News You Can Use

Fixes from the E. Lingle Craig Preservation Laboratory

You get caught in a rainstorm with your favorite book under your arm. Its cover becomes drenched, its pages soggy. What do you do?

At the Craig Lab, a wet book is never just a wet book. Its pages can be wet just at the edges, soaked entirely, stained or spilled on. We may use different treatments for plain or glossy paper, leather or vellum, or various dyes and glues. But all the books get dried out, and there are a few basic treatments that anyone can use.

Air drying allows moisture to evaporate out of the book, and can sometimes be helped by a gentle fan. For edge-wet books this method is simple and effective, but very damp items will deform, wrinkling and expanding as they dry.

Interleaving involves placing absorbent sheets between the pages of the book to draw out excess moisture. The less moisture in a book, the less it will deform, so interleaving can be an important first step. Use paper towels or newsprint.

Freeze-drying can be used to dry books with almost no deformation. When books are frozen at 30º F, the frozen water sublimates out of the book, changing directly from ice to water vapor. This process takes time, but works wonders. At the Craig Lab, we have a specially designed vacuum freezer for this purpose, but you’ll see results using your home freezer.

Glossy, or clay-coat, paper is the biggest problem in drying. The clay that gives these pages their sheen takes in water, effectively becoming mud, and “bricks” as it dries. Glossy pages should be interleaved or freezer-dried quickly.

Next issue: How to use cat litter to rid your books of musty odors.
Honoring Herman B Wells

The Trustees of Indiana University have named the Main Library for Herman B Wells, beloved university chancellor, who died in 2000.
Dear Friends:

This issue of The Source reminds us that libraries and collections are built primarily from relationships. We owe our successes to the many individuals who work here and to those who care about what we do.

Longstanding relationships with students and faculty, with colleagues around the country, and with booksellers and vendors have helped us to create one of the nation’s top library systems.

We are extremely honored that the Trustees of Indiana University celebrated the exceptional relationship between beloved Chancellor Herman Wells and the IU Libraries when they voted to name the Main Library in his memory.

Thank you for your support of the IUB Libraries. With your help, we continue to increase our service to the university—which is, of course, the most meaningful relationship of all.

Sincerely,

Suzanne E. Thorin
Ruth Lilly University Dean of University Libraries and Associate Vice President for Digital Library Development

Heritage Planned
IU Archives

HERMAN B W
Celebration Planned
The Trustees of Indiana University in April approved naming the Main Library on IU’s Bloomington campus for Herman B Wells, the university’s visionary chancellor who died five years ago.

University officials reserved the naming opportunity shortly after Wells’ death in 2000. With characteristic modesty, Wells had refused to allow any buildings to be named for him in his lifetime or until five years after his death.

“We are indebted to Herman Wells for his vision and tireless efforts that transformed Indiana University into a world-class research university,” said IU President Adam W. Herbert. “In recognition of President Wells’ distinguished institutional leadership, it is particularly fitting that the university’s central repository of knowledge — our main library — be named after him.”

Naming the library for Herman Wells is a splendid opportunity to honor all that he did for IU students and faculty,” says Suzanne Thorin, Ruth Lilly University Dean of University Libraries. “Chancellor Wells valued the importance of libraries as a shared resource used by the entire Indiana University community. This equality of purpose is consistent with everything that he wanted for IU.”

Herman B Wells was president of the university from 1938 to 1962 and university chancellor from 1962 to 2000. He led the university through its post-World War II expansion and is credited with establishing IU as one of the nation’s leading public universities. Collections at the IU Bloomington Libraries grew by more than 640 percent during his tenure as president.

Wells’ vision included the recognition that a university is defined, at least in part, by its libraries. At the dedication ceremony for the Main Library in 1970, Wells said, “There is no distinguished university without a great library.”

The university is seeking $28.4 million from the state legislature for Phase I funding to create a library that honors the legacy of Chancellor Wells and meets the needs of Indiana students and faculty. Plans call for transforming the south entrance to include additional services, adding an auditorium classroom, and upgrading the infrastructure.

Indiana University has already contributed more than $11.8 million from campus and private support to prepare for the renovation and has piloted concepts to demonstrate how a master architectural plan can be implemented successfully.

