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10th Annual Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 4 at IWU

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10th Annual Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 4 at IWU

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- With more than 25 book dealers and collectors represented, the Great Illinois Book Fair marks its 10th anniversary at Illinois Wesleyan University on Sunday, Nov. 4.

The fair, which is free and open to the public, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

The book dealers and collectors will be selling and displaying antiquarian and rare books, Americana, mysteries, travel books, cook books, and bargain used books. Posters and post cards also will be available.

The Great Illinois Book Fair is sponsored each year by Sheean Library at IWU as a community service designed to give area residents access to a wide range of hard-to-find books and to encourage reading and a love of books.

"Book enthusiasts can look forward to a treasure trove of old and rare books, first editions, and special editions spanning a wide range of interesting subjects," said University librarian Sue Stroyan. "The Great Illinois Book Fair," she added, "is the type of event where book lovers can spend hours roaming around and combing through old volumes looking for that special book they've been hunting for for years.

"The book fair," Stroyan said, "attracts people who share Thomas Jefferson's philosophy, which is simply, 'I cannot live without books.'"

In the past, the Book Fair has drawn on a far-flung clientele, especially students and educators from area college towns like Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur, Peoria, and Springfield.

Typically, several categories of books are available at the fair, including history, biography, children's books, fiction, military, Abraham Lincoln, African-American studies and many other fields.

Books on sale at the fair also feature a wide range of prices -- a few years ago one book sold for \$1,000, an indication of the type of serious book collector lured to the Great Illinois Book Fair.