

## **Daniel Seldin**

*Associate Librarian*

After a 35-year career with the Indiana University Libraries, Daniel Seldin is retiring from his position as map cataloger. Dan was born in New York City, but grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. In the 1960s he began cultivating his love for geography and cartography, which led to a Bachelor of Arts in geography from Frostburg State College in Maryland. Soon after, Dan earned his Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland. During these years, Dan was described by his professors as hardworking and industrious, with a tremendous interest in geography, especially maps, and as a student with deep interest and even love for things geographic.

Dan began his professional career as a technical information specialist for the U.S. Army Topographic Command in Washington, D.C. There he spent his time reviewing, analyzing, and indexing European cartographic materials. In 1974 Dan made his way to Indiana to accept a position with Indiana University as the geography and map librarian and head of the newly established Geography and Map Branch Library. Dan faced quite a challenge when he arrived, as the library had been without a head for over a semester. He spent many hours developing procedures for all aspects of the library as well as caring for and restoring the maps he loved so much.

During his tenure at IU, Dan was able to grow one of the top academic library map collections in the country. Much of this was the result of his project work for the Library of Congress. For seven consecutive summers he traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in their special processing project. Started in 1951, this project allowed the Library of Congress to hire map specialists to assist in cataloging a backlog of maps. Dan was also able to assist with other projects in their Reference and Bibliography Unit and the Collection Maintenance Unit. In exchange for this work, Dan was able to select surplus duplicate maps to bring back to IU. Over the years, Dan acquired thousands of items for the IU Libraries that they would otherwise have been unable to obtain.

Dan had several other outstanding accomplishments during his time as head of the Geography and Map Branch Library. In 1984 he oversaw the branch library becoming a depository for all the U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, which had been a wish of the chair of the geography department library committee since 1957. In 1991 he oversaw the move of the Geography and Map Branch Library from Kirkwood Hall to its new home in the Student Building. With Dan's dedicated oversight, the library was closed to patrons for only a little over a week. In addition, he continued to maintain the excellent reputation of the Geography and Map Branch Library by cataloging thousands of previously unavailable items, thereby making them available to university patrons as well as providing outstanding customer and reference services.

In 1997 Dan began to devote all of his time to making the university's maps available to patrons. He adapted to his new responsibilities with enthusiasm and vigor. He quickly acquired the complex skills and knowledge needed to perform advanced cataloging. In addition, he was able to use his knowledge of computers and HTML to help develop his unit's awareness and use of information technology.

Dan has long contributed to his profession by serving on numerous local and national committees and organizations. Much of his time was devoted to serving on the American Library Association's (ALA) Maps and Geography Round Table (MAGERT). In 1995 Dan received the Honors Award from MAGERT at the ALA conference in Chicago, an award that recognizes outstanding achievement and major contributions to map librarianship and the Round Table. Since 1980 he has served as their audiovisual coordinator, and since 1997 he has sat on their cataloging and classification committee and been the liaison to the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS). He has also acted as NACIS's representative to the Cartographic Users' Advisory Council since 1994. For almost his entire tenure at Indiana University, he has also been the supervisor of the Bloomington Faculty Council elections.

It is evident that Dan has made a significant contribution to IU and its libraries. His achievements and pleasant personality will long be remembered and treasured. He will be missed by all. During his well earned retirement, Dan plans to stay in Bloomington, but will be traveling and staying active in professional organizations. He will also pursue his interest in transportation, which includes continuing to serve as membership chairman of the Monon Railroad Historical-Technical Society.

*~Jennifer L. Chaffin*