

## Letter from the President

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### The Need for Transition Thinking

The old saying, “May you live in interesting times,” is considered to be both a blessing and a curse. Libraries are going through some interesting times, and we need to adapt to the changes occurring in our profession. I look on these changes as opportunities.

InULA was organized many years ago with the goal of assisting professional librarians achieve faculty status. The founding members of InULA have gradually retired or moved on and have taken some of the widespread vitality of the organization with them. Soon, the members of InULA will be given the opportunity to vote on expanding our membership categories to include all library personnel, not just library faculty. This is an opportunity to revitalize our organization, and I encourage everyone to support this transition.



One of the ways that InULA has retained its usefulness is through the provision of grants, which have been funded by the annual book sale in Bloomington as well as the sale of book donations on Amazon. Unfortunately, this model is transitioning as fewer books are being donated to InULA due to a variety of factors: we have fewer InULA members soliciting donations; more publishers are limiting the resale of review copy textbooks; and many longstanding book donors are moving to non-transferrable electronic books. Book sales as the main means of funding our grants is unsustainable, and InULA members need to find new ways to sustain funding. Any ideas on responding to this transition would be appreciated.

In addition to these changes in InULA, Indiana University Libraries are also transitioning. Statewide, we are losing our veteran colleagues who take with them a vast amount of institutional knowledge concerning our shared technology systems. We need to plan for these departures and assure their knowledge is not lost so that new library colleagues will have the information needed to keep the systems running. I have suggested the creation of an IUL FAQ to assist IU novices with locating information and experts.

On my home campus of IUPUI, University Library is transitioning. Dean David Lewis, known as “the disruptor” for his longtime advocacy for open access scholarship, is retiring. In well-

deserved recognition of his foresight on the future of libraries, he was named the 2018 ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. Journal vendors such as EBSCO are charging IU libraries ever increasing amounts of money to access the scholarship of our own university faculty. Science journals, in particular, are reaching a sustainability crisis point. Dean Lewis's long term solution is to shift academic thinking (especially that of university promotion and tenure committees) away from the highly-ranked vendor publications and towards institution-based journals. Short term fiscal solutions require new funding models. IUPUI administration is engaged with the faculty in discussing new ways to sustain research journal access for the faculty. It will be interesting to see the solutions reached.

We can all contribute to the changes occurring in InULA, at IU, and in the wider library world. May you live in interesting times and contribute well.

InULA President, 2017-2018  
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