

## Murlin Croucher

Murlin Croucher, librarian for Slavic and East European studies, retired in August 2005 after serving the Indiana University Libraries for 25 years as a member of the Subject and Area Librarians Council (SALC). Since arriving at IU in 1980, Murlin has diligently and tirelessly dedicated his time and efforts towards building and maintaining the Slavic collection. He has been an active member of SALC and the Russian and East European Institute (REEI) and has been a leading member of the library profession at the national and local level.

The book trade in Murlin's world area can be unstable and challenging to work with, and yet, through meticulous monitoring of approval plans and close work with vendors, more often than not through title by title selection, through maintaining active exchange programs and undertaking numerous acquisitions trips, Murlin succeeded in building one of the best Slavic collections in the country. Murlin also always found the time to mentor students, thereby leaving a lasting legacy for future generations of Slavic bibliographers. Numerous interns from the School of Library and Information Science have received training and experience in his office. Most notably, Murlin spent nine months mentoring and teaching one of the IU Libraries' Mellon postdoctoral fellows for training in Slavic librarianship.

Murlin has been active in the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, serving terms on many committees, e.g., the Bibliographic and Documentation Committee (BDC), the International Committee for Preservation of Polish Solidarity Materials, the Committee for Soviet Exchanges, and most recently, as chair of the BDC Subcommittee on Collection Development. His expertise and experience have been widely acknowledged at the national level, and he has been invited to evaluate collections at other institutions on a regular basis. He has published widely on topics in Slavic librarianship and Russian literature. The second edition of his publication, *Slavic Studies: A Guide to Bibliographies, Encyclopedias, and Handbooks*, was released by Scarecrow Press in August of 2005. It is a long-awaited, standard-setting, comprehensive reference work and will influence the profession for many years to come.

Murlin did undergraduate work at the University of Utah, the University of Chicago, and the Eastman School of Music, before receiving a B.A. in French and Russian from Arizona State University at Tempe. He also holds an M.A. in Russian literature and an M.L.S. from the University of North Carolina. He has studied at the Sorbonne, the Université de Montréal, the Army Language School, and the National Security Agency. Murlin's knowledge of many Slavic languages (Russian, Czech, Slovak, Polish, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene, Belarusian, Ukrainian) and several non-Slavic ones (French, German, Romanian) has served him well in the IU Libraries. He has also on occasion taught Russian and Czech language courses. Before joining IU Libraries, Murlin worked as Soviet cryptologist for the Army Security Agency (1965–67), and as Slavic cataloger (1971–76) and Slavic bibliographer (1976–80) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Murlin's colleagues already miss his smart perspectives on collection building, his in-depth knowledge of IU's Slavic collections, and his knack for helping the IU Libraries make connections with fellow librarians here in the United States and in many of the libraries of Eastern Europe. Not least, we have lost a great storyteller, a generous mentor, and a kind and caring colleague.