Our remarkable stories unfold
Transformations

For more than a century, IU Libraries have been the scene of our academic transformations. They connect us to the obscure manuscript that changes the face of our research, to the scholar with similar interests in a far corner of the world, and to the many paths of our collegiate journeys. They are the road to our future and to our past—a starting point for discovery and a memory vault of our previous adventures.

Look for this MEMORY VAULT icon throughout this report for stories from our patrons about their transformative library experiences.
When an IU faculty member at a forum on the library of the future evoked Darwin's theory of adaptability, it struck a chord with Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries Brenda L. Johnson. In times of great change, the adaptable thrive.

Mass migration of books and printed cultural records into digital archives in recent years has contributed to the rapid transformation of how academic research is conducted. “It’s pretty staggering,” Johnson says of the differences. For example, a scholar might want to trace the first instance of a word’s use in Voltaire’s publications. “That scholar can now search every single word of all those volumes electronically. That would have been very difficult to do in the print world.”

It also would have been difficult to do computational research from the comfort of home at 3 a.m. Or on a laptop between flights at the airport. “I really don’t go to the Wells library anymore, but I use it every single day,” is something Johnson has heard more than once from faculty members. Two million visitors come in and out of the IU libraries annually, and millions more use the virtual archives—IU digital resources were accessed more than 52 million times in the last year.

“We are in an era where we have to be continually adapting.”

Brenda L. Johnson
Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries, Indiana University Bloomington
The library physical spaces are still heavily used by students and faculty, whose needs are also changing. Working with student advisors from the IU Board of Aeons on a recent library-use study, Johnson learned that the IU physical library spaces must evolve to better meet the needs of its primary users. More room for student collaborations is among the new priorities.

“We are in an era where we have to be continually adapting,” Johnson says, “and in order to do that, we have to be in constant contact with our constituencies.”

The IU Libraries must support a wide spectrum of consumers, and bridge the gaps between their worlds, she says. That means providing rich resources in print for patrons who need access to materials that are not yet digitized or for people who are not familiar with new technologies. It means teaching young researchers who have grown up using only the Internet for research how to explore and discover the wonder of rare, primary source materials. It means providing more and easier access to digital materials for the remote researchers who don’t visit the physical libraries, and ensuring they are informed about the resources available to them.

Johnson employs an aggressive agenda of outreach and engagement on campus and beyond. Being at the center of what's happening nationally in digital access and technologies—and leading those efforts—is also critical for our libraries' continued success, she says.

And that’s true even when you’re top shelf. The recent #1 ranking for the IU Libraries from the Association of College and Research Libraries is a source of pride, but not an excuse for complacency. A distance runner, Johnson knows that constantly looking ahead—and distributing your resources carefully—is key to leading the pack.

“IU libraries have been innovators. We’ve paved the way nationally in a number of arenas,” Johnson says. Much of that innovation is the result of new and unique collaborative partnerships. IU Libraries was one of the founders of the HathiTrust digital library, a groundbreaking initiative for an extensive collaborative digital archive of material that is maintained by research institutions and more than 60 libraries across the globe. The digital repository now has more than 10 million objects.

As research becomes more interdisciplinary, the library system plays a big role in bringing scholars together. “We’re the intersection of so many people and so many projects,” Johnson says. Serving the breadth of academic subject areas, librarians are uniquely positioned to connect scholars from disparate fields who are working on similar subjects, she says.

The evolution of digital archives and the innovations in technologies that provide access to them is changing so quickly, the future is difficult to envision. Johnson foresees a host of mobile library applications and new, powerful tools for searching archives virtually. But even five years is too far away to know what the library landscape will look like, she says. Johnson is dedicated to ensuring that, through the changes, IU Libraries remain the heart of academic life and research.

“I believe a library is the greatest metaphor for a university,” she says. “It provides essential resources for academic research; is a repository for scholarly achievement, a source of intellectual inspiration, a stage for public discourse, a center of cultural life, and an incubator for new ideas; and is, in and of itself, a community.”
My favorite memory of the IU Libraries is the day the Herman B. Wells bust was mounted in the lobby of the Wells Library.
Designed by IU students via a Kelley School of Business course competition, the renovations to the Business/SPEA Information Commons show how smart a space can be when students have it their way. The 23,500-squarefoot space includes 16 group study rooms with PCs, 24 open group work areas with LCD monitors and dual laptop connectors, a quiet study area with 40 individual carrels, 40 PC workstations, 4 Mac info stations, 17 wired study tables, 80 comfortable seats, 15,000 print volumes, a course reserve textbook collection, a scanner, and a café.

