In June 2016, I used my InULA Grant funds to assist with my travel expenses to the American Library Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. At ALA, Heidi Dowding (IUB) and I presented on our ongoing work building collaborative workflows to preserve born-digital image materials produced by the Kelley School of Business and IU Communications. Although this challenge has been addressed several times in recent years, there is still little consensus about details such as making curatorial decisions, gathering useful descriptive metadata, capturing useful technical metadata, and how to streamline the process to effectively handle hundreds of thousands of images. Heidi and I presented to the ACRL Digital Curation Interest Group, composed of over 1000 members as of August 2015. The members present at our presentation hold similar positions at large universities around the country and are facing similar challenges with born-digital image assets.

The conversation that ensued after our presentation with these digital preservation professionals was enlightening. We learned that nearly everyone present was facing similar challenges, and the IU Libraries’ robust technical infrastructure has enabled us to envision a functional solution to this problem in ways that other institutions could not. Moreover, our existing digital library services such as Media Collections Online and the forthcoming HydraDAM2 enable us to have a clearer path forward for audiovisual materials. Speaking with this group has given us new ideas to inform our work on this project, including surveying other campus departments about their born-digital assets and working with our existing partners to solidify expectations for future departmental curation workflows.

Although our work in this area is still ongoing, we consider the presentation to be a successful endeavor to document our progress and connect with colleagues in the profession.