

When Kids Wrote the Headlines: The Children's Express/Y-Press Story

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Many who attended the documentary's premiere in July, asked how Indianapolis became home to the Children's Express/Y-Press youth-media organization?

The conditions were right. In the late 1980s, Lilly Endowment's Fellows traveled the U.S. looking for potential youth-development programs; at the same time, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis opened its Center for Exploration for ages 10 to 18. Lilly Endowment stepped up with funding and invited the national organization, Children's Express, then located in New York City, to open a youth-media bureau in Indianapolis.

With three years of funding and a partnership with The Indianapolis Star, a bureau opened in July of 1990. It was a bureau of Children's Express until 1999, when it changed its name and became a program of the museum, remaining at that location until 2006. That year, it moved to The Indianapolis Star at 307 N. Pennsylvania Street and became an independent 501©3 until 2012.

Q: The Indiana Historical Society houses the 23-year collection of the youth-media organization's archives. What is housed at Indiana Historical Society?

[This collection](#) contains manuscripts, photographs, audio cassettes, video cassettes, floppy disks, compact discs, and DVDs. The collection has been divided into 48 series. Series 1 through 23 contain research, interview transcripts, audio recordings of interviews, and other supplemental materials that were used to produce the Children's Express weekly newspaper page and Y-Press bi-monthly story. Series 24 consists of administrative files. Series 25 through 46 encompass larger projects and feature stories that Y-Press worked on, as well as trips for stories on location. Series 46 contains audio cassettes and some documents related to the What Kids Can Do program and Y-Press Radio. Series 47 contains miscellaneous items.

There are: 213 manuscript boxes, 25 boxes of color photographs, 19 cubic foot boxes of audio cassettes, 5 cubic foot boxes of video cassettes, 1 cubic foot box of disks (floppy and CDs).

http://indianahistorylibrary.worldcat.org/title/childrens-expressy-press-collection-materials-1982-2012/oclc/990266345&referer=brief_results

Q: How do I access items in the Children’s Express/Y-Press collection?

In terms of accessing the collection, researchers can come in to view the materials at the Indiana Historical Society Library. The library is free to use and open to the public Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is needed but researchers can call ahead and request to have materials ready for them – but they are also welcome to just walk in. It only takes a few minutes to pull items. Researchers will be asked to register by filling out a library card, but that is really about it.

If researchers are unable to visit or have specific questions about the collection, they can contact IHS’s reference desk at (317) 234-0321 or email the reference staff at reference@indianahistory.org.

If the condition of the material allows, photocopies can be made of the material or researchers can take photos of the materials for research and classroom purposes. For other uses of collection material or more information about requesting copies, please contact library staff or visit the IHS website: <http://www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/reference>

Q: How do I get access to curricula developed by Children’s Express/Y-Press journalists?

Included on [this website](#) are links to three curricula developed by young Hoosiers. [Subject Matters](#) supports developing story content and using the radio platform; [City Stories](#) develops and builds skills to support students in producing audio slideshows; and the [Power-of-the-Question](#) project was designed to teach question types and how to hone questions.

Q: Are there plans for the youth-media organization to re-start?

While there are no definite plans, some ideas are percolating with educators and staff of other community programs. If you are interested in being part of the conversation, contact Lynn Sygiel, Legacy Project manager at: legacyprojectceyp@gmail.com