

Patrick Bowron, Katherine Buck, Ryan Micheel, and Amanda Mihelich have explored the development of book clubs in contemporary U.S. culture in order to contextualize the Indianapolis One Book, One City program. Their project includes interview data to bolster their assessment of the success of this program in Indiana's capitol city.

Lou Malcomb and Andrea Morrison provide assessments of government information. Malcomb provides a historical overview of the development of government information sources with attention to how Indiana's libraries have provided access to material that helps citizens participate in self-governance. Morrison offers a list of resources on international government organizations, indicating content now available via the World Wide Web.

In a recent survey of *Indiana Libraries* readers, interest was expressed in the needs of youth services librarians and school media specialists. Consequently, I am pleased to include a cluster of articles on aspects of youth services. Beth Hull and Gregory Nowling offer accounts of interactions with prominent young adult authors. Jack Humphrey presents data on collection impact, while Danny Callison and Naomi Patterson discuss connections between school media specialists' work in Indiana and the nation. Jennifer LaMaster reports the results of a survey of Indiana librarians about collaboration in support of student learning.

Douglas Archer argues the importance of making religious information available and provides a bibliography of resources to ground such information access.

Alberta Davis Comer, Emily Okada, Rebecca Stinnett, Bara Swinson, and Nancy Watkins share their experiences in managing student employees. While these writers focus primarily on students as part-time employees, their ideas have some applicability across employment situations as well.

This issue's management column is authored by Herbert Snyder, former faculty member at IU's School of Library and Information Science and now a member of the faculty at North Dakota State University. He shares his recent experiences as a member of the board for the Fargo Public Library, indicating how library managers can facilitate good work by board members. The Well-Read Librarian, by Marissa Priddis, identifies resources which focus on ways the library can most effectively serve as a community resource.

As always, please feel welcome to contact me about how these and other articles meet (or don't meet) your needs for ideas and information about *Indiana Libraries*. I'd also welcome the opportunity to discuss your ideas for future articles for this publication.

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