

From the Guest Editor's Desk:

By Alberta Davis Comer

Welcome to this special issue of *Indiana Libraries*. In this issue you will hear from movers and shakers across the state, librarians who have spent their careers helping to shape and define academic libraries not only in Indiana but nationally. I would like to thank each of them for taking the time from their very busy schedules to write about their visions, their dreams, and, yes, their concerns. Although their topics vary, their passion is apparent—passion for our libraries and our constituents.

While this issue's focus is on current issues facing academic libraries, these same concerns are universal in many libraries including public and special libraries. Our first author, Julie J. McGowan, served as the Director of the Ruth Lilly Medical Library from 1999-2011. Her article looks at what is happening in academic health sciences libraries and new models that are evolving. J. Douglas Archer, Reference and Peace Studies Librarian at the University of Notre Dame and past chair of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, provides us with an overview of new challenges in intellectual freedom including a question that many of us have grappled with—what happens when libraries lease e-books and no longer control the access to content and preservation.

James L. Mullins, Dean of Libraries at Purdue University, offers us a thought provoking article on the changing needs of library clientele. What does this change mean for the future of collection development growth and services in research libraries? Brenda L. Johnson, Dean of University Libraries at Indiana University - Bloomington, talks about engaging teaching faculty in a conversation about the future of libraries; their discussion is both surprising and profound. Cheryl B. Truesdell, Dean of the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne Library, uses a red balloon project to

re-imagine the academic library and its role in undergraduate education.

Linda K. Fariss, Director of the Law Library at the Indiana University School of Law, examines concerns facing academic law libraries including budgetary challenges and loss of space, two issues that many libraries face. Dan Howell, University Librarian at Taylor University and the current President of Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI), gives us food for thought in his article on library consortia and ALI's role in future cooperative sharing.

Susan Clark, Director of Ivy Tech Community College's East Central Libraries, talks about an information literacy project that actively involved Indiana librarians. Marcia Smith-Woodard, Indiana State Library's Special Services Consultant, also discusses an in-state project, Indiana's Librarians Leading in Diversity (I-LLID); this project involved finding ways to recruit a more diverse workforce for Indiana libraries.

David W. Lewis, Dean of the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis University Library, offers a provocative piece on what librarians can learn from academic Clay Shirky's essay on newspapers. Diane Parr Walker, University Librarian at the University of Notre Dame, discusses the HathiTrust, formed to preserve securely the digitized content of the printed holdings of research libraries, and how it may transform the library landscape of the future.

We round out this issue with a somewhat tongue-in-cheek article from Rick Provine, Director of Libraries at DePauw University, entitled "Waiting for the Future," a name which describes what, in essence, this issue encapsulates.

As we “wait” for the future, we may find that aspects of what we once thought of as futuristic are already here. These articles can help us manage changes more successfully and help us prepare our libraries for whatever today, and tomorrow, may bring.

Bio

Alberta Davis Comer is Dean of Library Services at Indiana State University. She received her MLS from Indiana University-Bloomington. She has published articles in *Structure Magazine*, *Indiana Libraries*, *Against the Grain*, *Journal of Access Services*, *Computers in Libraries*, and in several conference proceedings. She served as editor for *Indiana Libraries* 2005-2008 and as editor of *Cognotes* in 2005. She is an avid runner and reader.