inula Notes

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Making way for new things at IU South Bend. Shelves were cleared for the arrival of the Honors Program. For more, see page 30.

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This issue of InULA Notes was compiled and edited by members of the 2025-2026 InULA Communications Committee: Anna Marie Johnson (IUB), chair; Julie Feighery (IUSB); Jesse Whitton(IUE), board liaison.

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Letter from the President

LORI DEKYDTSPOTTER
Special Collections Cataloging Librarian
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Indiana University Bloomington

3 December 2025

Dear InULA Members,

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is already here and that I'm halfway through my term as InULA President. It has been a rewarding year, and I have had a chance to work with many dedicated, wonderful colleagues. InULA continues to serve as a vital, important service organization, and it is my pleasure to serve with each of the volunteers and dedicated members.

- Please note that the new InULA website is at: https://inula.indiana.edu/
- You've probably noticed the new InULA logo, designed by Sierra Pruneski, who is a Visual Communication Design major at IU Indianapolis. Special thanks goes to past president Nico Casas, Assistant Librarian for Teaching & Learning at IU Northwest, Thea Atwood, Public Health Librarian at IU Bloomington, and the rest of the team who worked hard to bring this sharp, updated look to our organization. The Membership Committee is currently working on new ways to incorporate this logo onto swag to promote our organization. See this issue of InULA Notes for an interview for more on Sierra and her creative process!
- The Membership Co-Chairs, Todd M. Grooten and Maggie Kiel-Morse, recently reported our current membership is estimated to be around 90.
- The annual book sale, which helps support our research grants, has a chair for 2026! Matt Caples, Head of Area Studies Cataloging at IUB Wells Library, has agreed to lead the committee. If all goes as planned, the book sale will take place on Saturday, April 25th during National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026). Keep an eye out for more information (and a call for volunteers) as details unfold.
- Special thanks to Catherine Minter, Librarian for English and American Literature, Germanic Studies, French & Italian, Classical Studies, and History and Philosophy of Science, for organizing a very successful InULA craft sale in July, which made over $500. The sale consisted of crocheted items and jewelry by Catherine, hand-turned wooden bowls by TBIWood, and handmade notebooks by Keith Welch.
- This year our Holiday Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 12, from 12 to 2 PM on the South side of Indianapolis at Buca Di Beppo **(**659 US 31 S, Greenwood, IN 46142). Special thanks go out to the Program and Social Committee for all of their hard work on planning this event!
- There will not be an InULA Board meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 30th at 12:00 ET (Zoom link will be circulated closer to the meeting time). As always, all InULA members are welcome to attend, and agenda item suggestions are appreciated.

- If you haven't renewed or joined InULA for 2026, please consider so soon as your dues go a long way in helping to support our vital program and services. Checkout our InULA website for membership information.
- Finally, I want to thank all of the Board members, committee chairs, and members for a rewarding and fruitful year so far. I'm looking forward to 2026! We continue to want to hear your thoughts on InULA and other issues that are on your mind.

Lori Dekydtspotter
InULA President, 2025-2026
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From Barriers to Bridges: Embracing Dementia-Inclusive Practices in the Library

MICHAEL COURTNEY
Outreach & Engagement Librarian
IU Bloomington

Libraries are cornerstones of community engagement and lifelong learning. However, individuals living with dementia often face barriers that prevent them from fully accessing these resources. By creating environments that are clear, calm, and easy to navigate, libraries reduce barriers and support cognitive accessibility. Offering tailored programs and resources promotes social engagement and sustained learning, which are essential for maintaining dignity and well-being. When libraries embrace these principles, they become vital, welcoming hubs for all members of society, regardless of cognitive ability.

The Dementia Community: A Growing Reality

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 55 million people worldwide currently live with dementia—a number projected to rise significantly as life expectancy increases, and the long-term effects of COVID-related cognitive decline emerge. Alongside these individuals are many millions of friends, family members, and care partners providing daily support. For libraries, the question is not whether to serve this community, but how to serve it effectively. Are staff equipped to recognize and respond to dementia-related behaviors? Do they feel confident creating welcoming spaces and offering programs that enhance quality of life? Building dementia-inclusive practices is essential to ensuring equitable access and meaningful engagement for all library patrons.

Highlighted Resources

The following resources are intended to help libraries provide meaningful support to patrons living with dementia and their care partners. They highlight evidence-based tools, recommended readings, and practical strategies for creating inclusive spaces, developing engaging programs, and curating collections that meet diverse cognitive needs. By leveraging these resources, libraries can strengthen their role as trusted community hubs committed to accessibility, dignity, and continuous learning. Start today by exploring these resources and implementing small changes that make a big difference in creating a dementia-inclusive library.

1. The Alzheimer's and Dementia Toolkit (ALA): https://www.ala.org/accessibility/patrons-alzheimers-and-related-dementias
   The Alzheimer's and Dementia Toolkit, hosted by the American Library Association, serves as a comprehensive resource designed to assist library professionals in addressing the complex needs of patrons experiencing cognitive decline. Grounded in evidence-based practices, the toolkit offers strategies for fostering respectful and inclusive interactions, ensuring that individuals with memory loss can continue to access library services in a supportive environment. The toolkit emphasizes the importance of developing accessible programs, cultivating community partnerships, and implementing adaptive service models that respond to the evolving challenges faced by both individuals and their caregivers. By integrating these approaches, libraries can position themselves as critical community hubs for dementia-friendly initiatives, promoting social inclusion, learning across the lifespan,

and caregiver support within the broader framework of public health and information equity.