MEMORY VAULT “This project made me realize that students do have a voice.”
One of those items was the letter George Washington wrote when he accepted the presidency of the United States. “She just assumed that it wasn’t the original, but of course it was,” says Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries Brenda L. Johnson. When belief finally set in, it was overwhelming for the princess, who asked the Lilly staff to put the letter back in its safe place, Johnson says.

This is not an uncommon experience in the daily life of Professor Joel Silver, associate director, librarian, and curator of books at Lilly. “Hardly a week goes by when I don’t happen to be walking through the main exhibition gallery and see someone come upon a book or a manuscript that is really special to them, perhaps the first edition of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. Sometimes, finding out that it’s real brings tears to their eyes,” Silver says.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand came to Bloomington to be awarded an honorary degree from Indiana University. During her visit, she attended an IU Lilly Library event and was introduced to the remarkable collections.

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A rare treasure can also be the impetus for a publication, as was the case for Ruth Engs, IU professor emeritus of applied health science, who discovered nine unpublished manuscripts at the Lilly Library by Upton Sinclair—a prominent subject in her research on health reform in the Progressive Era—and subsequently authored *Unseen Upton Sinclair: Nine Unpublished Stories, Essays, and Other Works* in 2009. Finding those fragile, brittle gems inspired Engs to become a patron of the IU Libraries, supporting preservation efforts and creating the Angel Award for library staff who go to great lengths to help scholars with their research.

The Lilly Library turned 50 recently. The last fifty years represent tremendous growth in acquisitions of one of the world’s best collections of rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts. IU established the first library special collections department in the early 1940s. When J.K. Lilly Jr. donated his collection of 20,000 rare books and 18,000 rare manuscripts to IU in the mid-1950s, IU President Herman B Wells decided it was time to construct a building.

Today, the Lilly Library houses more than 400,000 books, more than 7.5 million manuscripts, more than 150,000 pieces of sheet music, about 30,000 mechanical puzzles from collector Jerry Slocum, thousands of comic books and graphic novels from the collection of IU alumnus Michael Uslan—and an incredible variety of original artifacts spanning fields that include British and American history and literature, voyages and travels, maps and atlases, Latin Americana, the history of science and medicine, popular culture, music, and film studies. Christopher de Hamel’s *Gilding the Lilly* honors the library’s 50th anniversary with descriptions of its 100 most important medieval manuscripts.

Fifty thousand visitors from Bloomington and across the globe come to the Lilly Library every year to view and touch items like Shakespeare’s first folio, the new testament of the Gutenberg Bible, the first printed account of Christopher Columbus’s first voyage, John Ford’s Oscar statues, and President Lincoln’s desk. “There’s information in the original objects and there’s magic in the original objects that’s not present anywhere else,” Silver says. “It brings us so close to the great ideas and the great events and people of the past.”

As the Lilly Library enters its second half-century, Silver looks forward to providing more visitors with these amazing experiences. Unlike similar libraries, he says, you don’t need to be affiliated with a university or have a “so-called serious research purpose” to use the collections. “Curiosity has always been a valid reason,” he says.

**VIDEO** Joel Silver discusses his favorite pieces in the Lilly Library. Watch the video at [go.iu.edu/5d7](http://go.iu.edu/5d7).

**MEMORY VAULT** “My favorite memory is the opening celebration for the Slocum Puzzle Room.”

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**LIBRARIES**

**Indiana University Libraries Progress Report 2012**

15
It’s not a new technology, nor is it a new collection. So, why is the Open Folklore website taking the digital archive landscape by storm? Because it represents a novel partnership between a university library and a scholarly society—a partnership that was recognized with the 2011 Outstanding Collaboration Citation from the American Library Association.

Teaming up with the American Folklore Society, Associate Dean of IU Bloomington Libraries Julie Bobay and the Open Folklore team have developed a new model for digital library collections—unbounded by a single entity and open to researchers around the world. It is a single point of access for folklore journals and monographs, ethnographic studies of indigenous people, world mythology, folk tales and folk songs—as well as advocacy and education for the community it serves.

“Indiana University has the premiere folklore and ethnomusicology department, and IU libraries have the premiere print folklore collection. So it makes sense that we made this collaboration,” Bobay says.

