

THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY: PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION ACROSS THE LIBRARY PROFESSION

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The Indiana State Library has been involved in partnerships and cooperative ventures with libraries and allied organizations and agencies for decades. Because of the Library's unique role in providing services to both government and its citizens, these partnerships are integral to the Library's functioning and support of information services throughout the state. Partnerships involve the commitment of Library resources, whether staff time, money, or the contribution of materials. The Library has made use of partnerships that result in better services to Indiana's library community and to the people of Indiana. Projects and services resulting from these partnerships range from expanded genealogy holdings to public programming for library trustees to support of INSPIRE, Indiana's Virtual Library. New partnerships are under development as well, and hold promise for continued improvement of library services across Indiana – an objective central to its primary responsibilities.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY'S SERVICES AND MISSION

The Library has been in existence since 1825, when it was created by act of the General Assembly. Until 1934 it was housed in the State House, where it provided current and historical information for legislators, state employees, and the general public, as well as providing assistance to Indiana's library community. In 1934, the Library moved to its current location in the Indiana State Library and Historical Building, which recently underwent an extensive restoration and renovation. Since 1825, its mission and collections have changed considerably, as the Library grew into its modern role, changing from a library serving only state legislators and officials to one that provides a wide range of services to Indiana's libraries, historians, genealogists, the business community, educators, persons who are unable to read standard print materials, and state employees and officials.

The duties and functions of the Library, as stated in the *Indiana Code*, includes the following activities:

- 1) Developing and providing library services to state government, its branches, its departments, its officials and its employees,
- 2) Providing for the individual citizens of the state those specialized library services not generally appropriate, economical, or available in other libraries of the state,
- 3) Encouraging and supporting the development of the library profession, and
- 4) Strengthening the services of all types of publicly and privately supported school, academic, and special libraries.¹

The Library is also mandated to collect and maintain a collection of books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, audiovisual materials, and other materials for the following purposes:

- 1) To meet the informational, educational, and research needs of state government,
- 2) To preserve and make available for use materials bearing on the history of the state,
- 3) To meet the specialized library needs and interests of the citizens of Indiana, and
- 4) To supplement the reference and materials resources of the libraries of the state²

As a small state agency, the Library would be unable to meet its broad mandates for services and collections without the development of useful and supportive partnerships with other libraries, library organizations, and related agencies and repositories. Over the decades, the Library has built a number of partnerships that allow better services, collections, and support for the people of Indiana and their libraries.

LONGTIME PARTNERS

One of the longest-standing partnerships of the Library is with the Indiana Library Federation. Both the Library and ILF have missions that include improved services to Indiana libraries and librarians, and their projects support this activity. Since the 1970s, ILF and the Library have jointly produced publications such as

Focus on Indiana Libraries and the journal *Indiana Libraries*, with staff from the Library serving on the Publications Committee of ILF, and the Library providing funding towards those publications. This occurred to eliminate duplication of effort and save money. The Library had published the newsletter *Library Occurrent* for decades, but it was becoming costly to print and distribute. ILF was looking for additional funding for its publications, so combining efforts benefited both organizations.

The Library also provides some funding for programming for the Indiana Library Federation through the Library Services and Technology Act. These have included annual conference programs for public library trustees. In 2001, the topic was A Governance Model for Library Boards with library consultant Pat Wagner speaking. In 1998, the Library sponsored Ellen Miller speaking on the ABCs of Trusteeship in an Electronic Era, with a follow-up in 1999 on Trustees and Technology. The Library has also been actively involved in the development and distribution of publicity materials about public libraries in general and INSPIRE through another LSTA grant awarded to ILF. In 2003 the project was funded at \$150,000, as it is again for 2004.

The State Data Center Program is a state-U.S. Census Bureau cooperative program that makes census information and data available to the general public through a local network of state agencies, libraries, universities, and local governments. The partnerships creating the State Data Center Program are among the Census Bureau's longest and most successful.³ The Census Bureau began the State Data Center Program in Indiana in 1977 as a pilot project. The program was so successful that the SDC program officially began in 1978. The Indiana State Library is the lead agency of the Indiana State Data Center program, and the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC), the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and the Indiana Department of Commerce are coordinating agencies. The lead and coordinating agencies meet monthly and work closely to help each other, their affiliates, and the citizens of Indiana. The governor appoints lead agencies in each state to serve as the contact between the state and the Census Bureau. Coordinating agencies are organizations that partner with the lead agency to participate, and are responsible for particular areas of information (core competencies). Affiliates are "mini" data centers, providing a mix of census data and local information for patrons.⁴

Sharing a governing board with the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Library has embarked on joint projects and partnerships with the Bureau over the decades. As both agencies have fewer staff, the Bureau and Library have become more involved in partnerships to make better use of existing resources, a trend that should continue. Recent projects have included planning and

enduring the renovations of the Indiana State Library and Historical Building from June 2001 through the fall of 2003, joint exhibitions, co-hosting of events such as book signings and special celebrations, and providing research assistance and materials for Bureau publications. In October, the Bureau and Library hosted a book signing by Indiana author Bill Barnes, whose work was published by the Bureau. Because of the Bureau's expertise in publications, its staff has provided design and publishing assistance for Library publications.