2. Dementia Friendly Libraries: https://actonalz.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ACT-SectorGuide-Libraries.pdf
   Libraries play a vital role in creating dementia-friendly communities. As trusted community institutions, they offer more than books—they provide essential resources, services, and programs that support individuals living with dementia and their families. By fostering inclusive environments and access to information, libraries help ensure that everyone can remain connected, engaged, and supported. This guide, developed by ACT on Alzheimer's, an initiative in the state of Minnesota, outlines practical strategies for supporting individuals living with dementia and their caregivers through inclusive services, programs, and environments. It emphasizes staff training on dementia awareness and communication techniques, ensuring interactions are respectful and empathetic. The guide recommends curating accessible materials—such as audio books, visually rich content, and reminiscence kits—and implementing programs like memory cafés and outreach services to foster engagement. Additionally, it provides guidance on creating welcoming physical spaces with clear signage, good lighting, and uncluttered layouts, positioning libraries as trusted hubs for social connection.
3. Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dementia (IFLA): https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/104.pdf
   This publication from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions aims to raise awareness among library professionals, caregivers, policymakers, and families about the critical role libraries can play in supporting individuals with dementia. It demonstrates that a wide range of library services and materials can provide cognitive stimulation while offering enjoyment and engagement. Research and practice indicate that even individuals in the middle stages of dementia can benefit from reading and accessing information. The guidelines present practical recommendations for using books and other resources to promote mental activity and include strategies for tailoring services to meet the needs of this population. Drawing primarily on examples from Danish public libraries, the publication is part of a broader series developed by the IFLA Standing Committee on Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons (LSDP), which addresses services for individuals with disabilities or special needs.
4. Dementia Friendly America Library Guide: https://dfamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Library-Guide_FINAL_JAN.docx
   Libraries are key partners in creating dementia-friendly communities by offering inclusive resources, programs, and environments for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. The guide from Dementia Friendly America, a national network working to ensure communities across the U.S. can support people living with dementia and their care partners, explains dementia and its signs, provides communication strategies for interacting respectfully with affected patrons, and emphasizes staff training through initiatives like Dementia Friends. It recommends curating diverse materials—such as illustrated books, audio resources, reminiscence kits, and culturally relevant content—to stimulate engagement and support caregivers. Practical suggestions include hosting educational programs, memory cafés, and outreach services to senior living communities, as well as creating dementia-friendly physical spaces with clear signage, accessible restrooms, and safe layouts. By implementing these strategies, libraries can foster social connection, education for all stages of life, and equitable access for all community members.

5. The Dementia Inclusive Public Library Guide (Ohio): https://www.ageoptions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/OCFCH_library_manual.pdf
   The Dementia Inclusive Public Library Guide, developed by the Ohio Council for Cognitive Health, provides a comprehensive roadmap for libraries to create inclusive environments for individuals living with dementia and their care partners. It outlines practical steps for implementation, including staff training, community partnerships, and strategies for adapting physical and virtual spaces to enhance accessibility. The guide emphasizes programming that fosters engagement, such as Memory Cafés, educational sessions, and individualized appointments, alongside curated resources tailored to cognitive needs. A key feature is the introduction of Memory Activity Kits, which offer hands-on, theme-based activities designed to support preserved abilities, encourage creativity, and promote meaningful interaction at home or in the library. By adopting these practices, libraries can play a pivotal role in reducing stigma, supporting extended learning opportunities, and strengthening community inclusion for those affected by dementia.
6. The Library Memory Project (Wisconsin): https://www.librarymemoryproject.org/
   The Library Memory Project, led by the Bridges Library System in Jefferson and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin, partners with local public libraries to host monthly themed Memory Cafés for individuals with early-stage dementia or mild cognitive impairment and their care partners. These gatherings offer social interaction, creative engagement through music, art, storytelling, and literature, fostering a nurturing, understanding environment for attendees. Facilitators—primarily librarians—support each other across sites, ensuring consistency and shared best practices across both large and small library settings. Since its 2015 launch, the project has grown to include over 21 libraries, engaging approximately 200 individuals annually and offering special events like Family Day and a professional development symposium for facilitators. Additional innovations include oral history preservation training for facilitators and community outreach, highlighting the library's pivotal role in reducing social isolation and enhancing quality of life for people affected by dementia.

Further Reading

Looking to strengthen your library's support for patrons living with dementia? Explore key book titles that provide practical guidance on creating inclusive spaces, developing engaging programs, and supporting care partners. These resources cover everything from dementia-friendly design principles to activity planning and communication strategies, helping libraries become vital hubs for community well-being.

- Dickey, T. J. (2020). *Library dementia services: How to meet the needs of the Alzheimer's community*. Emerald Publishing.
  This book explores how library professionals can effectively support individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias, offering evidence-based guidance on user understanding, communication, specialized services, collection development, and programming tailored to enhance engagement, access to information, and quality of life for both dementia-impacted patrons and their caregivers.
- McNicol, S. (2023). *Supporting people to live well with dementia*. Facet Publishing.
  The author of this book provides a comprehensive, evidence-based framework for promoting quality of life for individuals with dementia through person-centered care, community engagement, and practical strategies that empower professionals and caregivers to foster dignity, independence, and meaningful participation.

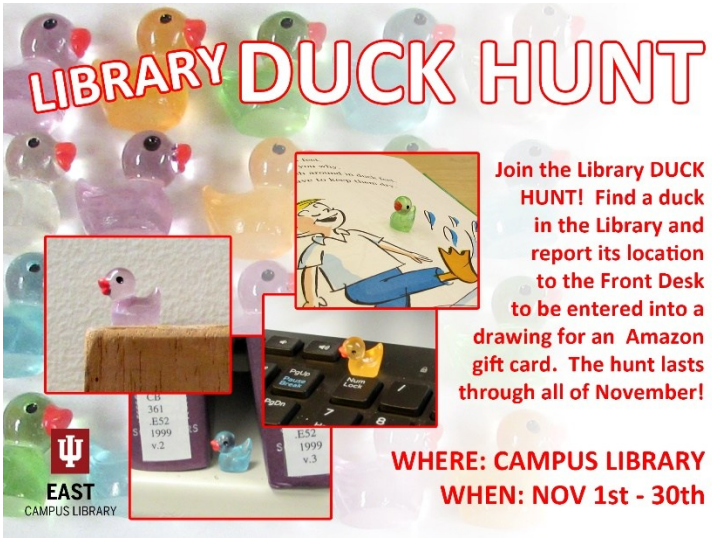
Next Steps: Putting Knowledge into Action

