

Letter from the President

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Dear InULA Members,

As we come to the end of another Spring semester, with all of the busy work it requires, I find myself thinking about the next class of Library and Information Science graduates entering – or expanding deeper – into the trenches of our profession. They enter a rapidly changing world in which their roles and skill sets will need to adapt for challenges we cannot fathom today. Within our own library system at Indiana University, we have new issues of coordinating more services across regional campuses and addressing the needs of students who may never set foot in a brick-and-mortar building. These issues come straight on the heels of COVID. Over time, libraries have come to stand for more of a concept and associated services than a physical building.

This rings even truer since my last letter. With Florida laws restricting state school library collections, and situations such as the Llano County, Texas commissioners weighing whether to [close their entire public library system](#), we are seeing new difficulties in protecting access to information across the country. While already addressing misinformation and disinformation on the web, we have another troubling issue much closer to home. The next generation will need to navigate these cultural waters personally and professionally at the same time they seek to simply help people find the information they need.

Under these conditions, we start to notice the value of every library worker. The person who provides a research consultation to a student, the person that adds a book to the catalog, the person who checks it out and the person who requests something from another library, each plays an essential role in getting patrons the information they need to enrich their lives and make informed decisions. As our library association across IU, InULA is well poised to lead the way in addressing these matters by example and preparing our students for the realities of tomorrow. This organization provides a means of networking, collaborating, and sharing our experiences and solutions with one another in ways beyond occasional check-ins.

Our predecessors recognized the importance of these principles when they formed InULA in the 1960s. They determined a need for librarians to connect for assistance toward achieving faculty status. However, like all good and long-lasting organizations, our own InULA has adjusted its scope and offerings over time to match modern sensibilities. All the

while, it has retained that underlying goal of connecting the campuses' libraries and their workers. It is my hope that we will keep this core value in mind as our institution and profession move forward. I believe these connections are essential to handling any new challenges we and our colleagues outside of IU may face.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your InULA President this year, and I look forward to the strides in progress we will continue to make under our next President.

Scott Hudnall
InULA President, 2022-2023