In late September of 2010, I attended the 28th Spanish International Book Fair (LIBER), held in Barcelona. As the most important book event for Spanish-language publishing held in Europe, LIBER provided a valuable opportunity to stay current with publishing, cultural, and literary trends in my fields of collecting responsibility, especially Catalan language and literature. Since IU’s Catalan collection is arguably the finest of its kind in North America, I would like to ensure its continued development. At LIBER, I attended panels, lectures, and book presentations that addressed the achievements of Catalan literature and the arts. These activities helped me enhance my knowledge of the authors and literature of Catalonia.

I also gained knowledge about the newest developments in the publishing industry, specifically the emerging market for e-books in Spanish in the Iberian Peninsula. Equally important, I was able to network with Iberian book professionals, research institutes, and publishers whose publications do not normally appear in vendors’ lists.

The various academic and professional events that I attended at LIBER helped me stay abreast of developments in my areas of responsibility, something which, I hope, will better serve the faculty members, students, and researchers who rely on the Latin American and Iberian collections for their work.

In addition to attending the book fair, I visited a number of institutions with which IU maintains long-standing academic and library-related partnerships, most importantly, the Institute of Catalan Studies. The gifts program established with the prestigious Institut d’Estudis Catalans (http://www.iec.cat/activitats/entrada.asp) in Barcelona has strengthened our Catalan collection.

The Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX) and the Spanish Association of Publishers Guilds (FGEE) covered most of my travel expenses. Every year, these two organizations sponsor a group of librarians from both public and academic libraries to attend LIBER in Spain. This is part of America Reads Spanish, an initiative aimed to promote reading of Spanish throughout the United States (http://www.americanreadsspanish.org/).