Libraries are uniquely positioned to support individuals living with dementia and their care partners by offering accessible, stigma-free spaces and resources. With a large percentage of people with dementia residing at home, libraries can provide inclusive programming, personalized reader's advisory services, and outreach to memory care facilities. An essential practice is adopting person-centered care, which emphasizes dignity, respect, and individualized engagement based on a person's history, preferences, and interests. Contrary to common misconceptions, people with dementia can still enjoy reading when provided with thoughtfully selected materials, making libraries vital in promoting quality of life and lifelong learning for this underserved community. Commit to small, actionable steps—such as hosting a Memory Café or curating dementia-friendly collections—that demonstrate your library's role as an inclusive, welcoming space for all.

Little Ducks, Big Return on Engagement

BETH SOUTH
Library Director
Indiana University, East

This past November, the IU East Campus Library rolled out its most successful passive program to-date: The Library Duck Hunt! After coming across a packet of Orb Ducks (tiny, colorful ducks made from resin) at a local candy shop over the summer and then seeing TikTok videos of people hiding these little ducks around a friend or family member's home, I was inspired with the idea to hide these ducks around the Campus Library.



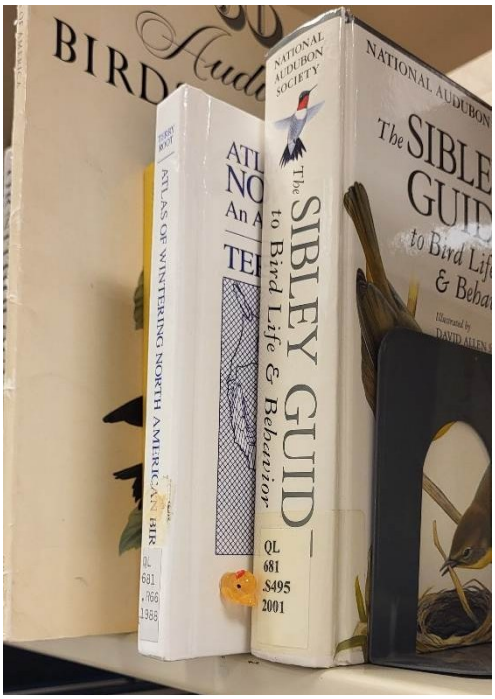
The number of students coming into the library has dropped over the years, even before Covid, so this past year the library has focused on reconnecting with students through creative displays, regularly scheduled presentations, and passive programming. The goal (hope) of the duck hunt was to get students into the library and exploring spaces they wouldn't normally visit or notice. Our reference coordinator, Matt Dilworth, made us an adorable flier and we shared it out through our student facing channels, such as *What's Up* (online and bathroom posted fliers) and *Wolfvision* (our campus video system).

I decided to host this program in November because 1) November is actually duck hunting season and 2) as we near the end of the semester, I wanted to provide something fun and easy for students to engage in. I hid about 15 ducks around the library, amongst shelves, display cases, and in study spaces. Our reference and instruction librarians also kept a duck in their office for students who came in for one-on-one reference sessions as well as showing off a duck during library-hosted presentations. Students were first lured in likely by the opportunity to enter a drawing for a $50

Nursing students who noticed a duck while studying and started looking around for others.

Amazon gift card, but we had many repeat students coming in weekly because they enjoyed the activity and several mentioned that it was "really fun." We even had one of our student tutors and her elementary-aged student work together one evening locating ducks.

In total, we had 42 students, and one faculty member take part in this activity. This is a lot for us. We only required students to come to the desk and fill out an entry form with their name, email, and the location of where they found the duck(s). They got an entry form for each duck, so the more ducks they found, the higher the chance of winning the gift card. Some students took photos to prove they located them, most just grabbed them and brought them to the desk. This turned out to work better, because initially I had just planned that they would "stay" in place. In hindsight, this was a little naïve to think that's how the students would behave, but when they brought the ducks back, it allowed us to hide them again in different places. We even ramped up the challenge with my taller colleague placing them atop door frames and I started using poster putty to put them in odd places.



This duck was hidden the longest, only being found the last week of the hunt.

Even during a very busy fall semester, taking two or three minutes every other day to put ducks back out around the library in new and creative places was a fun and relaxing activity for me. Adding in the positive student feedback, running this program has been one of my most favorite things I've accomplished this year.

This program wasn't without some challenges. As you can expect, some ducks did go missing. They're tiny and cute, and meant to be traded and shared. After the first week, I went and ordered a box of 200 more ducks for about $10, so we'd have plenty to replenish the handful that were taken. Outside of the gift card prize, this was a low-cost program for us overall.

This coming spring, we're hoping to run a similar program, but have been brainstorming ways to include online students now as well. One of my colleagues, Jesse Whitton, suggested creating an I Spy/Where's Waldo type picture with a duck hiding amongst other bric-a-brac and posting it to our Instagram account each week. There are other types of tiny, resin-made animals to experiment with

as well, so we may change up what creature we'll "hide" too. We don't know when we'll try this activity just yet, but we'll be sure to report back on our attempt.

Logo Design Contest Winner: Sierra Pruneski

NICHOLAS A. CASAS
Assistant Librarian for Teaching and Learning
Indiana University, Northwest

In March 2025, the Executive Board announced a student contest to redesign InULA's logo that has been in use since the 1990s. The contest was open to all Indiana University students – all campuses, all programs, undergraduate, and graduate. Flyers were passed around electronically to numerous campuses, and many InULA members assisted by advertising directly to art & design and library & information science faculty to market to their students. Students could upload a maximum of 3 logos to enter the contest through a Qualtrics contest form. It was a great effort by the Board and InULA members who spread the word.

