The two largest Divisions, those housing the undergraduate collections from the two Universities, each have six main folksong subdivisions:

- College Songs
- High School Songs
- Camp Songs
- Children's Songs
- Armed Services Songs
- General Folksongs

They also contain a number of minor folksong divisions:

- English Folksongs
- Irish Folksongs
- Scottish Folksongs
- Australian Folksongs
- Printed Sources: Songs
Each subdivision is further divided into general subheadings such as the following:

- Bawdy Songs
- Humorous Songs
- Nonsense Songs
- Parodies
- Miscellaneous

The WPA and MISC Divisions are subdivided according to collector and county respectively.

It is immediately apparent that any given song title may appear in a number of different categories. Such is the case for a majority of the songs in the various collections. Faced with this multiplicity of locations for many songs, the Indiana University Folklore Archive Song Index has been devised to facilitate location of the texts of each main title. This Index is now complete for the 2,100 song titles in the MSU Division and the 1,000 song titles in the IU Division. It is presently being expanded to include the WPA and MISC Divisions.

The general scheme for the Index was devised by the author in the Fall of 1960 and has since been refined by folklore students Richard E. Buehler, Raymond Frederic Hafer, Richard Hurst, Eugene Logsdon, Lynwood Montell, and John Patterson. As archival assistants, these students have typed the more than 5,000 4 x 6 cards which presently constitute the Index.

There are two sorts of cards in the Index. The Main Title Card contains the following information about a given song:

- Main title
- Alternate title (s), if any
- Related song (s), if any
- Title of tune
- Subdivision (s) in which the song is located
- Number of texts in each location

The Alternate Title Card features an alternate title and designates the main title to which one must refer in order to locate the song.

The following reproduction of the Main Title Card for the song "Bamboo Tree" illustrates the indexing system:
"Bamboo Tree" is the main title given to the song, and it is therefore underlined. In cases of Child and Laws ballads conventional titles are established and are hence used as main titles in the Archive. The main titles for other songs are established by a consideration of their prevalence in the Archive and their use in publications and on phonograph records. To lessen confusion a number of alternate titles are generally included for each main title. These alternate titles are based on the less frequent titles in the Archive, published titles, and significant first lines.

Each of the six alternate titles listed on the above card is included on a separate Alternate Title Card. Thus, anyone searching for "We'll Build a Bungalow" will be referred to the information listed under "Bamboo Tree" by glancing at the following card:

WE'LL BUILD A BUNGALOW
BAMBOO TREE

"Bamboo Tree," like many songs sung at college parties, often has verses of other songs added at the end. The main titles of these songs are listed in the lower left-hand corner of the Main Title Card. Cross-references to related songs and tune titles, when appropriate, are also listed in this corner. For example, the Main Title Card for "My Girl's a Corker" appears as follows:
MY GIRL'S A CORKER

MY GAL'S A HULLABALOO
SHE'S A NEW YORKER
SHE'S GOT A . . .
THAT'S WHERE MY MONEY GOES

See also:

BAMBOO TREE
MY GIRL'S FROM . . .

The locations for the song are listed in the upper right-hand corner of the Main Title Card. The number following each location indicates the number of examples of the song in that location. Thus, we see that "Bamboo Tree" has a total of 14 texts in the MSU Division (There are none in the IU Division), and "My Girl's a Corker" has a total of 21 texts in the MSU and IU Divisions.

With the completion of this Index toward the end of this year, the more than 15,000 English language song texts contained in the Indiana University Folklore Archive will be accessible to anyone using its facilities. The Archive continues to welcome all queries from folklorists and other interested scholars concerning specific folksongs and any other kind of folkloristic raw materials. It is anticipated that the Song Index described here, as well as the projected indexes for the remaining genres in the Archive, will greatly expedite our answers to these queries.