

Indiana Archives A New Series

The *Indiana Magazine of History* announces the establishment of a new series highlighting the wealth of research materials now available at state, regional, and local archives in Indiana. Archivists have been acquiring and opening for research not only manuscript collections but such items as photographs, oral histories, videotapes, microfilmed newspapers, computerized statistical files, laboratory data, maps, and architectural drawings. Meanwhile, recent historical research has been looking at sources in new ways and exploring new ways of documenting the past. The purpose of an Archives Section is to promote a greater awareness and use of these archival collections, encourage primary research in archives throughout the state, and build productive working relationships between archivists and patrons of all backgrounds.

The Archives Section generally will discuss archives and their collections in relation to a subject of current historical concern. Essays will examine the critical questions involved in that subject and identify archival holdings that offer potential answers. Discussions of these collections in turn will describe their size and scope, principal strengths and shortcomings, state of organization, accessibility to scholars, and relation to other collections. The availability and utility of finding aids and other services to researchers will be noted as well.

By calling attention to new sources and to older collections that have been underexamined, or that potentially have new uses; by learning more about archival acquisitions programs; and by suggesting how a project might draw upon complementary holdings in several archives, this Archives Section seeks to become an important tool in the research and writing of Indiana and midwestern history.

The tentative goal is to run the first Archives Section in the September, 1995, issue of the IMH. Readers are invited to send comments about this proposed section to the editors.