

ALI Storage Task Force Report May 5, 2004

Members: Suzanne Thorin (Indiana University, chair), Michele Russo (Indiana University, South Bend), Gay Dannelly (University of Notre Dame), James Champion (Indiana University, Bloomington), Larry Frye (Wabash College), and Sherry Stormes (Butler University).

Seeking funding for a repository for less-used collections now housed at the academic libraries of Indiana is a priority of ALI. With Lilly Endowment funding not forthcoming from ALI's previous proposal, the ALI board suggested that the Libraries at Indiana University seek Federal funding through the "earmark" process. Thorin wrote a proposal that was submitted to IU's federal legislative agent, but the University chose not to include it in its request this year.

Thorin also sought advice from others, including the Ball Foundation, for suggestions as to how to fund an additional module at the Indiana University Auxiliary Facility for use by ALI members. One useful thought was that ALI should advertise the need for such a facility not just as an opportunity to renovate existing library spaces upon the removal of some collections. Rather, the idea of gathering of important historical and other documents in one place and providing their immediate availability via interlibrary loan or the desktop should be a key ingredient in an overall ALI plan to support the education of students and faculty enrolled in Indiana's institutions of higher education, and in a broader sense, the citizens of Indiana.

Even while pursuing this direction, there is now an additional possibility that Indiana University will itself fund a second module to the Auxiliary Library Facility in Bloomington. If this occurs, the committee will look at governance of collections in a facility where, in effect, ALI members would "rent" space rather than "own" the module.

The committee intends to conduct a second needs assessment of ALI members and to prepare a strategy that will likely involve getting the support of college/university presidents, once we know the funding path we will pursue.

Suzanne Thorin
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