By April, 20 students from all IU campuses sent in 34 different logo entries into the contest form. There were some great contenders, and the Board took the difficult task to narrow down the logos down to 3 finalists. At the May 2025 Annual Business Meeting, the InULA General Membership voted on their favorite one. In the end, this was our winner:

This is the new logo of the Indiana University Libraries Association (InULA), and we couldn't be happier and more pleased with the results. It's clean, versatile for the 21st century (especially for the web and new promotional materials), and representative of what InULA is. Our contest winner and designer of our new beautiful logo is Sierra Pruneski.

Sierra is a Junior at IU Indianapolis majoring in Visual Communication Design. She is currently a graphic design intern at IU Indianapolis's Division of Undergraduate Education communication team where she works with a large team creating flyers, directional signage, and other needs for the campus. When Sierra entered the contest, she described her logo as the following:

This logo design consists of a book opening up with the inula flower on the inside, which can also be seen as pages of a book turning. This design is scalable, memorable, and timeless, as a more modern, yet simple take. This logo is professional yet appeals to the age group using this resource the most.

Nicholas A. Casas, Assistant Librarian for Teaching & Learning at IU Northwest, interviewed Sierra in November 2025 about her logo, her art background, and her career goals.

How and when did you first become interested in art and design?
I have always been interested in art. I knew wanted I wanted to do something in art, and I found graphic design and decided to go that route. I've always been a crafter and a painter, in my whole life, for as long as I can remember.

Could you share with us who or what influences your art? Any specific designers, mentors, people who you look up to, or classes that shaped your artistic vision?
In general, my main inspiration comes from nature and human emotion. I'll go outside if I'm tired and stuck, and I'll observe people. It helps with the intention I create with. My mentors also influence my art, like my professors right now, and my classes have pushed me in the best way possible. There have been rough patches, but those moments become those beautiful moments of growth. All my classes are so in depth at Herron [School of Art & Design at IU Indianapolis] and so progressive and developmental. Prof. Amrita Datta is one of my favorite professors who I look up to and credit my growth as a designer.

How did you first find out about the InULA Logo Design Contest?
One of my professors, Prof. Gurkan Mihci, brought it my class's attention in my Brand Identity Design class. I'm not sure how many submitted from my class. He walked us through the ideation process for the logo.

What InULA members loved about your logo is how simple yet effective it is, and the versatility of putting it on promotional items. How do you approach creating something like a logo where you have to balance creativity with function?
All those elements were harped on in my logo design class: simplicity and functionality; timeless and recognizable; versatile. Think about putting the logo on a large scale like a billboard, but also on a smaller scale like a t-shirt. Since I intern at IU Indy, I'm used to working with brand guidelines. I had an idea of what I was going into since it is for IU. Not sure if I would've approached it differently. I was trying to encapsulate the organization itself and everything it means.

What are your career goals in the future?
I'd love to work in branding package design and create a physical experience for people. Design is everywhere and the ones that stand out have an emotional attachment. Take a package from a company for instance, and you open it and it's so pretty. I love that kind of stuff. I'd love to create that kind of experience for other people.

I am also minoring in wellness coaching. I'm adding it on and starting classes next semester. I'd also like to work in the realm of wellness such as yoga and mindfulness. My ideal work environment is to work for a wellness company doing graphic design or anything else.

What advice would you give to other students about graphic design?
Push yourself. I feel like my most growth comes from whenever I push my design with whatever is possible past my comfort zone. Once you get past that, wow, everything is easier from here! There's constant progress, and it's harder as we grow into the space with artificial intelligence (AI). I went to a panel of professionals in the design field that Herron hosted for their Fall Career Week. One of the panelists said that you need to stand out in a world with AI these days. Your work has to be exceptional, and you have to become an exceptional designer. Explore and play and have fun with your designs. Usually if a design is aligned with you, it naturally comes out to be great work.

Thank you for your time, Sierra! Anything else you'd like to add?
Outside of graphic design, I love fine arts. I have a small business that I use repurposed, second-hand fabric to create new pieces. I love bringing in human aspects and man-made aspects into my digital designs. Because we're in a digital age, we need more humanity in digital art.

Sierra's socials, website, portfolio, and business:
Portfolio: https://sierranicolestudios.myportfolio.com/
Instagram: SierraNicoleStudios
Business: Petal & Thread

Five Times the Size, Five Times the Fun, and Five Times the Considerations: Leveling Up the Makerspace at IU Bloomington Libraries

NADA ABDELRAHIM
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IU Bloomington

INTRODUCTION

This past summer, the Wells Library Makerspace found a new home, a refreshed identity, and a new name at IU Bloomington Libraries. Now officially called the Creator Commons, the reimagined space supports students, faculty, and staff as they bring creative ideas to life. The transformation marks the culmination of a decade-long evolution led by Creative Technologies Librarian Leanne Nay, whose work began with a small rolling cart functioning as a mobile makerspace. This new venture is a joint one with IU Libraries and UITS, and the space is managed by me (Nada Abdelrahim), Leanne Nay, and leader of former UITS 3D Print Lab, Andy Webb.

When I joined the IU Bloomington Libraries in 2023 as part of the Teaching & Learning Department, I immediately gravitated toward supporting this work. The potential for creative, experiential, and inquiry-driven learning resonated deeply with my interests in nontraditional instruction and community-based engagement. The reopening of the space as the Creator Commons in Fall 2025 provided an opportunity not only to expand equipment and services, but also to articulate a vision for how making fits within the identity and pedagogy of the academic library.

Academic library makerspaces have shifted from experimental add-ons to becoming central to library learning ecosystems (Melo et al., 2023). They provide instructional partners with opportunities for hands-on, critical engagement, democratize access to creative technologies, and introduce students to new forms of scholarly communication and expression. Since reopening in early September 2025, the Creator Commons has welcomed 1063 visitors and facilitated 569 equipment bookings, signaling strong and immediate interest from the IU Bloomington community.