“We are indebted to Herman Wells for his vision and tireless efforts that transformed Indiana University into a world-class research university.”

—Adam W. Herbert, IU President

It’s official. And it’s time to celebrate!

Join the Celebration
The Trustees of Indiana University
President Adam Herbert
Chancellor Kenneth R. Gros Louis
Ruth Lilly University Dean Suzanne Thorin
cordially invite you to the naming ceremony for the Herman B Wells Library
June 17, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.
South lawn of the Library

ELLS LIBRARY for June

Chris Meyer
About a year before he died last September, Morton Bradley Jr., eyes twinkling, revealed to Jo Burgess that he had a box of family letters she might find interesting.

As director of the Wylie House Museum, Burgess is always on the lookout for research that will help her restore and interpret the home where the Wylie family lived for nearly 80 years. And as the great-grandson of Theophilus Wylie, the IU professor and librarian who bought the house in 1859, Bradley felt an intensely strong connection to his Indiana family and ancestral home.

“In my head I’m picturing a shoe box full,” Burgess recalls. “I didn’t expect seven crates!” Burgess says the wooden crates—each about the size of a file drawer—are “absolutely stuffed” with thousands of handwritten letters, all thoughtfully tied up in neat little bundles.

The correspondence—intimate handwritten accounts of life in Bloomington in the second half of the nineteenth century—is a historian’s dream. Bradley left his estate to Indiana University, and Burgess obtained several hundred of the letters after his death in September 2004. She expects to receive the rest after the estate is settled.

“It looks like everybody in the Wylie family saved letters,” Burgess says after a first glimpse of the cache, which was saved generation after generation and ended up with Bradley. The letters are to and from Theophilus and Rebecca, his wife. To and from Lou, their daughter. To and from Maggie, whose husband became first governor of the Dakota Territory. “It’s a huge, rich collection,” Burgess says.

Burgess, who has been the museum’s director for five years, has read Wylie diaries, can effortlessly recite Wylie birthdates and family trees, and works each day in the very house in which the Wylies lived. Still, she says, the correspondence revealed a new kind of history. “I didn’t have a handle on the second Wylie family to live in the house, not really,” she says. “They used to be kind of shadowy for me.”
But after reading and transcribing some of the letters—which Burgess digitizes so she can enlarge the images and more easily decipher the scrawling handwriting or nineteenth-century turn of phrase—she understands their lives far better.

She knows about the homestead, about the university, about Bloomington gossip. Burgess learned, for example, that Rebecca was a midwife, and that heavy rains could make roads so impassable that Wylie women would go for a week without a visit downtown. Burgess says she can relate stories about the family as if she knew them personally. Her friends now tease her: “Jo, you know way too much about these people.”

Bradley’s gift includes letters, photographs, diaries, a sketchbook, glassware, furniture, some 19th-century clothing, jewelry—even a hundred-year-old Christmas cactus started by his grandmother in the Wylie House.

Bradley, who had no heirs, left his estate to the Wylie House, the Lilly Library, and the IU Art Museum. The share left to the Wylie House will be used toward construction of an Education Center on the property, which will include space for classes, meetings, exhibitions, researchers, and administrative staff. Designed to look like a barn, the Education Center is part of an overall plan to recreate the original Wylie homestead.

“Considered the dean of American art restorers in the 1940s and 1950s, Bradley created geometric sculptures like the ones pictured here hanging in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Similar sculptures are displayed in IU’s Kelley School of Business.”

The Mothers of Morton Bradley: From left, Grandmother Elizabeth Boisen holds Bradley as a baby; Great-Grandmother Rebecca Wylie (wife of Theophilus); Mother Marie. Bradley’s sister sits on the step. Photographed at the Wylie House, ca. 1912.

Know as “Bobbie” as a Toddler, Bradley played at his ancestral home, the Wylie House, built in 1835 by IU’s first president, Andrew Wylie. Theophilus Wylie, Bradley’s great-grandfather, bought the house from Andrew’s heirs in 1859.
Indiana’s Slavic Collection
Assembling a Top-Ranked Collection Takes Time, Money—and Perseverance

Croucher came to Indiana University from the University of North Carolina, where he was a part-time instructor of Czech as well as a Slavic cataloger and bibliographer. Croucher was previously based in Germany as a soviet cryptologist for the Army Security Agency.