VIDEO Julie Bobay talks about the value of IU’s folklore collection. Watch the video at go.iu.edu/5c0.
The historic Wylie House Museum—former home of IU’s first president, Andrew Wylie, and later his cousin, IU professor Theophilus Wylie—is one of the few pre-1840 structures standing in Bloomington. For years, museum director Jo Burgess has been planning an education center to accompany the museum, but those plans didn’t materialize until Morton C. Bradley Jr., great grandson of Theophilus, donated his entire estate to IU.

The Wylie families were farmers, with several outbuildings that included barns, chicken coops, a smokehouse, an icehouse, and an outhouse. So it was only fitting to raise a barn to hold the new Morton C. Bradley Jr. Education Center. And finding one from that time period, built in Monroe County, and still in pristine shape as a working hay barn, was a stroke of luck.

“This center, that’s now named after him, is a great example of the difference that a donor can make to the university,” says Burgess. The Wylie House Museum began a campaign to support a preservation endowment for the center, which was chaired by former first lady of Indiana Judy O’Bannon and former IU first lady Pat Ryan. Several Bloomington citizens with a strong interest in preservation also became donors to the effort.
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The addition of the center makes the Wylie House more useful for the community, and more relevant to the university, says campaign donor Gayle Cook, who has been involved in historic preservation since 1976. “The center provides more information in history, folklore, design, and other academic disciplines,” she says. “The Wylie House is now a much more accessible research tool.”

When the barn was dismantled and reassembled again, the designers decided to turn it inside out, so that visitors could admire the hand-hewn posts from the interior. The main floor of the barn was also flipped over to expose the unblemished boards, which now cover the education center’s main floor. It is an appealing, cozy effect that works beautifully with the clean, modern finishes. “Almost everyone says, ‘I’d like to live here,’” Burgess notes.

The center provides long-needed space for guest lunches, visiting groups, lectures, presentations, and educational sessions. Offices for staff are located on the top floor. It also serves as an annex to the newly acquired estate from Bradley, which includes Theophilus’s personal library.

“There are well over 1,000 volumes,” Burgess says. “A lot of philosophy, a lot of Bibles, a lot of science, and literature, with doodles, mathematical formulas, and ideas for sermons sketched in them. He was a very interesting man.” The Bradley estate brought thousands of Wylie family artifacts that include textiles, family photographs, family letters, and furniture to the museum and the barn, which also includes an exhibit space.

“Jo Burgess has transcribed hundreds of those letters and gleaned so much information from them, like where certain pieces of furniture were placed,” says campaign donor Sue Robinson. “It’s a joy to be there. The Wylie House was kind of lost for many years until Jo, with the help of volunteers, restored it to what it once was.”

Funds from the campaign support purchases like the ultraviolet light shields on the windows that help preserve these precious items—and the maintenance required to preserve the 19th-century barn. “I kind of think of the barn as an extended living room for the museum,” says Cindy Smith, volunteer docent for the museum. It provides new opportunities to socialize and interact, she says. “It’s a very important link between the university and the community.”

Cook says it is the educational component that makes this preservation effort so worthwhile. And the finer, more accurately detailed restoration to the house itself is another benefit. “You can see so much more of what it was really like,” she says. “It’s so beautiful.”
An elusive document General MacArthur ordered in the Philippines during World War II. A map of a pond in Goshen, Indiana, from 1832. The Congressional hearings of the U.S. Senate Nye Committee from 1935. People request some unusual things when they’re doing research, says IU Librarian Lou Malcomb, head of the Government Information and Kent Cooper Services Department at the Herman B Wells Library. And Malcomb loves to play her role of the history detective. Even Hollywood has called on her to help find an executive order from President Truman for a film about the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

For decades, she has championed easy access to public government records. For her tireless dedication, she received the 2011 Documents to the People award. “One of the things we take for granted in this nation is that so much information is available,” she says.
Thank you for your interest and your role in our evolving stories. We invite you to learn more about how we’re growing, what today’s IU Libraries offer, and how to support us.

Through our many transformations, what we love about our libraries is constant. The items we find, the connections we make, the feeling of the spaces—our best collection has always been our collection of experiences. While we grow in new directions, we keep our bearings in our history, and the stories we’ve acquired along the way.

MEMORY VAULT “As a 20-year-old, I did historical research in the main library. I browsed the shelves for materials about the Progressive Era. Through browsing I got the ‘aha’ moment in my research.”
MEMORY VAULT “I spent hours at the old library in the Franklin Building. There was an enormous study room with long tables and chairs. It was such a quiet place to work. It was also convenient for meeting friends and making plans to reward ourselves afterward, like going to Nick’s, which was close by.”