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Report on the Language Learning trip to Budapest, Hungary

I was on research leave from January 30th to February 21st, 2011. I spent three weeks in 
Budapest, Hungary, attending an intensive Hungarian Language course offered by the Debrecen 
Language School’s branch in Budapest. My trip was supported by the Language Learning Grant 
from the Office of the Vice-President for International Affairs, Indiana University; Research 
Leaves/Support Grant from Indiana University Libraries; and Administrative Travel Support 
from Indiana University Bloomington Libraries.

As part of my professional development I am learning Hungarian because I am 
responsible for collecting the material in that language and providing specialized reference 
services to our users. Hungarian Studies at Indiana University Bloomington is a unique and 
reputable program in North America that offers MA and PhD degrees. Our Library receives an 
endowment fund (more than $10,000.00) every year for the purchase of just Hungarian material. 
Therefore, the reading knowledge of Hungarian would significantly help me in carrying out my 
major duties: locating, evaluating and selecting resources in Hungarian; deciding on whether to 
purchase certain books, journals or databases; and instructing students how to use Hungarian 
Language materials indexes, bibliographies and e-resources.

During the research leave I participated in an Intensive Hungarian Language Course (60 
class units) and passed the final examination with an excellent result.

I also visited some libraries and research institutions of the Hungarian Academy of 
Sciences and had informal discussions with librarians and scholars.

The most important meeting I had was with our Hungarian book vendor, the President of 
the Batthyany Kultur-Press. We discussed our existing approval plan agreement and ways of 
improving and extending our collection.

My trip was very productive and successful. I am grateful to the Office of the Vice-
President for International Affairs and Indiana University Libraries for this wonderful 
opportunity.