

Research Incentive Grant Report

by Catherine Minter

The InULA Research Incentive Grant I was awarded in December 2009 helped cover the costs of a research trip to Göttingen in Germany, where I completed work on a project exploring the role of the physiological concept of 'irritability' in late 18th-century German literature. Founded in 1734, Göttingen University Library soon gained the reputation of being one of the best scholarly libraries in the world. During my research leave, I made full use of the Library's rich holdings in 18th-century physiology and literature, consulting not only works identified in advance of my trip as core primary sources, but also additional primary sources discovered during my stay in Göttingen. Upon returning to Bloomington, I submitted the fruits of my labors, a paper entitled "The Concept of Irritability and the Critique of Sensibility in 18th-Century Germany," for consideration for publication in *The Modern Language Review*. In Germany, I also took the opportunity to pursue research on the history of Göttingen University Library in the 18th and 19th centuries, which belongs in the context of a new, larger research project on the history of librarians across centuries and cultures.