Murlin Croucher recalls an animated exchange with a Slovak book dealer. The two were establishing the terms of their relationship: an Indiana University librarian on a trans-Atlantic book-buying trip and an entrepreneur in post-communist Slovakia. Croucher had spent nine years trying to find a reliable liaison in a part of the world that had little infrastructure for buying or selling newly published material. “There was total absolute chaos after communism fell,” Croucher says. “Eastern Europe was crawling with bibliographers trying to get items from book vendors.” Croucher, however, finally found a vendor who showed promise. They sized each other up. They began to deal.

Croucher outlined the terms of sale: “We order the books, you send the books, we pay,” he said in Czech.

“No, no, no,” the vendor replied, indicating he wanted the money up front.

“In American libraries,” Croucher persisted, “we pay when we receive the books.”

“But how can I trust you?” the vendor said. “You’re an American.” Croucher smiles at the memory: “Right away I liked him.”

Librarianship is a profession built on relationships. Relationships with vendors who supply books. Relationships with faculty and students whose research needs determine purchases. Relationships with colleagues who form essential information-sharing networks.

Murlin Croucher, Slavic Studies Area Bibliographer, has forged relationships for the past 25 years as an IU librarian. He builds on a strong collection established by his predecessors and supports the university’s well-respected programs in East European studies. IU’s collections grow, after all, to support the learning and research needs of the students and faculty. Building and sustaining the Slavic collection of books of well over half a million volumes (which occupy a staggering seven miles of shelves) requires long-term commitment.

The university started to build the collection in the 1940s—early enough for librarians to purchase large Slavic collections from major book dealers for modest sums of money. In this way, Croucher notes, the university was able to acquire 19th-century materials and complete runs of academy and other institute publications with some ease.
Today Croucher spends about $220,000 annually acquiring books for the collections. “I used to be able to buy out-of-print books as well as new books,” Croucher says. “But book prices have gone up so much. Now it’s only new books. I really pinch pennies.”

He knows some institutions well enough to recognize that anything they offer him would benefit IU, so they send him what they produce. This is true, for example, for Bulgarian materials. The Bulgarian National Library has sent materials for the past 25 years. As a result, IU owns complete runs of all the major authors (with no missing volumes), major history publications, and reference books. Similar ordering systems with the Warsaw University Library and the Czech Library have been in place since the 1980s. Still, book buying is often a title-by-title transaction, established through vendor relationships and determined, in part, by language barriers, global economies, and sheer persistence.

IU’s renewed interest in Romanian studies, fueled by faculty growth in the area, required collections to support their research. After Croucher found a savvy new Romanian dealer in Bucharest, we’re now adding close to 1,000 Romanian books a year, up from a low of about 100.

Similarly, Croucher deals directly with a vendor in the Czech Republic, whom he found by scouring the streets of Prague. “I went to a lot of bookstores,” Croucher says, and at last found a chain operated by a father and son. “The father was really a wonderful old man. The son knows business English very well. They take a certain pride in dealing with America—we’re the first foreign library he’s worked with.”

A Lasting Influence

IU’s Slavic Collection grew in large measure to Andrew Turchyn, Slavic librarian from 1961 to 1979, whose scholarship, personal history, and passion benefited the university’s young collection.

During IU’s period of remarkable growth in the 1950s, IU established programs for the study of the USSR and Eastern Europe. The library increased materials in these areas and created a librarian area specialist. Turchyn was ideally suited for the job.

Born in Ukraine, Turchyn was a dedicated scholar who possessed a mastery of languages, evident in his multiple academic degrees, including a diploma from the Greek-Catholic Theological Academy in Lviv, a Ph.D. from the University of Munich, an M.A.L.S. from the University of Michigan, and an M.A. from Indiana University.

Imprisoned twice during the war, Turchyn was an executive officer of the Ukrainian Relief Committee before escaping to the United States.

