

"When I come to work, I never know what is going to be waiting for me—every day is different. I love the variety of the job, and I love helping people."



# Jump into the Folklore Collection with librarian Moira Smith

Step off the elevator on the 7th floor of the East Tower in Herman B Wells Library and you just might find yourself wandering through a gypsy carnival or a children's fairy tale. Or perhaps you'll meet an ancient Greek goddess, join an American Indian tribal dance, or even be drawn into a ceremony of witchcraft.

**If you find yourself surrounded** by the customs and tales of limitless times and places, you have discovered Indiana University's Folklore Collection, the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in the nation, and perhaps the world.

And if you're lucky, you'll also run into Moira Smith, librarian for anthropology, sociology, folklore, and social work. Originally from New Zealand, Smith came to IU on a Fulbright travel grant to do a Ph.D. in Folklore. "I came here thinking I would be in the U.S. for one or two years," Smith says. "That was more than twenty-five years ago!"

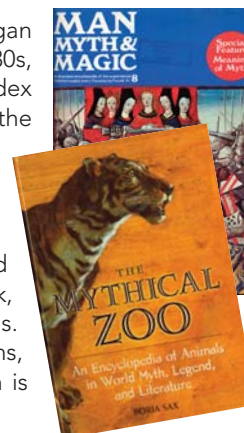
In her position, Smith helps patrons find the information they need, not only by answering questions, but also by encouraging discovery. She likens libraries to swimming pools "because they are places that you can jump into and play around in."

"Digital resources bring out the playful and experimental side of libraries even more strongly," Smith says. "I like to encourage students to experiment with online resources—it's really impossible to break them, and you can learn a lot just by playing around."

[To find out more about Moira Smith and her role as librarian for one of IU's most talked-about library collections, visit [Sources Online](#). Listen to her interview on NPR's *All Things Considered* about the origin of Easter traditions around the world.]

## Legendary Beginnings

**In the 1920s**, Stith Thompson, distinguished professor of English at IU, began collecting books pertaining to folk literature for use in his courses. During the 1930s, this collection continued to grow as Thompson worked on his extensive Motif-Index of Folk Literature, a work which established Indiana University as a focal point for the comparative study of folklore among international scholars and researchers. Over the years the IU Libraries supported the growth of the collection by funding Thompson's purchase of materials on his trips to Europe, South America, and Asia.



Today the collection is the largest and most comprehensive working collection of its kind in the world. Moira Smith, librarian for anthropology, sociology, folklore, and social work, explains the differences between IU's collection and other university folklore collections. "The Library of Congress classifies folklore as tales and legends, oral literature, customs, traditions, costumes, festivals, and food and drink," Smith says. "But the IU collection is much wider. We even had to adapt our card catalog system for it."

Users of IU's Folklore Collection include students from the folklore, ethnomusicology, library science, and apparel merchandising departments at IU, as well as scholars from around the world and the general public. One of the most notable aspects of this collection, Smith says, is that it is open to anyone. "You can come in and wander," Smith says. "And we're always happy to help you find what you need."

Office of the Dean  
Indiana University Libraries  
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# Sources

Newsletter for Friends and Supporters

Spring 2007

## inside and online

jump into folklore  
"flip this library"  
wylie house barn  
my first library job



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[www.indiana.edu/~library/sources](http://www.indiana.edu/~library/sources)

## New Education Center Will Expand Reach of Wylie House Museum

**SITUATED ON A CORNER LOT NEAR DOWNTOWN** Bloomington, Indiana, the Wylie House Museum is a stately reminder of our shared past. As the home of Indiana University's first president, it offers insight to IU's academic beginnings.

In April, friends of the Wylie House celebrated the Campaign for the Wylie House Museum, a fundraising effort to build an education center next to the museum. Campaign co-chairs Judith A. O'Bannon and Patricia Ryan hosted the event.



Ryan, wife of former IU president John Ryan, says: "Quote from Patricia Ryan here. Quote from Patricia Ryan here. Quote from Patricia Ryan here. Quote from Patricia Ryan here."

### The Campaign for the Wylie House Museum

Plans are now under way to build an education center to expand the work of the Wylie House Museum. Designed by the IU Architect's Office to resemble a barn of the period, the center will include:

- a multipurpose classroom
- an exhibition room
- a room to house Theophilus A. Wylie's personal library
- staff offices and workrooms
- handicapped-accessible restrooms
- a kitchen for catered events

### Bringing History Home

Elegantly appointed rooms and working gardens provide inspiration and historical reference for students studying disciplines from literature and design to sociology and folklore. In addition to hosting classes from IU, the museum attracts interested visitors from Bloomington and across Indiana, including elementary- and middle-school students.