Another long-time informal partnership has been with the Indiana Historical Society, in the area of genealogy, which developed in part because the two organizations shared the same building until 1999. The Indiana Historical Society does not collect materials specifically for genealogical research, although resources in their collections can be useful for family history research. Donations of family histories and similar materials are transferred from the Indiana Historical Society to the Genealogy Division of the Library, which has one of the largest collections of genealogical research materials in the Midwest, with more than 40,000 volumes, hundreds of thousands of microforms, and over 1,000 CDs. In addition, Genealogy Division librarians provide training at the beginning family history workshops given each year by the Indiana Historical Society.

The Library also has formal partnerships with INTELENET, a state commission, and IHETS, a higher education consortium, that provide such services as Internet access to public libraries, IP phone project, wireless access, and distance education. IHETS and INTELENET work together to offer public libraries Internet service with the State Library getting state funding for the service. INTELENET also contracts on behalf of the State Library with a consultant to file for the USF discounts for those Internet lines as a consortium, thereby taking that burden off of the libraries. These services began in 1998.

Distance education is another service offered jointly, as it is dependent on the Internet lines and on the bridging service run by IHETS. IHETS technical staff members make all these services work, and run the domain name service for the libraries. This partnership, which includes INCOLSA, began in 1998 also. The Library has been involved with the development of the Indiana Learning Portal, a project geared toward the educational community and life-long learning, which is jointly developed by IHETS, the Library, INCOLSA, and the Academic Libraries of Indiana. Administratively, the Director of the Library serves on the INTELENET Commission, and a representative from the Library serves as the representative for Indiana's libraries on the IHETS Board of Directors.

INCOLSA and the Library have a longstanding relationship as well. Much of the funding for INCOLSA comes from the Library through its distribution of federal funding from the Library Services and Technology Act, as well as additional funding from the State of Indiana. State funding of INCOLSA began in 1978 at \$350,000 and gradually increased to \$809,098 in 1990. After the mergers of the area library service authorities (ALSAs) and INCOLSA in 1995, INCOLSA received the funding the ALSAs used to receive, raising their funding levels to \$2,408,848. Funding varies from year to year from LSTA (federal) grants. This fiscal year, five INCOLSA projects were funded from LSTA monies for a total of \$1,546,995. Federal grants have been given since INCOLSA's founding, including a grant for the Cobcill report in the early 1970s, which led to the creation of INCOLSA in 1974.

Working with INCOLSA, the Library co-sponsors INSPIRE, and partners to provide training, distance education, and the joint INCOLSA – ILF - Indiana State Library calendar for librarians. Staff from INCOLSA and the Library meet regularly to coordinate activities and avoid duplication of effort. Working through INCOLSA allows the Library to accomplish objectives that would be difficult or impossible as a state agency.

As the Indiana Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Library's Special Services Division works closely with National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (NLS) to provide materials to Hoosiers who are unable to read standard print because of a visual or physical handicap. Each year, the Library distributes approximately 250,000 special audiocassettes and players, Braille books, and large print books to Hoosiers, and provides circulating large print collections to Indiana public libraries. The Special Services Division has been a part of the NLS program since 1934, making its work with NLS one of the oldest partnerships of the Library. In turn, the Library works with the four sub-regional libraries in Indiana in Columbus, Evansville, Elkhart, and Merrillville, providing assistance, information, and serving as the backup collection for their service populations.

Additional cooperative ventures or partnerships focus on providing access to information. The Library is the State of Indiana's only full federal documents depository, working closely with the other federal documents depository libraries around Indiana to assist in processing disposal lists, providing advice and assistance, and maintaining the electronic discussion list for federal document librarians in Indiana. The Library also is responsible for the state documents depository program, collecting and distributing publications from Indiana state agencies to the twelve state depository libraries in Indiana and the Library of Congress. The Library provides interlibrary loan ser-

vices to Indiana's libraries as well, and sends circulating materials around the country through interlibrary loan.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A recent partnership has been created for a grant-funded digitization project between the IUPUI Libraries, the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library, and the Library. This project, approved for funding in November 2003 by the Indianapolis Foundation's Library Fund, will involve digitizing historic materials related to Indianapolis and the greater metropolitan area from the collections of the three libraries, and providing those materials online for use by the public. The IUPUI Libraries are leading the project, providing technical expertise and facilities, while the Library is contributing maps, atlases, city directories, and other materials that will be of use to historians, genealogists, educators and students, the business community, and others.

Finally, the Library hosted a Digital Library Summit in December 2003. This brought together representatives from all types of libraries in Indiana, as well as organizations such as ILF, INCOLSA, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Humanities Council. Working together, the group hopes to create a framework for discussion, development of standards, and the eventual creation of a "Digital Library of Indiana" which would provide cross-collection searching of digitized materials from libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural repositories throughout Indiana, with a strong educational component to make those materials more accessible to the P-16 educational community and lifelong learners.

INTO THE FUTURE

This is an exciting time for the Indiana State Library. Most of the partnerships described are the result of years of joint effort with Indiana organizations such as ILF, INCOLSA, the Indiana Business Research Center, and the Indiana Historical Society. Other partnerships, such as those resulting from the digitization project with IMCPL and IUPUI, are still in their nascent stages and will grow during the years. Additional library summits are planned for the areas of distance education and libraries' impact on economic development, as a way to bring together librarians and allied professionals to discuss common aims and goals. The Library continues to look for productive partnerships with other organizations, agencies, and libraries, where the resulting service or project will be of benefit to the people and libraries of Indiana.

NOTES

¹ *Indiana Code (4-23-7.1-2)*

² *(IC 4-23-7.1-3)*

³ <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. *State Data Center Program Guide* (Oct. 1999), Appendix B.

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