WHAT THE CREATOR COMMONS INCLUDES

The Creator Commons consolidates three major service areas, the Makerspace, the Equipment Checkout Desk, and the Studio, into a cohesive, student-centered ecosystem.

Image 1: Students making custom tote bags using heat transfer vinyl during our soft opening.

Makerspace

Located in the West Tower of the Herman B Wells Library, the Makerspace is the largest and most visible component of the Creator Commons. Its footprint is now nearly five times the size of the original room, which allows for improved user flow, dedicated work zones, and expanded equipment.

The Makerspace offers a broad range of creative tools, including:

- Multiple 3D printers, including resin printers
- Sewing machines and a serger
- A Silhouette Cameo for precision cutting
- A heat press for heat-transfer projects
- A growing selection of bookbinding and zine-making materials
- General crafting supplies & office supplies
- A button maker

All supplies are free to use, though we maintain equitable-use policies to ensure that high-demand materials remain available to all.

Equipment Checkout Desk

The Equipment Checkout Desk now occupies the former Makerspace room, transforming it into a lending service that supports creativity beyond the library's walls. With about one hundred

circulating items (plus a UITS laptop lending service), this desk plays a critical role in meeting teaching and learning needs. Items can be checked out for one-week periods using a Crimson Card. Our circulating collection includes:

- Cameras, tripods, and video equipment
- Audio recording and music production tools
- Portable sewing and embroidery machines
- Tools including drills, lights, and microphones
- Specialized kits for class assignments or student org projects
- Laptops

Studio

The Studio rounds out the Creator Commons as a self-service media production room equipped with an intuitive push-button controller. This space is useful for class presentations or creative multimedia projects. Its low barrier to entry makes it popular for users who may be new to video production.

The studio includes:

- A green screen
- Presentation overlay features
- Adjustable lighting
- Simple video capture for quick recording

Image 2: Students from SOAD-S Digital Art Course trying out various equipment available through the Equipment Checkout Desk.

FIVE TIMES THE CONSIDERATIONS: WHAT WE LEARNED DURING EXPANSION

The size of the Creator Commons may have increased fivefold, but so did the planning and operational considerations. Designing a larger makerspace required careful thought about user flow, noise levels, equipment zoning, and usability. Limited in what we could change structurally, we relied on strategic and creative solutions to work within the available space.

Throughout this semester, we have experimented with different layouts to determine how to best direct user movement and provide sufficient workspace. We were also able to create a distinct instructional area separate from the crafting zones, but this required careful planning to accommodate formal instruction while the space remained open for drop-in use.

Scaling up also required us to rethink our policies on consumables. Usage guidelines remain an ongoing conversation as we continue to monitor how the space is used and what we can sustainably support.

With more space came a need for additional training for student employees, particularly as our 3D printing equipment and crafting tools expanded. This includes training in troubleshooting and user support, especially helping student staff understand how to assist users without becoming responsible for the success of their projects. One of our favorite sayings in the space is: "We know enough to get you started, but the rest is up to you!"

Faculty interest also grew as the space expanded. This required broader planning around curriculum integration, assignment development, and instructional partnership models.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND FACULTY

As a library service, the Creator Commons is grounded in the mission of supporting teaching, learning, and research across disciplines. At its simplest, it offers a welcoming space to experiment, decompress, and explore creative interests. At a deeper level, it introduces a hands-on, inquiry-driven dimension to academic work.

Our goal is to remove barriers, financial, logistical, or otherwise, that often prevent learners from accessing creative technologies. Providing materials at no cost enables students to freely explore alternative models for scholarship or personal expression.

We are also building a growing instruction program that integrates making into the curriculum. Faculty frequently bring classes for guided orientations or project-based work. For instance, after studying zines from the Artists' Books Collection, students worked in groups to create a collaborative class zine as a form of critical reflection, choosing tactile creation over a traditional written essay. Activities like this illustrate how making can foster deeper engagement and understanding. This work also highlights how critical making and multimodal, inclusive pedagogies can expand student understanding of their coursework, their community, and the larger world.

Graduate students have likewise benefited from the makerspace. Through the Craig Fellowship, I mentored a library science student in developing and facilitating a zine workshop, an opportunity to gain experience in creative programming, outreach, and instruction.

A LIBRARIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Supporting creative activity and experiential learning within the library has been one of the most rewarding parts of my work. Spaces like the Creator Commons challenge us to rethink what academic libraries can be—sites of exploration and inclusive engagement.

Image 3: Selected pages from our Creator Commons zine, created by 2025 Craig Fellow, Olivia Ligman.

Academic spaces often privilege Eurocentric traditions of scholarship and text-heavy demonstration of learning. Makerspaces invite alternative approaches. They make room for tactile, multimodal, community-oriented, and iterative forms of knowledge-building. They also create opportunities for learners who may not see themselves reflected in traditional academic expectations to discover new strengths and interests. My hope is that the Creator Commons continues to reinforce that creative work is scholarly work; that making can be a form of inquiry, a mode of expression, and a tool for critical understanding.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move through our first year, we are already planning next steps. Goals for the coming year include:

- Reworking consumables limitations to better suit the expanded space and increased volume of users.
- Outreach to instructors to more directly show them how the makerspace can support instruction and making can be more intentionally integrated into their courses.
- Build a standardized workshop schedule and expand workshop offerings and build a supportive structure to help our student workers be part of that initiative.
- Make more stuff!!!!

The work is never done, but it is exciting to do work that, though sometimes overwhelming, is more often invigorating and fun. The Creator Commons will undoubtedly continue to evolve, shaped by the creativity and curiosity of IU students, faculty, and staff. We look forward to supporting that growth and contributing to a more vibrant, hands-on learning culture at IU Bloomington.