Turchyn was also cataloger and professor at the School of Library and Information Science. When he became librarian in 1961, IU had 10,000 volumes in all languages on Russia and Eastern Europe. When he retired from IU in 1980, the collections numbered nearly 250,000.

Turchyn died in October 2004 at the age of 92.
Kara Alexander joined the Digital Library Program in the position of digital media specialist. Kara has five years of experience as director of the Multimedia and Digital Imaging Lab in the IU School of Journalism, where she has worked with a variety of digital media and digitization software and hardware.

Kris Brancolini, head of the Digital Library Program, received the Indiana State Synergy Award in March. State Librarian Barbara Maxwell recognized Brancolini for her outstanding efforts to further the partnership and collaboration between Indiana University and the Indiana State Library. Dean Suzanne Thorin received the award last year.

Mechael Charbonneau, director of technical services and head, cataloging division at the Herman B Wells Library, was recently elected to serve on the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Policy Committee representing BIBCO (the PCC’s monographic record component program). The PCC is an international cooperative effort with the stated goal of providing libraries more shared cataloging in order to realize increased efficiencies.

Lori Duggan accepted the position of assistant university electronic resources administrator. Lori has been employed by The Kinsey Institute Library since September 2003 as a cataloging specialist. Lori has an undergraduate degree from IU in Music Education and has also earned an MLS from IU.

Michael Fling, collection development librarian at the William and Gayle Cook Music Library, published Library Acquisition of Music. The 231-page volume was commissioned by the Music Library Association as number four in its Basic Manual Series, a how-to guide for librarians.

Randall Floyd became digital library programmer / database administrator in the Digital Library Program. In his new position, Randall will write and maintain software in support of DLP projects and manage the DLP’s Oracle database environment.

Marion Frank-Wilson was appointed head of the Subject and Area Librarians Council (SALC). She will also continue her responsibilities as librarian for African Studies, a position she has held since September 1998.

Stacy Kowalczyk was appointed as manager of the Digital Library Program’s IN Harmony Project. Stacy is currently a doctoral student in the School of Library and Information Science. Immediately prior to coming to IU, Stacy worked for more than seven years at the Harvard University Library where she participated in over twenty digital library projects.

Ralph Papakhian, head of technical services at the William and Gayle Cook Music Library, and Sue Stancu, sound recording cataloger, each received a Distinguished Service Award from the Music OCLC Users Group for their contributions to music librarianship as “cataloger, educator, mentor and friend.” Both were praised for their many contributions toward educating and inspiring music catalogers, much of it in tandem.

Gwen Pershing accepted the position of head of the IUB Education Library. Gwen’s longstanding service to the Education Library began in 1988 as a reference librarian, and in October 2004 she became the interim head upon the departure of Steven Sowell. Gwen serves on numerous IUL committees, advisory groups, and task forces.

Mary Strow was appointed head of Campus Libraries. She will continue to serve as head of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Library.
Online Databases Help Students Connect with American History

Q: How can an instructor help students make a personal connection to American history?

A: By letting them place information about their own families alongside biographical data of famous historical personages and official U.S. Census data.

With the help of IU’s Teaching and Learning Technology Centers and the IUB Libraries, IU history professor Eric Sandweiss set up his Spring 2004 “History H106: U.S. History, 1865 to the Present” to enable students to add data about family members to two Web-based databases used in the class: one listing facts about 106 famous Americans, the other containing data on generational demographics.

“What you got was this great mosaic, online,” Sandweiss says. “Instead of 106 famous people, suddenly we had 1,000 or more famous and obscure people and everything in between. It was interesting just for its illustrative value, to see Uncle Leo the carpenter from Elkhart next to Buffalo Bill Cody, or great grandma Martha from LaPorte next to Susan B. Anthony.”

In preparation for teaching H106, a survey course which enrolls 250, Sandweiss searched for ways to “encourage independent thought, and confidence in the students’ own abilities to write and to think analytically.” In the fall of 2003, after deciding that incorporating information from students’ own families into the course would make the subject matter of the class more compelling and thus help engage students in the process of interpreting historical evidence, Sandweiss approached TLTC for help in adding such a component.

