

Meet the New(ish) Librarians

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For this year's column, I asked the many new(ish) librarians around the state to tell us a little about what they do in their current positions, a little about their background, and something personal to help us get to know them. Their responses were rich and varied, reflecting well the diverse faculty and staff of the Indiana University Libraries.

Andrew Asher Assessment Librarian, IUB



Andrew Asher is the Assessment Librarian at Indiana University Bloomington, where he leads the libraries' qualitative and quantitative assessment programs and conducts research on the information practices of students and faculty. Asher's most recent projects have examined how "discovery" search tools influence undergraduates' research processes, and how university researchers manage, utilize, and preserve their research data.

Prior to joining Indiana University, Asher was the Digital Initiatives Coordinator and Scholarly Communications Officer at Bucknell University, where he managed the library's open access and scholarly communication initiatives, including the passage of an institutional open access mandate.

From 2008-2010, Asher was the Lead Research Anthropologist for the Ethnographic Research in Illinois Academic Libraries ([ERIAL](#)) project, a two-year study of student research processes at five Illinois universities and the largest ethnographic study of libraries undertaken to date.

An ethnographer and anthropologist by vocation, Asher holds a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has written and presented widely on using ethnography in academic libraries, including the co-edited volume, *College Libraries and Student Cultures* (ALA Editions, 2012).

In addition to his work in academic libraries, Asher

conducts research on the meanings and practices of citizenship in Poland, Germany, and the European Union.

Andrea Baer
Undergraduate Education Librarian, Department of Teaching & Learning (IUB)



Andrea Baer is the Undergraduate Education Librarian in the IUB Libraries' Department of Teaching & Learning. In this role, Andrea works with other librarians, campus partners, and instructors to build on current instructional services and to develop new approaches to integrating information fluency throughout the undergraduate curriculum.

Prior to joining IUB Libraries in March, she was an Instruction/Reference Librarian at King's College, a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. Andrea completed her Masters in Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (2010) and holds a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Washington (2008). Her favorite activities include hiking, cooking, writing, and drinking good coffee.

Michael Courtney
Outreach & Engagement Librarian, Department of Teaching & Learning (IUB)



Mike Courtney is Outreach and Engagement Librarian at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB), where he is also the Librarian for Online Learning. As a member of the Department of Teaching and Learning in the IUB Libraries, he has served as the liaison to the International Studies Program and the Global Village Living Learning Center. In addition, Mike is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Information and Library Science (IUB), where he teaches the core Reference course. Prior to coming to IUB, he worked in many facets of librarianship, in both public and technical services positions within public and academic libraries over the past 17 years. Mike holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Georgia and Indiana University.

He has traveled extensively around every continent of

the world except Antarctica and has lived on three of them. He has been an avid homebrewer for over 20 years, enjoys long distance hiking and gardening, is an unapologetic Deadhead, and occasionally likes doing absolutely nothing.

Hope Grebner
Project Archivist, Office of University Archives & Record Management, Modern Political Papers Collection (IUB)



Hope is a Project Archivist in the Office of University Archives and Records Management's Modern Political Papers Collection. Her primary duties include the arrangement and description of the newly acquired congressional papers of Richard Lugar, Mike Pence, and Dan Burton. She is a 2013 graduate of Indiana University, where she received a dual master's degree in history and library science. While at IU, she worked as a student assistant on the Birch Bayh Senatorial papers processing project, and during the summer of 2013 she completed an internship in the United States Senate Historical Office in Washington, D.C.

In her free time she enjoys coaching basketball and running – she just competed in her first 15K race in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 26!

Nick Homenda
Digital Projects Librarian, IUB



Nick Homenda began a one year visiting assistant librarian position as Digital Projects Librarian in June 2013. He is primarily responsible for managing ongoing platform migration projects within Digital Collections Services, and also coordinates the Digital Library Brown Bag Series presentations.

Originally from Frederick, Maryland, and Orlando, Florida, Nick earned his bachelor's degree in 2004 in Clarinet Performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He then worked at the IU Libraries as a digitization assistant while earning his Master of Music Performance degree from Indiana University Bloomington. From 2006 to 2008, Nick performed as a member of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra in Charleston, West Virginia, subsequently working at the University of Charleston Schoenbaum Library and the Kanawha County Public Library.

