

### **The Comfort Cabinet at Indiana University**

For the 2022 E. Lingle Craig Fellowship and in collaboration with the Wells Library Scholars' Commons, I created a user-centered, campus resource to support the students of Indiana University Bloomington who experience homelessness. This project developed into three components; a literature review exploring the ways in which academic libraries can support the educational endeavors of housing insecure students, the compilation of community, campus, and internet resources that could be utilized by students into a comprehensive LibGuide, and the creation of the Comfort Cabinet at Indiana University. I utilized both traditional research methods and ethnographic interview of three, converging groups (students who experience homelessness, IULibraries, and a selection of Bloomington community organizations). Following the completion of this fellowship and using this project as a case study, I will also conduct an analysis of the intersection of critical ethnography and library science, thus leading to a better understanding of the relationship between (and need for) activist research within the profession of academic librarianship. This project was built upon one of the tenets of librarianship; connecting patrons to information. To quote the ALA, “ For all of the other ideas of how to help those experiencing homelessness — food, clothing, personal or medical care — libraries can play an important role as partners or supporters of other service organizations.” Ultimately, I hoped this project would begin a system of support for this invisible faction of Indiana University Library patrons centered around direct service, education, and advocacy.