Document of the Month: Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana

“The law passed at the Forty-sixth Regular General Assembly of the State of Indiana creating the office of State Geologist places him at the head of a Geological and Scientific Department, to act in connection with and under the control and management of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture, for the purpose of collecting information designed to promote the interests of agriculture, arts, manufactures, and mining.” This statement was taken from the Annual report o f1869. This law established the office of the State Geologist and established an analytical lab in Indianapolis to evaluate various ores and substances that may have been useful to the State. These annual reports contain analysis of the various minerals found throughout the State, organized by county. The Annual reports also provide descriptive Geographies of various counties, including what mineral might be found there. The annual reports also offer invaluable research tools such as owners of coal lands, railroads, etc. Later editions contain detailed maps of oil and gas well and railroad lines. The reports were published 1859-1916 and can be found in the Indiana collection, ISLI 557 I.