He earned his Master of Science in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010 and worked as a Public Services Intern at the Harry Ransom Center. After graduation, he worked for the University of South Carolina Music Library as Music Librarian for Audio and Digital Services until 2012, when he returned to Bloomington to live with his wife, Caitlin, who works as a Financial Analyst for the Office of Research Administration. Prior to his current position, Nick was IUScholarWorks Coordinator from January to June 2013.

Kristina Keogh
Head of the Fine Arts Library, IUB



Kristina Keogh joined Indiana University Bloomington Libraries in August as Head of the Fine Arts Library. She comes to IUB from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, where she was Visual Arts Research Librarian from 2006-2013. She received her MA in Art History from the University of Florida and her MLS from Florida State University. She is also currently completing her PhD in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University. While completing her MLS, Kristina managed the library and computer lab at FSU's Florence, Italy Study Center.

At the Fine Arts Library, Kristina is focusing on an examination of current policies and investigating the library as a potential exhibition space for digital art. Her research interests include the presentation and reception of relics and devotional images in early modern Italy, as well as looking more closely at the ways in which artists search for information.

Nicholas Wyant
Social Sciences Librarian, IUB



Nicholas Wyant is the Social Sciences librarian at the Herman B Wells library, reporting to the departments of Criminal Justice, Economics, Gender Studies, Political Science, and Social Work. His degrees include a B.A. in Political Science (2004), MA in U.S. History (2007), and an MLS (2008).

Previously Nicholas worked at the University of Iowa Library, and Wichita State University. His main research interests include the information-seeking behaviors of researchers, digital literacy, stratification, and methods of research.

Jere Odell
Scholarly Communications Librarian, IUPUI



Jere Odell, a Scholarly Communications Librarian, promotes and supports open access activities at IUPUI. These include the library's open access publishing fund, Open Journal System, and institutional repository initiatives. In addition to advocating new forms of scholarly communication, Jere provides education and consultation services relevant to authorship, metrics for impact, fair use, and authors' rights. He also serves as a subject liaison for the IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Prior to joining University Library, he worked as an embedded librarian in the IU Center for Bioethics, where he managed a special collection of bioethics resources while collaborating on information ethics, research ethics, community engagement and health policy projects.

Jere completed his MA in English at the University of Notre Dame (1995) and an MLS at IU SLIS (IUPUI, 2007). When he's not working, Jere commutes to work by bicycle, reads poetry, and waters a collection of half-dead houseplants.

Polly Boruff-Jones
Dean of the Library, IU Kokomo



Polly Boruff-Jones recently returned to Indiana University to accept the position of Dean of the Library at Indiana University Kokomo. After eleven years at the IUPUI University Library, Boruff-Jones moved to Springfield, Missouri, where she was the Director of Library and Information Services and Director of Academic Computing at Drury University from July, 2010 until September, 2013. Boruff-Jones holds a Master of Public Affairs, with a concentration in nonprofit management; a Master of Library Science; and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and environmental studies – all from Indiana University.

Active in professional associations throughout her career, Boruff-Jones has served on several committees and as an officer in ALA's Reference and User Services Association and Association of College and Research Libraries, as well as in local, state, and regional library organizations in Missouri and Indiana. Boruff-Jones' areas of professional interest are 21st century academic library services, assessment of academic libraries, incorporating information literacy into the K-20 curriculum, and the intersection of scholarly communication and information literacy.

Animal welfare is a personal interest for Boruff-Jones; she and her husband have a knack for finding animals in need of a home. They have fostered dozens of dogs through the years (and a cat or two) and adopted several of those animals themselves. Their happy household currently includes five dogs of varying breeds – from Pit Bull to Chihuahua – and a very patient cat.

Craig Finlay
Scholarly Communication Librarian, IU South Bend



Craig started as the Scholarly Communication Librarian at Schurz Library, Indiana University South Bend, in July 2013. He is working on facilitating faculty and student scholarship through copyright consultation, education, and journal publishing via IUScholarWorks. He is also working on building Indiana University South Bend's scholarly repository by promoting open access and alternative publishing models.

Craig got his MLS at Indiana University Bloomington in December 2012. While there, he worked for and was mentored by Dr. Cassidy Sugimoto, whose own research focuses heavily on scholarly communication and disciplinarity. When not working at the library he is usually shooting weddings with his wife Mysi. His hobbies include photography, poetry, and Kyokushin.