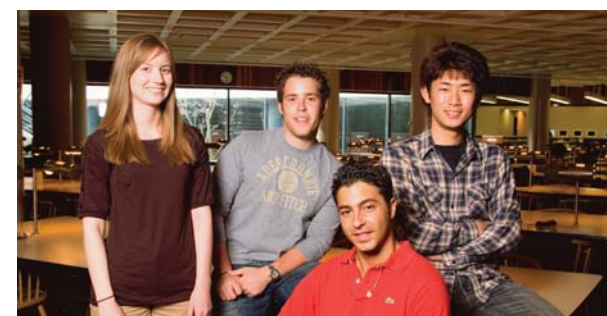
[[READ THE HISTORY OF THE WYLIE HOUSE ONLINE](#)]



# Flip this Library!

Students propose redesign of Business/SPEA Library

**LAST SEMESTER MORE THAN 700** undergraduates evaluated the Business/SPEA Library to complete an assignment for Z302: Managing Behavior in Organizations. The students—most from the Kelley School of Business, but about a quarter from elsewhere—worked in teams of five to assess current library offerings and to make recommendations for improvement. They addressed the core issues of space, services, and marketing.



**TOP HONORS:** Natalie Keitel, Adam Kessler, Todd Roland, and Yusuke Imamura (left to right) were among the winners. Natalie and Adam were on the same team.

[[SEE A FULL LIST OF WINNERS ONLINE](#)]

### Intense Competition

Students in 154 teams gathered data and put forth their recommendations in both a written report and a first-round presentation. Top teams from each of the four class sections presented their ideas before their classmates. Judges from the library, including Dean Steele, helped select a winning team from each section.

The assignment forced students to rethink traditional services and to examine the role a library can play in meeting their academic needs. For the IUB Libraries, the assignment offered unparalleled insight into student expectations. Student recommendations will guide renovations to the Business/SPEA Library.

"The assignment allowed me to realize that I did have input," says junior Rachel Heilbrunn, whose team recommended better lighting and a new floor plan. "Students do have a voice."

### What students want

Winning proposals identified common themes:

- Community space that reflects the culture and stature of the schools
- Quiet and group space
- Increased technology
- Comfortable furnishings and modern atmosphere
- Presentation rooms
- Café or vending services
- Better marketing

[[LEARN MORE ONLINE](#)]

### Thinking Outside the Box

Creativity counts, but doesn't always make for a winning proposal. Some ideas that didn't fly:

- Nap pods
- Aquariums
- Slushy machines
- Rooftop parking
- Computer dedicated to ordering food for delivery
- Scented air fresheners



"I worked like a Trojan saving to go to college," says Barbara Null Potts today. "If I were a millionaire I'd still want my children to work."



## Remembering the Reading Room

"It all started in the beautiful old library"

**AS AN IU STUDENT IN THE MID-1940S,** Barbara Null worked her way through college by filing cards in the library, then located in Franklin Hall. She remembers Herman Wells for his genial morning greetings, and President Bryan, "old as the hills," whose thunderous voice interrupted the otherwise quiet reading room. "Good morning, Missy. HOW ARE YOU?" he'd boom, as he bypassed the circulation desk with a stack of books under his arm.

Receiving the latest *The Source*, wrote Barbara Potts recently, brought back many memories of my first job in my freshman year, which was 1942.

I was escorted to the very bowels of the library and introduced to two old women right out of a Dickens book. They were sisters of the old, old school—green eye shades, a wardrobe dating back to the early 20th century, and faces which would frighten little children.

My job was to file cards from Russian literature. With the Russian alphabet before me, I worked two hours every morning with never a word or smile from my mentors.

I worked all through my four years in the reading rooms. If I had not worked, I could not have finished my education. I bless even those two sisters for making it possible.

### Memories of McBee cards, midnight pizzas, and the Van Arsdale twins

Providing part-time jobs to about 700 students each year, the IUB Libraries are one of the largest student employers on campus. The vast majority of these students are undergraduates who sort, cart, shelve, and check out thousands of items daily.

About 20 current library employees, some shown here, worked for the IU Libraries as undergraduates. Among them: Patricia Steele, Ruth Lilly Interim Dean of University Libraries, center.

[[READ THEIR MEMORIES ONLINE AT \[www.indiana.edu/~library/sources\]\(http://www.indiana.edu/~library/sources\)](#)]

