

Indiana University

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Librarians Association

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Librarians: Research & Reality

*By Heidi Lee Hoerman, IUL
Research Consultant/SLIS
Research Fellowship
Recipient*

I am very pleased to be serving as the IUL Research Consultant during AY 91/92. This position was developed early in 1991 by Daniel Callison, then SLIS Associate Dean, and James Neal, IUL Dean, and is funded through RUGS and SLIS fellowship funds.

The responsibilities of this part time position include being available to assist individuals in research planning, methodologies and publication; serving as a resource to individuals and units for studies of library services and operations; working with the various committees concerned

with research (e.g., IULFC Research Committee, SLIS Research and Development Committee, BLFC Continuing Education Committee); assisting in the preparation of individual and institutional grant applications; and, finally, evaluating the need for such a position on a continuing basis and of future such research-focused fellowships joining the Libraries and SLIS.

As this is a first, "test" year for the position, I have attempted to allow demand for services determine the research consultant role. From stylistic advice for a faculty exchange application to help with a catalog grant application, from scheduling round tables to discuss research to serving (ex-officio) on the

NOTIS 5.0 OPAC Evaluation Task Force, from finding a statistics professor with the "right specialty" to suggesting a methodology course, a wide range of activities have resulted.

Only one thing has not happened: I am never wanting for things to do. Just as one set of projects reaches closure a new group of people call or send Email, looking to put me to work on their very interesting problems. It is quite evident that IU librarians have a wide range of research interests, a strong desire to improve services as the result of research, and a wish to actively pursue grants.

American institutions of higher education hold as their
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What is InULA?

The Indiana University Librarians Association (InULA) was founded in the 1960s to enable librarians in the Indiana University system to work together to gain recognition for their professional work and to obtain faculty status within the University. It continues today with two purposes: to promote excellence in library service and to provide opportunities for continuing education and professional growth for library employees. To accomplish these purposes InULA sponsors programs and workshops, publishes a newsletter, *InULA Notes*, provides Research Incentive Funds to support scholarly research of its members, awards

INULA MASS MEETING

MARCH 3, 1992

3:00 P.M.

IUB MAIN

LIBRARY

STAFF LOUNGE

scholarships, and sponsors an annual National Library Week Book Sale. All the work of the organization is done by volunteer members.

The InULA standing committees and their functions are: the Constitution Committee reviews the constitution and bylaws as necessary; the Continuing Education Committee sponsors at least one professional development activity each year; the National Library Week Committee plans activities and programs of the Association in celebration of National Library Week; the Program and Social Committee organizes a fund-raising event to support the Research Incentive Fund and at least one other program of interest to members; and the Publications Committee prepares and edits all publications of the Association.

There are three categories of membership. Regular membership is available to any person who holds an appointment as a library faculty member on any IU campus. Associate membership is available to all other librarians, retired library faculty, and SLIS faculty. Friends membership is available to all others who would like to support InULA and its purposes.

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Research Incentive Grants Report

*by David Frasier/Assistant
Librarian Reference
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The purpose of this project was to conduct extensive interviews with noted independent filmmaker Russ Meyer on two of his landmark exploitation films: *The Immoral Mr. Teas* (1959) and *Lorna* (1964). An InULA Research Incentive Fund Grant partially defrayed the cost of

conducting on-site research with Meyer in his Los Angeles home/archive. Meyer, the acknowledged "Father" of American adult cinema, has during a 30 year, 23 film career produced such genre classics as *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* (1966), *Vixen* (1968), and *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* (1970). The two films discussed with Meyer, significantly changed the direction and "look" of sexploitation cinema as well as pushed forward the limits of what sexual depictions could be shown in so-called "mainstream" movies.

The first article made possible by the grant was pub-

lished in the Fall, 1990 issue of the IU film journal *Cinefocus*. Entitled "Russ Meyer vs. the Italian Masters: A Discussion of *Lorna* With 'King Leer,'" the article discussed the influence of films by Italian directors like Giuseppe De Santis (*Bitter Rice*, 1949) on Meyer. A detailed production history of *The Immoral Mr. Teas* is forthcoming. The InULA Research Incentive Fund Grant was instrumental in permitting me to pursue my ongoing research into this important, yet largely overlooked American director.

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credo dedication to service, teaching, and research. The emphasis among these three varies between institution types and within individual institutions. Many private colleges hold teaching in most esteem. Land grant universities have a service component at their core. Research universities, like IU, place great importance upon the creation of knowledge (research) which

is followed by its dissemination (teaching and service, as well as publication). The standard training for performing research has been the academic doctorate.

Librarians hold an anomalous position in the modern research university. They form a large cohort of individuals which are neither fully trained researchers nor supporting staff. They are usually the largest such group within the purview of the academic vice-president. Librarians do not fit comfortably in

the models for faculty, professionals, or supporting staff. Thus, librarians are often assigned their own set of ranks and categories which mimic either faculty or professional models (and occasionally, unfortunately, the supporting staff model).

At IU, librarians have chosen a faculty model for their standards of performance. Whereas faculty of IU have "teaching," "research and creative activities," and "service" as criteria for promotion, IU

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librarians define "performance," "professional development," and "service" as the three determinants of promotability.

A careful reading of the promotion criteria in the IU Academic Handbook (June 1988, p. 26-27) exhibits the strong differences in viewpoint between faculty and librarian. Faculty "should possess a definite continuing program of studies, investigations or creative works." Librarians' evidence of professional development "might include ... publication or research ..." Service is "given the same consideration in determining promotion" for faculty when it "retard[s] accumulation of evidence for proficiency in research or teaching." Whereas "a librarian is expected to assume service obligations." These reflect two quite different ways of valuing an individual's contribution to

the mission of the institution.

Some would argue that obtaining political clout in the research-based hegemony of the modern university is sufficient reason to do research. And, indeed, such political clout can result in increased resources enabling improved services.

The IU librarians' model which subsumes research under professional development argues a different philosophy, one which may not have the same political currency but one which emphasizes the importance of research to the individual. Doing research is important as a learning process for the researcher as it is for addition to the world's store of knowledge. Research by librarians can serve the dual role of satisfying the individual's need to know while adding some understanding to what is really a little studied field.

As we enter the Information Age, the roles of libraries and librarians are expected to change. The time is right for research and experimentation

in academic libraries. The end of the twenty-first century should see librarians as important contributors to vast expansion of the world's understanding. To reach this goal, each librarian has a responsibility to increase our store of knowledge through research.

It is abundantly clear that many IU librarians share this commitment and it is this which makes my service as your Research Consultant so rewarding.

National Library Week Activities

For National Library Week, the IUB Preservation Committee, chaired by Dee Mortensen, and the InULA National Library Week committee, chaired by Emily Okada, will collaborate their efforts in presenting a joint program. Keep your eyes open for this interesting program in April. The Book Sale will probably be moved to a different time in the year than National Library Week. Suggestions for times can be sent to Lois Heiser (e-mail HEISER) or bring suggestions to the meeting March 3, 1992.