page collection assembles fact and legend about Indiana and Indianans at the county and community level.

**Kirk Collection.** This is a collection of printed music assembled by a local musician of a bygone era. The collection contains sheet music, country music, dance band sets, and other popular music. Parts of the collection have been digitized and are highly popular as downloads. The holdings extend back to 1865 and as late as 1972, depending on the category.

**Manuscripts Collection and Repository Holdings.** Several manuscript holdings may be found in this group of materials, including the papers of Mitford Mathews, an important dictionary compiler, and the music compositions of Paul Hagan, a graduate of Indiana State University. Also among the manuscripts are several Civil War-era diaries and collections of letters. Several organizations, two having to do with children’s education, utilize the department as a repository of their papers and publications.

**Neff-Guttridge Collection.** Controversial because of the claims of its donors concerning John Wilkes Booth, the murderer of Abraham Lincoln, this collection contains a wide array of transcripts, photographs, and U. S. government materials both in paper and in microfilm format. Historical materials are frequently selected from this collection to be digitized and posted to the Internet.

**Rare Books Collection.** Over 6,000 titles are held in this collection, some of which are extremely scarce. The emphasis is on the 18th-century, travel, literature, and civilization. Yet the collection also possesses earlier and post-1900 materials, and includes smaller collections, such as the Bunce Collection, the Gilbert Coble Collection on Jesse Stuart, the Lowney Turner Handy Library, and the Obscure Publications chapbook collection.

**Walker Collection.** Similar to the Floyd Family Collection, the Walker Collection contains American textbooks with an emphasis on those published before 1900. Included are examples of early New England primers.

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**Invitation**

The Special Collections Department is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Appointments available at other times. Come by for a tour of the public area soon! Explore the department’s holdings for a research paper or just for fun!
The Special Collections Department has 13 major named collections and numerous smaller ones. These contain books, pamphlets, maps, letters, manuscripts, type-scripts, photographs, research notes, memorabilia, and similar materials which are housed in a closed-stack environment both to keep them safe for future generations and to facilitate their use for research. Some of the materials in the department may be discovered through the online library catalog, while others have to be located in online listings and databases prepared by the staff of the Special Collections Department. In some instances, the material may not yet be fully analyzed, so the only way to find out something will be to visit the department and ask for help. You will find Special Collections listed on the library home page in two places: “Services” and “Quick Links.” The direct link is: “http://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbsc/”.

The Collections

Located on the third floor of the library in the southeast corner, the Special Collections Department may boast of two public areas for research in a beautifully appointed facility. Over 125,000 items will be found in its named collections and among the repository items which have been deposited.

Cordell Collection of Dictionaries.
World-renowned, this collection emphasizes pre-1901 word books, to show the development of the English language and modern lexicography. The holdings are at least 60% in English with the foreign materials emphasizing western languages. The earliest dictionary was published in 1475. A post-1900 component is available also.

Cunningham Collection.
Named for the first library director of Indiana State Normal School (which eventually became Indiana State University), this collection of books emphasizes educational practice and theory in the United States.

Debs Collection.
Celebrating the career of activist Eugene V. Debs, a local political personality with national and international influence, this collection contains not only books but letters, government reports, and similar material. Also, it brings together works about American socialism itself and similarly important American movements.

Faculty Collection.
Books and similar materials written by faculty members, staff, and administrators are housed in this collection.

Floyd Family Collection.
Emphasizing the period 1840 through 1940/45, this is a collection of public school books used in Indiana or authored by Hoosiers.

Herrmann Collection.
This is a collection of books which treat the subject of human memory extensively.

Indiana Collection.
Who are the great Indiana writers? What is unique about Vigo County? The emphasis of this popular collection is statewide or regional rather than local. In addition, the department houses a complete photocopy set of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Manuscript Project.

Indiana Writers’ Project/Program Collection.
This is a collection of reports prepared during the Franklin Roosevelt presidency initially under the auspices of the Works Project Administration. This massive 60,000-