Nancy Sanden Boerner

Nancy Sanden Boerner, librarian for French and Italian, Germanic studies, classical studies, comparative literature, and West European studies, came to the Indiana University Libraries in 1984. She began as library associate for West European studies, but was asked to substitute for Hugo Kunoff, librarian for modern languages, in 1989, while he took on a temporary administrative assignment. From 1990 to 1993 she substituted for Nancy Cridland, who covered history and religious studies; Barbara Halporn, who was responsible for classical studies, philosophy, psychology, and history and philosophy of science; and Tony Shipps, who covered English and theater. In 1994 she assumed a tenure-track position as librarian for French and Italian, Germanic studies, classical studies, Spanish and Portuguese, linguistics, and West European studies. In that role she mastered the skills needed to build collections in a wide range of subject areas, and worked closely with faculty and students in numerous departments to ensure that the IU Libraries supported their teaching and research. Nancy consistently demonstrated her concern both for people and for the future of librarianship most clearly in her supervision and mentoring of students: students of the School of Library and Information Science could always find a home as an intern under Nancy’s tutelage.

Nancy has been extremely active in the West European Studies Section (WESS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries, serving terms on the WESS executive committee as secretary and as member-at-large. She is a co-editor of Reference Reviews Europe, which appears annually in print and online. She has translated journal articles and book reviews from German into English, and has just completed a translation of her husband Peter Boerner’s biography of the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, which was published in fall 2005 by Haus Publishing of London. She has lived and traveled extensively in Europe.

Nancy did undergraduate work at the Universities of Stanford, Chicago, Buffalo, and Wisconsin-Madison before receiving a B.A. in economics from IU. She received the M.L.S. from the School of Library and Information Science at IU in 1984.

In her work within the Subject and Area Librarians’ Council (SALC), she has been extremely attentive to the needs of the faculty and students she serves, has been an active and dependable member of SALC, and has served the IU libraries, the university, and the library profession with commitment and dedication. All of her colleagues in SALC and throughout the IU Libraries miss her quiet but accomplished work ethic, her kindness and sensitivity toward others, and the many contributions, large and small, that she has made to the IUB Libraries. We wish her well in retirement, when she will have more time to enjoy her children and grandchildren and to join Peter in jaunts through Europe.