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Melo, M. (Maggie), Hirsh, K., & March, L. (2023). Makerspaces in Libraries at U.S. Public Colleges and Universities: A Census*. Portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 23(1), 35–43. https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2023.0007

Native American Heritage Month: Read Native Challenge

MICAELA DEOGRACIAS AND CHRISTINA JONES
Outreach and Engagement Librarian and Head, Education Library
IU Bloomington

This November, in celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the IU Bloomington Education Library hosted the Read Native Challenge. This program, developed by the American Indian Library Association in 2021, was designed to "support and recognize our Indigenous authors, scientists, legislators, storytellers, and creators throughout the year" (American Indian Library Association, 2025). Beginning that year, Head of the Education Library, Christina Jones and her team of student workers, created a bingo card filled with genre books written by Indigenous authors with corresponding booklists. Intended as a passive program in the beginning, the Education Library team observed that participants were highly engaged with the books. Many expressed that they were surprised there were so many children's books written by Indigenous authors and artists.

The Read Native Challenge allows the Education Library to highlight the Indigenous voices throughout their and other IU Libraries' departments' collections.

Building on the sustained interest in the program over the years and combined with the efforts of our new Outreach & Engagement Librarian, Micaela Deogracias, the Read Native program expanded into a campus-wide event in 2025 - including pop-up libraries at the Indiana Memorial Union during Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations and the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. The bingo categories were also expanded to include curated titles by Librarian for Media Studies, Gender Studies, & Philosophy Associate Librarian, nicolae cline, and curated streaming media by Head of Media Services Monique Threatt. As in years past, participants were invited to complete a bingo card by reading from a variety of genres and engaging with different kinds of media in the Libraries collections. Once they finished the program, they received a special bookmark, button, and a book of their choosing from a small assortment of titles that focus on Indigenous identity or are written by Indigenous authors. Over 30 programs were

distributed thanks to the support of other Libraries service points across campus. We continue to receive many appreciative comments from students and faculty, alike - including this note from a visiting scholar:

I wanted to let you know that I really liked the Borders by Thomas King (a graphic novel version…) Which I would probably never picked up if it had not been for your Read Native American project. I thank you for that and would like to comment that it was a great idea!

Next year, we hope to expand the timeframe of the program to allow more time for participants to complete the challenge.

References

American Indian Library Association. (2025). *Read Native 2021.* https://ailanet.org/readnative21/

Julieann V. Nilson Scholarship Winners' Essay Spring 2025

ALEX ALLISON
IU Bloomington

I enrolled in Indiana University's Master of Library Science program to pursue my professional ambition of becoming a Latin American Studies Librarian. As someone who has lived in Colombia, earned a Master of Arts degree in Latin American Studies, and developed advanced proficiency in Spanish, my philosophy toward librarianship has in large part been influenced by my experiences in academia and abroad. From 2016 to 2017, I worked as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó which is located in one of the poorest and most remote regions of Colombia. During this time, and in my subsequent trips abroad, I came to appreciate how difficult it is for Afro-Colombian and Indigenous students and scholars in rural Colombia to not only gain access to physical library collections and digital resources, but to also have their research published and translated.

As a Latin American Subject Librarian, I want to strengthen ties with libraries and other academic institutions across Latin America and explore ways to democratize access to digital resources and publishing. I further want to encourage students in the United States to critically analyze traditional perceptions of scholarship in Latin American Studies and to question whether scholars from Afro-LatinX, Indigenous, and other historically marginalized groups are clearly represented in library collections and other areas of academia. I am similarly eager to collect materials in Haitian Creole and to build relationships with information institutions in Haiti. While obtaining my Master of Arts degree in Latin American Studies from Vanderbilt University, I had the opportunity to take seven Haitian Creole language courses and participate in Florida International University's Haitian Summer Institute. These opportunities sparked my passion for Haitian Studies, and I am currently taking advantage of my time in Bloomington to conduct research on the origins and significance of the Haitian Creole-English Bilingual Dictionary produced by the Indiana University Creole Institute in 2007.

The goal of my research is to explore how a group of scholars based in Indiana were able to produce the most authoritative and complete Haitian-Creole dictionary in print. Moving forward, as an aspiring Latin American Subject Librarian, I want to challenge the traditional narratives of failure and poverty surrounding Haiti by collecting materials that capture the nation's complex history and culture. Indeed, one of my professional ambitions is to someday develop one of the preeminent Haitian Creole collections in the United States. I believe that by actively collecting and promoting literary and academic works published by Haitians and other historically marginalized groups I can encourage patrons in the United States to begin to look at Haiti, and other parts of Latin America, through a different lens.

Research Incentive Fund Report

BRI MCLAUGHLIN
Digital Collections Librarian
Wells Library
Indiana University, Bloomington

I am very grateful to have received $700 from the Indiana University Libraries Association (InULA) Research Incentive Fund in May of this year. My primary use of these funds went towards travel to Lisbon, Portugal for the 2025 Digital Humanities conference sponsored by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organization (ADHO). I was competitively selected to present a poster titled "Webs of Cruelty: Network Analysis of Carceral Institutions for Girls and Women in 19th Century Indiana." The poster was a visual representation of an intricately weaved web of custodial cruelty among "fallen" girls and women in the 19th century sanctioned by Indiana state government. I have been researching this subject since 2012 and was very excited to be able to share my progress through a digital humanities lens.

Presenting at the Digital Humanities conference was a massive step forward for me professionally. ADHO is the flagship international digital humanities organization. Network analysis experts from across the globe spent time talking to me about my project and suggesting ideas for future iterations. I was able to demonstrate that Indiana's history is interesting and noteworthy, even at a global scale. I was also able to share the nuanced history of female prison reformers, the damage they inflicted, and the girls and women they harmed. The conference left me inspired and ready to tackle an article manuscript I have in the works on the same subject. If all goes to plan, I will spend a research leave writing this winter.

