

Letter from the President

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Dear InULA Members,

Thank you for the honor of serving as your president this year. I want to share with you the many wonderful activities happening within our association: the fall professional and social events, the grants awarded, the fundraising through book sales still occurring on Amazon, the new members we have welcomed, the wonderful writing we have to share with you in this Fall issue of *InULA Notes*, but I also feel the need to look at our professional association in the context of events occurring in our nation, particularly in the light of this fall's election season.



The national election was contentious and news was often more sensational than informative. We have all seen the struggle for knowledge over ignorance and misinformation. That lack of knowledge, understanding, and empathy is what divides communities and sows long-lasting mistrust. The struggle is more real today than ever and as we strive for “excellence in library service” that is our mission as an association and as a profession we must hold dear to what is good in our families, our workplaces, our communities, and ourselves. Our work to help patrons find information helps them make valid connections, discern fake news from real news, understand biases in information sources, and gives them the tools to enrich their lives and make the world a better place for everyone. InULA can’t solve everything but our members can help turn the struggle for knowledge into the triumph of wisdom. My hope is that our association can help you do this work that is so important.

To that end, here are association happenings for Fall 2016: the Michiana Scholarly Communications Librarianship Conference in October offered InULA members an opportunity to learn about research and participate in discussions on scholarly communication in our region. Social events included a hayride, a hike, and stargazing at various spots around the state of Indiana. Our book donations and Amazon sales have slowed down from this time last year but we are still selling some books over Amazon. Two Research Incentive Fund grants were awarded in the latest round of application review to Rachael Stoeltje and to a partner project between Monique Threatt and DeLoice Holliday. We have welcomed five new librarians as InULA members so far this year, three at IUPUI and two at IUB. The Board has also engaged in discussions around membership levels and board representation that will likely result in the need for an informed vote from members through the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. We are looking forward to gathering with as many as possible for the annual Holiday Luncheon, this year at Scholars Inn Restaurant in Bloomington. This semester has been busy and next semester promises to be just as active.

InULA is an association here to help you do your best work. Please get in touch with any member of the board if you have questions or feedback on what we can do to serve you better:

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Enjoy this issue of InULA Notes. We are all Indiana University and we are all in this together.

Wishing you a productive and peaceful end of the semester,

Julie Hardesty

InULA President, 2016-2017