A New Home for the IU Archives

Vacating space it had occupied since 1936, the Office of University Archives and Records Management relocated from Bryan Hall to the Herman B Wells Library.

BRYAN HALL HAD LONG BEEN HOME TO THE UNIVERSITY’S RECORDS. Clerks filed the records of administrators like Herman B Wells, who transferred materials from their offices just steps away.

Today, new offices located in the Wells Library offer more space for researchers, staff, and exhibitions. “The new space not only provides welcome room to process and organize the university’s history,” University Archivist Phil Bantin says, “but more importantly also gives researchers room they need to see the materials efficiently.” The offices include a conference room to accommodate instruction and group assignments. And, Bantin says, the reading room in the Wells Library location provides at least three times more space for researchers.

“This is a great opportunity for us to integrate the Archives with the full range of activities that make the Wells Library such a popular destination,” says Dean Steele.

As the largest and most comprehensive source of information on the history and culture of Indiana University, the IU Archives collect, preserves, and provides access to the administrative files of IU offices and departments and the personal papers (classroom and research materials) generated by prominent IU faculty. Today the IU Archives, a part of the IU Bloomington Libraries, also preserves and manages digital information ranging from electronic records to university Web sites.

The Economic Advantage

A RECENT STUDY by the Kelley School of Business finds that for each dollar of public library expenditures, the average Indiana community receives $2.38 in benefits.

In addition to studying local public libraries, the study examined the economic impact of Indiana’s collegiate and university libraries, like those at IU. The state’s academic libraries have a combined staff of more than 2,200 full-time equivalent employees. Those libraries pump $136 million into the state economy in the form of wages and expenditures.

The economic ripple effects of academic-library spending support 640 additional jobs and create approximately $112 million in incremental economic activity in the state.

“In addition to providing services and collections to help students and faculty succeed,” says Patricia Steele, Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries, “we also serve citizens of the state, who have free and open access to our collections. I’m pleased to see, however, that besides this intellectual and cultural value, we also have an economic impact that well exceeds the investment being made in libraries by state taxpayers.”

The study was conducted by the Indiana Business Research Center at IU’s Kelley School of Business for the Indiana State Library.

[A NEW HOME FOR THE IU ARCHIVES]
**NEW FURNISHINGS.** Funded in part by a gift from Ralph and Billie Hazelbaker (see story at right), include 20 booths and spacious tables. “Booths are the places where people always want to sit in restaurants,” says Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries Patricia Steele, “so why not put them in a library?”

Lauren Ottenweller (right), a nutrition science major, uses technology the Hazelbakers couldn’t have imagined as students in the mid-1940s. The library was then located at Franklin Hall (right). Cover: Students Jennifer Hoffman (left) and Nicole Tramel in the Wells library.

**LIBRARY NIGHT OWLS**

At 4 a.m. on any given night, about 120 students are hard at work in the west tower of the Wells Library; on Tuesdays that number jumps to about 400.

**NEW FURNISHINGS**

Libraries

Infrastructure

Expertise

Planning is in high gear for the Research Commons, a space that will offer support to graduate students and faculty at any point in the complex research process. So be located to the east tower of the Wells Library, the Research Commons will leverage three established strengths:

Envisioning the Future

Researchers will benefit from a transparent delivery of services. Librarians, technologists, faculty advisors, consultants, designers, and developers from many campus units will all contribute to this effort.

Information Resources

The rich collections of the IUB Libraries will be a central feature of the Research Commons. Priority will be given to services and spaces in direct support of print and digital collections.

Success of the proposed Research Commons will depend on the leadership of the IUB Libraries, University Information Technology Services, and the Office of the Vice President for Research and other partners that will be located in the east tower of the Wells Library.

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