The first of the two databases, “106 Americans,” lists prominent Americans who figure in course lectures throughout the semester—Jane Addams, Eugene Debs, and Bill Gates, for example—along with their occupations, year, city, and state or country of their births, and year, city, and state or country of their deaths.

“The second database, “American Generations,” contains more detailed aggregate information for four generations, roughly corresponding to the mid-adulthood stages of students’ familial generations. Information includes the racial breakdown of the generation, as well as median amounts for family income, years of school, household size, and home value or monthly rent. One column contains Census data for the entire U.S. population for a given generation; another column presents the same data for family members and others added by students to the “106 Americans” list.

Students could also take advantage of IUB Libraries’ subscription to Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970—a collection of scalable images scanned from city street maps created for the use of fire insurance companies in assessing the fire risk of property. Students used the maps, which include addresses, building outlines, and construction details, when researching the homes of family members. For rural areas, students could explore online maps at the Library of Congress Web site, or use print maps in IU’s Geography and Map Library.

Malcomb also arranged for IUB Libraries to subscribe to HeritageQuest Online, which offers a searchable database of scanned Census manuscript pages—the forms filled out by Census canvassers during interviews with residents—which students accessed when researching ancestors and others.

The IUB Libraries supplied the data which initially populated the H106 databases. Librarian Lou Malcomb and library employees also arranged for students to access historical materials online.

A student could look up Teddy Roosevelt in 1900 and find out how many children he had, or find their grandfather listed as a toddler.”

—History Professor Eric Sandweiss

Lou Malcomb, head of Government Information, Microforms, and Statistical Services, works with faculty to mine data, like that from the U.S. Census Bureau.
On the morning of her graduation from IU, Elaine Kuhns walked out her front door and couldn’t believe her eyes. On her porch sat a desk from IU’s Main Library, wrapped in a big red bow, given to her by her roommate and best friend of four years, Emily McCallister.

“I saw this awesome desk covered with photos from our last year in undergrad,” Elaine says. Emily had purchased it from IU Surplus Stores and decorated it for Elaine as a symbol of four years of friendship and learning that they shared at the Main Library.

“For that one best friend you meet in college, you want to think of a special graduation gift.”
—Emily McCallister

Emily and Elaine’s friendship started slowly. They met in a psychology class their freshman year where neither knew anyone else. As their first test approached, they decided to study together. Since Elaine lived in Teter and Emily lived in Briscoe, they agreed to meet in the middle—at the Main Library.

“In the classroom, she instantly became one of my best friends,” says Emily. Through their study sessions at the library, they became friends outside the classroom as well. “It turned into more than just meeting and studying. There were nights we’d be there until four in the morning.

Emily, left, chose the library desk with the least amount of gum on the bottom from the IU Surplus Stores, decorated it with photographs, and gave it to her friend Elaine, right, for graduation.
studying and hanging out,” says Emily. This tradition continued throughout their four years at IU.

“We were the people who were living in the library,” says Emily. Studying at the Main Library became a habit so well-known that Emily was honored with the title “Lives in the Library” by her sorority.

The library became kind of a home away from home—a familiar and friendly haven to study and enjoy each other’s company. Sometimes one or the other would pick up dinner for both of them at a residence hall and bring it to the library for their study session. They even ordered pizza and had it delivered to the Main Library.

Four years flew by and before they knew it, they were preparing for graduation. “For that one best friend you meet in college, you want to think of a special graduation gift,” says Emily. She wanted to give Elaine something that would remind her of their many hours spent together at the Main Library. She realized she may be able to purchase a library table from IU Surplus Stores. She went down and “picked the one with the least amount of gum on the bottom.” She covered the top with photos, then with glass from Bloomington Hardware.

“The library desk was one of the best gifts I have ever received,” says Elaine. “I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw it on my front porch.”

Emily and Elaine are now roommates living in Bloomington. Emily is a graduate student studying Higher Education and Student Affairs, while Elaine is working full-time at Stone Belt. The library desk sits in their living room and serves as a phone message center reminding them of the hours of studying and friendship they shared at the Main Library.

“Her gift to me was the greatest way to end my college days, and it will go with me wherever I go in life!” —Elaine Kuhns

Anne Lucke