IUPUI Library, Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper Partnership Puts 106 Years of Black History Online

A digitalization project of the University Library at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in collaboration with the nationally recognized Indianapolis Recorder newspaper makes 106 years of Black history available at your fingertips.

Indianapolis Recorder Publisher Emeritus Carolene Mays granted IUPUI University Library copyright permission to create a comprehensive online archive of the Recorder. The full-text searchable archive is available online here.

This free and open access resource makes well over 5,000 issues of the community newspaper - dated from 1899 to 2005 and captured from the microfilm version of the weekly broadsheet - available through the World Wide Web.

“The Indianapolis Recorder is the single most important tool for researching the history of African Americans in Indianapolis during the 20th century,” says Wilma Moore, senior archivist of African-American History, Indiana Historical Society Library & Archives.

To celebrate the launch of the Recorder digital archive, IUPUI University Library will host a public reception and panel discussion from 3:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, at the Indiana Landmarks Center, located at 1201 Central Ave. in Indianapolis. The community event will bring the wider Indianapolis community together to commemorate the rich history of the Recorder.

The digital product also provides a new opportunity for the Indianapolis community to help fill in long lost issues of the paper. Missing from the historic record are the Recorder issues published from 1917-1925, and January-April of 1932. Individuals with copies of or clips from the missing issues should contact Jennifer Johnson, 317-278-6709, for additional information.

IUPUI University Library is a leader in facilitating the advancement of free and open access and fair use of historical and scholarly content in the public arena in an effort to progress teaching, learning and research. The library manages its digital collections using CONTENTdm, a digital content management and delivery software that makes it possible to access unique and often fragile historic collections online. The software and advanced search features allow researchers to conduct a full-text search, including searches for personal names, events, dates and more.

Over the past 10 years, IUPUI University Library has partnered with Indianapolis organizations to produce more than 60 unique digital collections. Other collections which include Indianapolis African American history are: The Indianapolis Public School Crispus Attucks Museum Collection 1928-1986; The Flanner House Records Collection 1936-1992; and the Ransom Place Collection.

Indianapolis Public School Crispus Attucks High School originally opened in 1927 as the first segregated all-black high school in Indianapolis and was desegregated in 1967. In 2006, Crispus Attucks was reconstituted as the Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School that prepares students interested in medical and science professions for college.

Flanner House has provided social services to African Americans in Indianapolis since it was established in 1898 to serve the city’s rural migrant population.

Ransom Place represents an early, intact neighborhood associated with the city’s prominent and well-established African-American community.

To explore and learn more about the IUPUI University Library digital collections, Google: IUPUI Digital Scholarship. Once at the site, browse the subject African American.

Located at 755 W. Michigan St., the IUPUI University Library is a public academic library. Any Indiana resident with a valid I.D. is eligible for a borrower’s card. Visit the library on the Web at http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/.

URL: http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/Irecorder