

When I began researching for this project I knew that finding resources would be difficult. Discussing illegal practices is always difficult as most don't keep a record of the crimes they commit, or in this case help commit. I knew that the Women's Liberation Movement in Bloomington had worked in abortion counseling through a visit to the IU archives in Wells Library, but I wasn't sure how easily I would be able to access any other resources. However, I was surprised to find a wealth of resources at my service once I really dug in.

The IU archives and their reading room at Wells Library were the foundation of my research. Almost all of my primary sources come from the Martha Vicinus papers in the IU archives. This collection housed several editions of the Front Page, the feminist student newspaper here at IU that was distributed by the Women's Liberation Movement. By gaining access to these, I was able to find much more information about the work the group was doing, as well as find information like group meeting times and discussion topics. The IU archives collections were integral to me developing an understanding of the larger movement around the abortion counseling service, and have inspired my current capstone project as well.

Another library resource that was incredibly valuable to my project was the IU Bicentennial Oral History Project. Within these collections of oral histories, I was able to find a conversation between two women who had been major members of the abortion counseling service, Nancy Brand and Ruth Mahaney. I accessed this transcript for the first time when my class took a visit to the library and an archivist used the resource as an example of what the university's collections could hold. This oral history was the basis of my project, and what encouraged me to begin researching this topic in the first place. Without this trip to the library and the archives, this project would not have happened.

Another library resource that was very helpful to me on this project was the library research guides. One of the largest issues I had while beginning my project was I was unable to find the original law that made abortion illegal in the state of Indiana. Through the library research guides, I was able to connect with Government Information, Maps, and Microform services at the library. Their office was able to get me a scanned copy of the law that I needed, providing significant historical background for my research. Without the library resource guide and Government Information, Maps, and Microform services I would not have been able to access a significant portion of my project.

Lastly, the IU libraries provides access to several databases that I used to access newspapers from the 1960's and 70's that provided good support for my paper. Particularly, I used several newspaper articles from the Indianapolis Star that I gained access to through a database provided by IU libraries. These articles were very helpful for my project to reflect changing attitudes about abortion, a point I felt was important to make. It also helped provide information on other organizations that the Bloomington abortion counseling service worked with, like the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion.

Overall, this project would not have happened without the resources provided by the IU libraries. The archives, oral history project, research guides, document services, and databases were a major part of my research. I really enjoyed getting to use the library resources, so much so that I have continued using these resources for other current projects. The library provided me with the tools I needed to succeed as a researcher and I am very fortunate to have these resources available to me as a student.