Thank you again for contributing to my attendance and presentation at the 2025 Digital Humanities conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Meet the New(ish) InULA Members!

Compiled by Julie Feighery
Archivist, and Head of Scholarly Communications and Subject Librarian Services
Indiana University, South Bend

Jennifer Christie works as the UX Designer for the Discovery and User Experience department at Indiana University, Bloomington. Prior to joining IU Libraries, she worked as the UX Designer for the HathiTrust Research Center, co-located at Indiana University and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In 2022, she earned her MLS and MIS degrees from Indiana University, Bloomington. She also has an MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon State University. In her spare time, she reads and writes fiction. She has two cats: Galileo James Brown and Eyeballs the Pup.

Holly Fitzpatrick is the Public Services Archivist Assistant for the Indiana University Archives at IU Bloomington. They have worked in libraries for nearly 15 years and completed the MLIS Archives and Records Management specialization through IU Indianapolis in 2021. The best parts of their job are working alongside MLS students and making collections accessible to the public. When they're not in Wells Library, Holly can be found watching horror movies with practical effects and enabling their partner's analog photography habit.

Chloe Garcia works as the Stacks Unit Manager at the Herman B. Wells Library on IU's Bloomington Campus. Garcia has been in library work for 5 years now, mostly working in public libraries. Garcia's favorite thing about her job is getting to interact with so many different kinds of people: both those who patronize the Wells Library and the many folks who work hard to keep the library running smoothly. She currently is working her way through the Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan

Erica Guevara is a Subject Librarian at IU South Bend. Guevara is new to librarianship, having completed my MLIS from IU Indianapolis in June. Previously, she was an Instructional Assistant at Baugo Community Schools in Elkhart, IN. She has been married to her husband Marcel for 19 years, and they have triplet daughters, Melody, Tessa, and Eva. She strives to be a life-long learner, and hopes to inspire that same passion in others. Her favorite read in 2025 was *The American Queen* by Vanessa Miller.

Isaac Johnson is the new Stacks Unit Supervisor at the Herman B Wells Library in Bloomington. This is Isaac's first position in a library, having previous collection management experience inside of the Jacobs School of Music. Outside of work, Isaac loves to hike, play strategy games, and spend time with friends and family. Happy to be part of the IU Libraries!

Heather Lengyel is the Rights & Permissions Manager at Indiana University Press. Her career, which began at the University of Michigan Press, includes extensive experience with academic, scholarly, and K–12 educational publishers and with tech companies from across the US. In her free time, she enjoys reading mysteries, memoirs, and cookbooks: favorites include Kate Atkinson's Jackson Brodie crime series, Julia Child's *My Life in France*, *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt*, and anything by Anthony Bourdain and Ina Garten.

Yanling Liu is the Coordinator of Information Literacy and Research Services at IU Kokomo, bringing experience and training from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign. Her current

favorite read is *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts. Outside the library, she enjoys spending time with her kitten, LL.

Lisa McFerran joined IU five months ago after a long career as a budget analyst with Federal government, working for multiple agencies throughout the country (Interior, Justice, Commerce, and Defense). When not processing payroll for Libraries, McFerran provides support for IU Press. McFerran enjoys cooking, gardening, and traveling to visit family, hike, or kayak.

Miriam Nauenburg is Head of Serials Cataloging at IU Bloomington. She came to IU Libraries from the University of West Georgia, where she cataloged serials and electronic resources for 15 years. Her favorite aspects of the job are helping to enable serials discovery for all users, and database cleanup in any form.

Lisa Rummel works as a Technical Services Assistant at IU Kokomo. The read she recommends the most is Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson, but her most re-read series is Lord of the Rings, by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Brittney Thomas is the Assistant Director for Research & Data Education at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Thomas has been in libraries for 14 years and joined IUSM from the University of Iowa libraries in June. Thomas notes the best part of the job is helping the library support medical research through strategic planning and community engagement.

IU Libraries News

IU Bloomington

Submitted by Michelle Crowe

New email shares special collections stories

This October, IU Bloomington Libraries launched *We Saved This for You*, an email newsletter from our archives and special collections: the University Archives, IU Libraries Moving Image Archive, Wylie House Museum, Archives of Traditional Music, and IU's general special collections. We plan to send an issue every October, February, and May, with a rotating introduction from one of the archives and special collections, followed by collection spotlights, events, and more. With such active and engaging departments in the Libraries, it can be hard to know about all of the wonderful happenings in our archives and special collections. For that reason, the Library has created this newsletter to gather all the best archival stories for the community in one place.
Subscribe here: https://libraries.indiana.edu/subscribe-wesaved

Revolution & Reflection: Campus Experiences in Art, History, and Ideas

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Indiana University Bloomington will commemorate the historic occasion with a campuswide "civic festival" will take place throughout the spring and summer. Calling on the strengths and expertise of each institution, the Lilly Library and the Eskenazi Museum of Art are partnering to present a coordinated plan of outreach to multiple audiences, encouraging dialogue and connection.

The centerpiece will be an exhibition at the Lilly Library, The Declaration of Independence: The Motives, The Moment which will open in the South Gallery in February 2026. All guests to the library will be immediately engaged by the centerpiece presentation of its Dunlap broadside, the first printed copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed by John Dunlap of Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. IU holds one of only 26 remaining copies. The south gallery will present an exhibition that explores the decade preceding the Declaration, how the text of the Declaration circulated after its publication, the intellectual currents influencing the Declaration, and a glimpse into some personal experiences of those living through this historic time. The Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art will commemorate the semiquincentennial by exhibiting the Lilly Library's portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart; on loan from the Lilly Library.

To learn more about the campuswide celebration visit:
https://bloomington.iu.edu/about/initiatives/america-250/index.html

Research Data Services invites you to celebrate Love Data Week

Officially launched earlier this Spring, the Research Data Services Librarians at Bloomington, Indianapolis, and the Ruth Lilly Medical Library are gearing up for ***Love Data Week***! This international celebration of all things data occurs annually around Valentine's Day. This year, the event will be **February 9-13, 2026**, with the theme "Where's the Data?" Events are hosted from around the world, so be sure to register for anything the interests you!
The Bloomington campus will host several in-person events focused on data physicalization. The schedule will be formally announced in January, but will include:

- Data visualization by hand workshop
- ORCiD ID Friendship bracelet making

- Physical mapping workshop
- Daily interactive and collaborative data visualization activities in Wells Lobby

We will also host a few virtual webinars – so stay tuned for more! If you have any questions, want to support any of our activities, or just hear more, reach out to the shared email for all IU Research Data Librarians: resdata@iu.edu.

A Whole World in a Book: Celebrating Madeline Kripke's Dictionaries:
This exhibition opens at the Lilly Library in February 2026 and will be an enlightening celebration of dictionaries and how they open windows onto human experience. Read more about the Kripke Collection here: https://libraries.indiana.edu/lilly-library/KripkeCollectionAcquired

- Attend our one-day symposium. Sessions will occur all day on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Lilly Library, with breakfast and lunch provided, so your RSVP is required: ***https://events.iu.edu/libraries/event/kripke-symposium***
- Attend our opening event: Unabridged: An Evening with Stephan Fatsis on Friday, Feb. 20
    - 5:30 p.m. Q& A with Fatsis | 6:30p.m. Book signing and reception | Lilly Library
    - RSVP Please: ***https://events.iu.edu/libraries/event/stephan-fatsis***

IU Northwest

Submitted by Gretchen Rings

Indiana University Northwest has a new archivist! Visiting Archivist Dan Hill joined the library with the departure of Jeremy Pekarek in the spring of this year. A graduate of Indiana University, Indianapolis, Dan is focused on digital preservation and accessibility along with answering research questions. Dan may be reached at dlh5@iu.edu.

Have you thought about attending the annual RBMS conference but are not sure of its value? Gretchen Rings sits on the Local Arrangements and Conference Development committees--please contact her with questions about the 2026 conference, which conveniently takes place in Milwaukee! This year's conference explores advocacy at every career stage, from speaking up as a newcomer to driving change as a leader. Join in on inspiring colleagues at every level to find their voice—and make it heard. The proposal deadline is **December 12, 2025**, and complete details are available on the **conference website**.

IU Kokomo

Submitted by Yan He

Library Personnel News
We're excited to welcome two new members to the IU Kokomo Library team in 2025!

Lisa Rummel joined us in February as our new *Technical Services Assistant*. Lisa brings nearly a decade of experience from the Peru Public Library and most recently worked in the Copy, Print, and Ship department at McCord's Do-It-Best in Logansport. She holds an associate degree in Library Technical Services from Ivy Tech and a bachelor's degree in General Studies from IU Kokomo. Lisa is eager to give back to the IU Kokomo community in her new role.

Yanling Liu joined us in August as the new *Coordinator of Information Literacy and Research Services*. She earned her Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and brings a rich multidisciplinary background in developmental psychology, social work, global studies, and adult development. Yanling has extensive experience in research support, teaching, outreach and engagement, accessibility, and reference services. She looks forward to collaborating with faculty and students to advance the teaching, learning, and research mission of IU Kokomo.

Programs and Grants

- The library's textbook affordability initiative was awarded a $2,000 grant from the Women of the Well House to purchase 18 unlimited-access course titles for Spring 2025 and Fall 2026.
- The library received a $5,000 NiSource Charitable Foundation Grant for the project *Growing Together: Community Gardening and Food Education Program*. This grant supports the library's community outreach efforts by funding initiatives that promote gardening, healthy eating, and educational programming
- The library hosted a vibrant National Library Week celebration in April 2025, bringing together faculty, staff, students, and community members for engaging events such as *Ink and Intrigue* and the *Human Library*.

On October 16, the library facilitated and sponsored a well-attended lecture by Dr. Paul Renfro on his new book, *The Life and Death of Ryan White: AIDS and Inequality in America*. The event drew approximately 90 attendees from both the campus and the community, including representatives from the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library and the Howard County Historical Society. Additional funding for this program was generously provided by the Addison Locke Roach Fund and the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library. Read the full stories here:
https://iuknews.org/1714/news/author-paul-renfro-hosts-public-lecture-at-iuk-discussing-research-from-new-book/
https://news.iu.edu/kokomo/live/news/47504-iu-kokomo-to-host-author-of-ryan-white-biography

IU South Bend

Submitted by Susan Thomas

Over the past eight months, IU South Bend Libraries celebrated several exciting developments. The Student Government Association agreed to fund the Infobase Feature Film collection and permanently fund snacks for finals. We welcomed Erica Guevara as our new part-time librarian and announced Julie Feighery as the campus Archivist! Former interlibrary loan specialist, Adrian Esselstrom, was re-hired to work as a part-time cataloger.

The Honors Program is relocating to the library's fourth floor, creating new opportunities for collaboration and engagement. To prepare for the move, the Schurz Library has been shifting and weeding collections to clear the 4th floor for new carpet, paint, tile, and restroom renovations. Some collections will return once the new carpet is installed. Our beloved Miniature Horse Therapy program continued to bring joy to students at midterms with the addition of Bolt, a new therapy horse. Bandit has officially retired.

To foster community, the libraries hosted a Movie and Game Night in October with extended hours to midnight, offering students a fun and relaxing evening, costume optional. The event was well attended with plans to offer a similar event in the spring. The Wiekamp Educational Resource Commons expanded its capabilities by adding a state-of-the-art Xante UV printer, enhancing resources for creative projects.

Planning for the third annual trivia night is underway. This year's trivia night is scheduled for March 10 from 5:30-7:30 pm in the University Grill. Stay tuned for more details and registration information. We have a very special guest MC to lead us through the evening!!